

## INTRODUCTION

This collection has two parts. Following Deacon (1997), the first section argues that human symbolic abilities, particularly as manifest in language, create an invisible, nonmaterial domain in which we live. This domain is called the symbolosphere, and it affects our lives as profoundly as do the physiosphere and the biosphere. In the course of cultural evolution, technologies developed to amplify the symbolosphere (writing, print, radio, television, telephone, telegraph, fax, the Internet, etc.). The symbolosphere has downward causation on the human biological organisms from which it emerged. This causation is illustrated in examples from science, religion, psychotherapy, and linguistic phenomena such as blends. Finally, it is hypothesized that the symbolosphere is actually what has traditionally been thought of as part of the mind.

The second part of this collection is a set of essays/discussions that explore the relationship between science and the nonphysical world. This work is not presented linearly. Each entry was written independently, and therefore, there is a certain amount of repetition across entries.

I would suggest that readers first read the initial essay (The Symbolosphere and Nonphysical Aspects of the Mind). The essays in the second part of the collection can be read in any order.

These essays/discussions are works in progress, but feel free to cite, duplicate, share etc.

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