

INTRODUCTION TO PART II

In part I of this book, we showed how existence, by repetitively and progressively forming relationships with itself, evolves into a relational structure, the relational matrix, that functions as the underlying framework of reality. However, what we've described so far as the structure of reality, including the differentiation of that relational structure, explains only the fundamental behavior of, and some of the intrinsic relationships within, what we experience and are aware of as physical reality. What we've described so far doesn't explain *why* there exists physical experience itself or *why* there exists an awareness of physical reality.

To present a more complete, unified model of reality, it's necessary to explain not only why physical reality behaves as it does but also, within the context of that same model, why we experience physical reality as we do, as well as why we're aware or conscious of our experience, since experience, awareness, and consciousness are themselves integral parts of our reality. In that same vein, mental and emotional experiences are integral parts of our reality and so must also be integrated into any model of reality that seeks to account for reality as a whole.

The purpose of part II of this book, then, is to explain, within the context of the relational-matrix model of reality that was developed in part I, how experience, awareness, and consciousness are all related, and, in the process, to demonstrate that the physical, mental, and emotional experiential realities in which we find ourselves immersed can be understood in terms of a singular or unitary existence coming to exist in relation to itself. Toward that end, we'll now begin to explore how evolving existence, by coming to exist in relation to itself at yet another level (depicted in figures I-2, 2, and 60 as the fourth level of reality), becomes aware of physical, mental, and emotional experiences.