

"What would motivate someone to sit alone in a one-room apartment reading and thinking? What would have to be true of a person for them to consider that a life well spent?"

"What if the places you went and the things you encountered in your work were more interesting than what was available in the physical world around you?"

...

"They knew many things but had no idea why. And strangely this made them more, rather than less, certain that they were right."

...

"The cosmos seems oblivious to time. It only matters to us. Consciousness is time-constituting. We build time up out of instantaneous impressions that flow in through our sensory organs at each moment. Then they recede into the past. What is this thing we call the past? It is a system of records encoded in our nerve tissue – records that tell a consistent story."

The full cosmos consists of the physical stuff and consciousness. Take away consciousness and it's only dust; add consciousness and you get things, ideas, and time.

...

Seeing beauty was going to keep me alive.