

Spheres and Moon Craters from a Pataphysical Perspective

The photographs presented here, under the title Spheres, are a compilation of phenomena observed in moon craters between the years 2011 and 2018 and were obtained using proprietary technology owned by Martin & Munoz Studio, LLC.

The science of pataphysics, as defined by Alfred Jarry's avatar Dr. Faustroll, "will examine the laws governing exceptions, and will explain the universe supplementary to this one." The series Spheres occurs on our moon but in a universe that adheres to the laws of pataphysics. Our familiar universe, which seems to us a coherent entity, can in fact be deconstructed as a series of layers both visible and invisible, one upon another.

Dr. Faustroll, the first neo-scientist, described pataphysics in mathematical and poetical detail. He saw the pataphysical as a supplemental layer of reality superimposed upon our conventional universe. Our study concerns the craters of the moon subsequent to the super imposition of the pataphysical layer. This ultimate pata-iteration redefines all previous layers blending the real, the metaphysical and the surreal into a pata-real.

What's lost on earth is lost forever but, filtered through pataphysics, some things lost on earth may be found on the moon. In this context the moon is a way station for what goes missing from the earth. Not everything, of course. The moon is not big enough to hold all the thousands of things that get lost every day.

It is quite probable that a pata-mathematical formula exists to describe the criterion for what lost things do or do not appear on the moon. Unfortunately, Dr. Faustroll's final explication of pataphysical mathematics ended abruptly mid-sentence. Just prior to being cut off, he did however leave us with this: "We can define God as the shortest distance between zero and infinity."

But any intuitive lay person can easily divine the category of lost that qualifies. When "souls" on earth are joined, grafted or welded at the emotional molecular level, their separate histories disappear into one. Synchronized, they can no longer recall the time before the other with any clarity. They eat the same food, read the same articles and, without meaning to, they find themselves dressed in the same

colours every day. Even their bowels move at the same time. They are so hopelessly joined that they forget which underpants are theirs. It is then that the unthinkable and most common of all tragedies can occur.

We are referring to the ancient and perverse biological laws of putrefaction, expiration dates and bad luck that inevitably intervene to rip one into halves. When a half goes missing it leaves a hole of longing in its absence. In pataphysics the craters of the moon are not just metaphors for holes of longing. They are literally *holes of longing*. As such they generate *spheres of completion*.

It is true that the craters of the real moon were made by the impact of asteroids and meteorites but it is equally true that the craters of the moon are holes of longing filled with invisible spheres. When the lost reappear, they are encapsulated and floating in these spheres. A sphere and its contents can only be seen by a designated searcher. One who (a) has taken the trouble to go to the moon and (b) has lost a qualifying thing or person.

There is a sphere that fits the smallest little dimple sized crater as well as one that fills the mother of all craters, the South Pole-Aitken basin. That crater measures 1,500 miles across and more than five miles deep. What is contained in the sphere that fits the South Pole-Aitken basin is unknown and a subject of speculation. The best guess is some whole category of lost. The last great extinction some 66 million years ago would qualify. There may have been a brontosaurus floating in there once.

Why, some have asked, are there no spheres on earth when earth has been equally shelled by meteorites over the eons? Why not spheres in the craters of earth? Because those impact craters are not perfect concavities. Because of our atmosphere they are weathered and filled and quickly deteriorate into shallow basins that merely mark the spot of an impact event. Without the spherical negative space there can be no positive manifestation. Even so, consistent with the laws of exception, there is one perfect concavity here on earth hidden away in a remote northern forest of Siberia.

Though no sphere has yet appeared, a hundredfold murder of crows and grackles congregate around the crater daily as if in anticipation of its arrival. They never enter the crater nor do they pass through the space that would be filled by the hypothetical sphere. But at twilight, when they fly to roost, they circle up and around it in such a way as to describe its shape and suggest its presence.

When a searcher from earth goes to the moon they are often frustrated. Sometimes a sphere will appear to them but only as an encapsulation of emptiness - the interior space being another layer of negative space. Sometimes searchers give up hope but they shouldn't. In every perfect crater or *hole of longing* there is a *sphere of completion* and in every sphere there is an unrealized positive manifestation. It's just a question of correct pairing. Somewhere, among the many thousands of craters that pock the moon, is the right sphere - the one that contains a positive manifestation of the seeker's loss.

It is a lonely business for the searcher. There is no one to advise them. They wander from crater to crater until they get lucky or give up. Nobody knows why the spheres manifest themselves to some and not to others or why some travellers never see anything but craters while others may see spheres but nothing inside. It is understood that the ones that get lucky, the ones who find their missing part and are made whole again can never return to earth. They disappear forever without a trace or an explanation.