

## Chapter 15

# Chapter VI: The Location of Meaning

*'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe. — Jabberwocky*

### 15.1 Questions

1. Is meaning the interaction of a mind (or mechanism) and a message, or is it inherent in the message?
2. Define information-bearer.
3. Define information-revealer.
4. To what extent does your DNA “mean” you?
5. Define exotic isomorphisms.
6. Define prosaic isomorphisms.
7. What is being “pulled out” of DNA?
8. Why doesn't a song “reveal” the meaning in pushing the button A-5?
9. Does all the information about an organism's structure reside in its DNA? Why or why not?
10. Consider the record sent to an alien civilization. Does the record still have meaning?
11. Consider the artifacts sent to us from our past (stonehenge, easter island, etc.). Do you think we are missing some intended meaning?
12. Define information.
13. To what extent is the meaning of mathematical equations (in physics) the physical behavior of the universe?
14. Define frame message.

15. DRH talks about the the contradiction of having a John Cage record sent to an alien civilization. When something appears to have meaning but then doesn't we are often confused. Consider  $\pi = 3.14159\dots$  which shows up in a variety of situations, but its digits are *statistically speaking* random!
16. What do you think of Hofstadter's conjecture on page 165? *Meaning is part of an object to the extent that it acts upon intelligence in a predictable way.*
17. Outline the three layers of any message. How does this relate to the Contracrostipunctus?
18. Google the "Voynich Manuscript".
19. Define the "Jukebox" Theory of meaning.
20. Does DNA need a bio-jukebox?
21. How does DRH relate the chapter to abortion?