



*Passer domesticus*

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**Rupert Sheldrake**

## **Morphic Resonance and the Memory of Nature: An Update**

The hypothesis of morphic resonance proposes that memory is inherent in nature, and the so-called laws of nature are more like habits. I first put this idea forward in my book *A New Science of Life: The Hypothesis of Formative Causation*, published in 1981 (third edition, 2009). This hypothesis was developed further and more fully in *The Presence of the Past*, in 1988 (second edition, 2011).

In the 1980s many scientists were confident that all the outstanding problems of science would soon be solved, confirming the assumptions of the prevailing paradigm of mechanistic materialism. Biologists would explain the nature of life mechanistically through molecular biology, especially through sequencing the genomes of humans and other organisms. Psychologists would understand the nature of the mind through brain scanning and computer modelling. In the computer sciences, artificial intelligence would be created in machines rivaling and even exceeding the intelligence of humans themselves. In physics, through the development of the ultimate theories of everything, such as superstring theory, the origin of the universe and everything in it would be explained in terms of mathematical equations involving multiple dimensions. In 1996, the American science writer John Horgan published a book entitled *The End of Science: Facing the Limits of Knowledge in the Twilight of the Scientific Age*. After talking to leading scientists in many areas of research, he concluded:

*My guess is that this narrative that scientists have woven from their knowledge, this modern myth of creation, will be as viable a hundred or even a thousand years from now as it is today. Why? Because it is true... There will be no great revelations in the future compared to those bestowed upon us by Darwin or Einstein or Watson and Crick.<sup>1</sup>*

When many scientists thought that all the most fundamental problems were already solved, or almost solved, it was difficult to