

**ULTRAFAST STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS of
ELEMENTARY CHEMICAL INTERACTIONS
AND TRANSFORMATIONS
DETERMINED WITH TRANSIENT
VIBRATIONAL SPECTROSCOPY**

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Responses, Sooner / Later, to the DGM Guestbook:

1. When we live in the basement, it is probably impossible to conceive of what life might be like were we to live on the garden floor (American first floor, English ground floor).

On the garden floor, we might venture out through a patio door, over the threshold, and into the garden. But, whether within or without, we wouldn't be able to see over the well-established yew hedge into the countryside beyond the garden. So, as far as we know, from the perspective of a ground floor dweller, the extent of the world is the end of our garden.

If we lived on the second floor (American), first floor (English), we would have a very different perspective: our small garden is not, as we had assumed, the full extent of the created universe.

And if we lived in the penthouse, we'd know the world was bigger even than that; and that when we reached the horizon we'd either take a leap and fly, or fall off the edge of the world.

From a cellar-dweller's point of view, were we to imaginatively project or extrapolate what the world could be like beyond our cellar, beyond our own direct experience, we might conclude that it is dark, damp, and that the earth is covered in concrete.

From a garden-floor dweller's point of view, were we to imaginatively project or extrapolate what the universe beyond our garden might be like, we would probably conclude that "it's like our garden, but bigger".

Until we move upstairs we don't / won't have a broad enough area of vision, seeing, or simply enough data, to be able to venture anything more than an underinformed & seriously compromised subjective projection / opinion.

If I live in the cellar, and haven't visited upstairs, I will probably conclude that a garden (if I have somehow learnt of such a concept) is just like my basement floor, a stretch of concrete, but greener. The sun is like my spotlight, but much brighter (I hope not too much brighter, because it'll hurt my eyes). The wind is like a fan, but with a greater variation of speeds.

In my cellar, because I have spent a lot of time thinking about all manner of important things, I have some valuable opinions about gardening and how to improve the operating procedures of gardeners. After all, they've been too busy gardening to learn what I know, just by thinking.

Perhaps, in my basement, I have a cellar-dweller's computer. I log on to several gardening sites and know lots and lots of Latin names for plants. I may never have known the fragrance of a rose, but I know long names for several of them! Like, *Rosa Gallica Officinalis* & *Rosa Dopus Praticus*.

But a gardener knows the fragrance of a rose, with eyes closed. This fragrance is impermanent, yet eternal. A nose knows a rose knows a rose.



Robert Fripp,
in web-diary on <http://www.discipline.co.uk>

(later found at <http://www.disciplineglobalmobile.com> and most recently at: <http://www.dgmlive.com>)

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