

Ways of Comprehending

The Grand Illusion and the Essence
of being Human

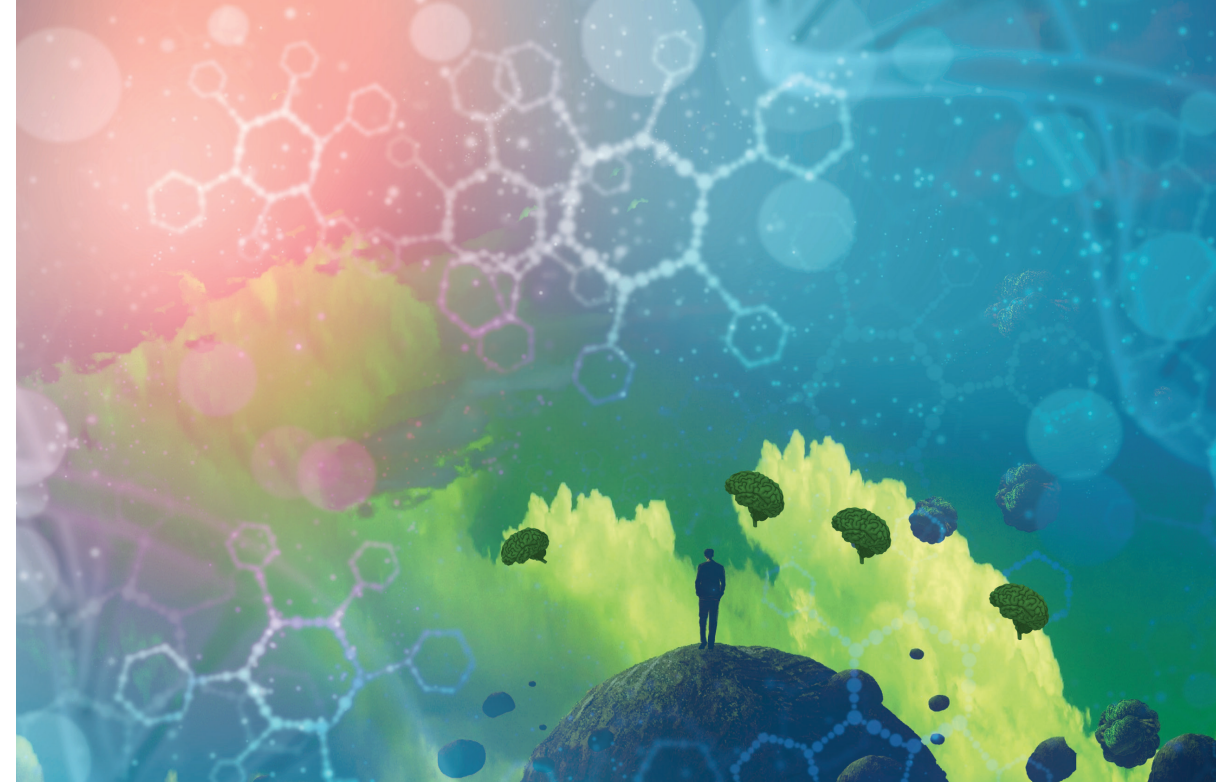
To comprehend the world around us, we first have to decipher how our brains work. This book outlines a new approach to knowledge and understanding based on the elucidation of several basic neuronal mechanisms. In particular, it explores the crucial fact that unconscious processes and consciousness experiences form a continuum, and importantly, introduces the concept of rerepresentations. This fundamental notion captures the essence of being human, namely what separates us from our evolutionary predecessors. Important examples of rerepresentations are language, mathematics, technology and the arts. The interdisciplinary, integrative approach presented in this book implies that different disciplines and notions which appear disconnected, are actually, closely related. Furthermore, this approach elucidates how we think about topics such as, for example, mathematics, physics, painting, music, and philosophy. More importantly, hopefully, it helps us understand the origin of our thoughts, feelings and actions. This finally brings deep insight and fulfilment or, more precisely, eudemonia.

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