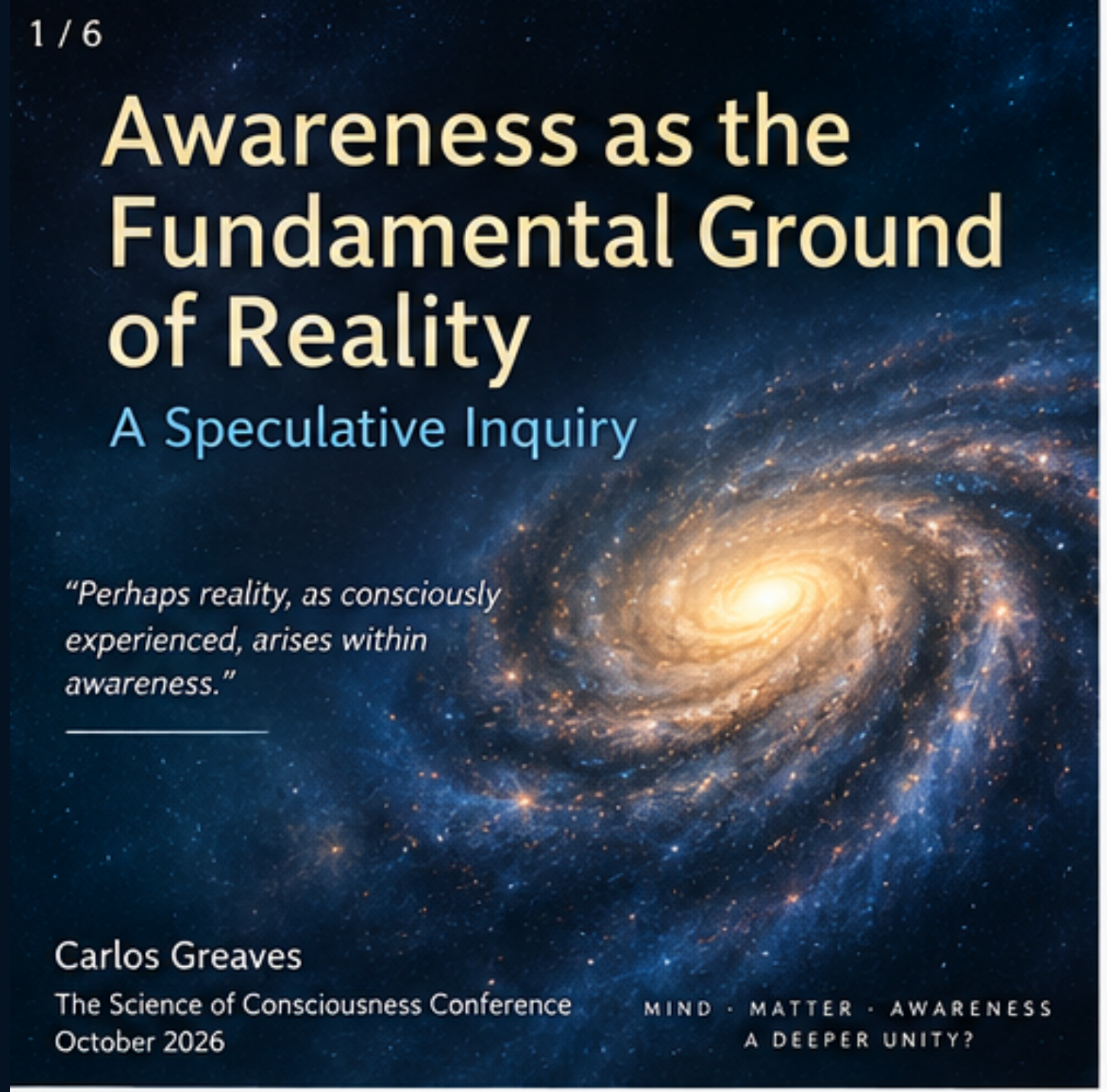
Awareness as the Fundamental Ground of Reality

A Speculative Inquiry



"Perhaps reality, as consciously experienced, arises within awareness."

Carlos Greaves

The Science of Consciousness Conference
October 2026

MIND · MATTER · AWARENESS
A DEEPER UNITY?

Awareness and Consciousness

A Crucial Distinction

AWARENESS

Objectless, atemporal, intrinsic presence



- Not awareness of anything
- Not an observer
- Does not move through time
- Simply is

CONSCIOUSNESS

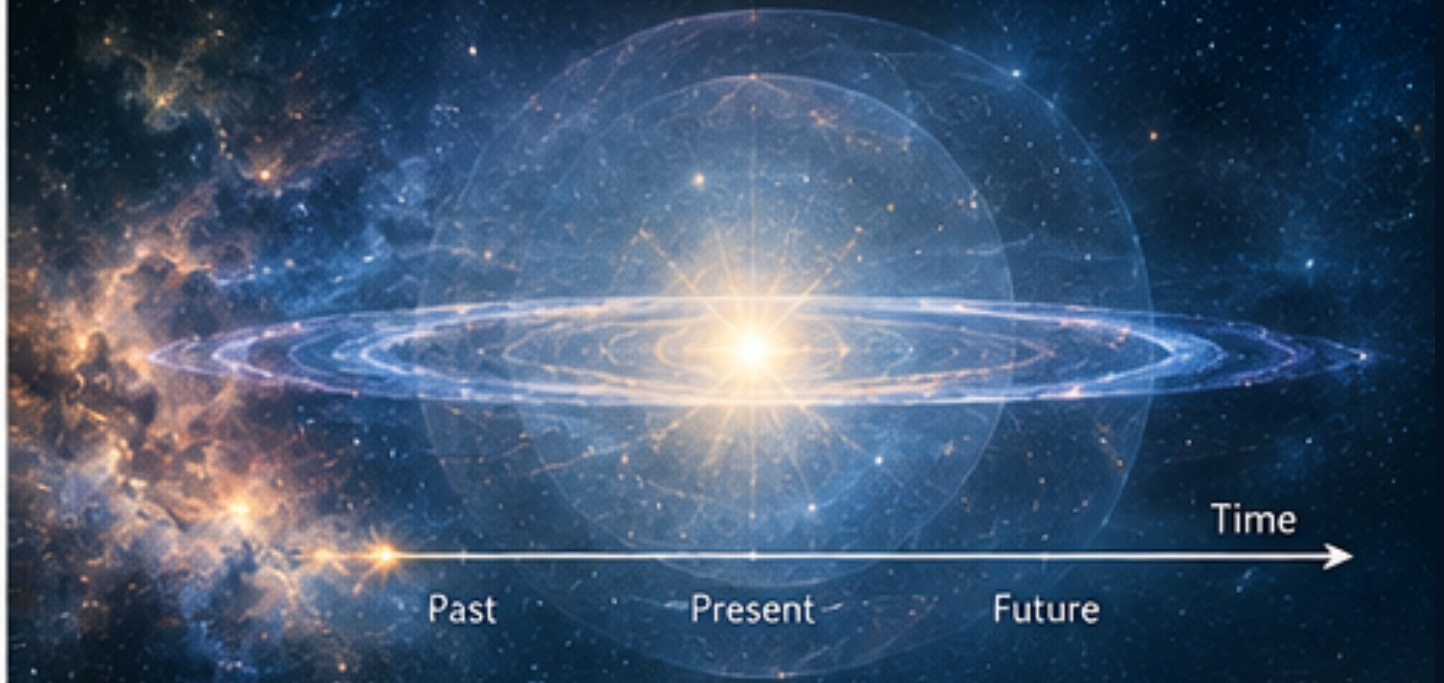
Awareness of something



- Awareness of an object (sensation, perception, thought, memory, etc.)
- Subject–object distinction
- Inherently temporal
- Requires awareness, but awareness does not require consciousness

Awareness and Time

The Eternal Present



“Awareness does not move through time.
Time moves through awareness.”

The contents of consciousness are temporal.
Awareness itself is always present.

No Observer Inside Awareness

From Awareness to Self-Consciousness

1. AWARENESS
Objectless presence



No subject.
No object.
No self.
Simply is.

2. CONSCIOUSNESS
Awareness of something



Subject–object structure.
Inherently temporal.

3. SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS
Awareness of awareness



Consciousness taking itself as an object.
"I am aware that I am aware."
Arises in complex systems.

For awareness to be aware of itself, it would have to become its own object.
At that point we have introduced reflexivity and crossed into consciousness.

Ontological, Not Temporal, Priority

Nothing Happens to Awareness

Timeless Eternity

Temporal Eternity

AWARENESS

Atemporal, invariant, intrinsic presence



Ontological relation
(not a temporal transition)

DIFFERENTIATED MANIFESTATION

The temporal domain of distinction



- Distinction, relation and change
- May be temporally eternal
- No first moment of differentiation
- Provides the conditions for consciousness

Awareness as the Fundamental Ground of Reality

A Speculative Inquiry

"Perhaps reality, as consciously experienced, arises within awareness."

Timeless Eternity

Ontological ground (not a temporal transition)

Temporal Eternity

Distinction
Relation
Change
Evolution



1. AWARENESS

Atemporal, invariant, intrinsic presence

- Not awareness of anything
- Not an observer
- Does not move through time
- Simply is

Key characteristics

- Atemporal
- Invariant
- Objectless
- Ontologically fundamental
- Not self-referential

"Awareness does not observe events. It is the presence within which observation becomes possible."

↕ Ontological relation (not a temporal transition)



2. DIFFERENTIATED MANIFESTATION

The temporal domain of distinction

- Distinction, relation and change
- May be temporally eternal (no first moment of differentiation)
- The domain in which physical reality unfolds
- Provides the conditions for consciousness

Key characteristics

- Temporal
- Differentiated
- Dynamic and evolving
- May be without a first transition
- Includes physical reality (e.g., quantum fields)

"The timeless and the temporal may be two inseparable aspects of reality."

↓ Under appropriate conditions



3. CONSCIOUSNESS

Awareness of something

- Awareness of an object (sensation, perception, thought, memory, etc.)
- Subject-object distinction
- Inherently temporal
- Requires awareness, but awareness does not require consciousness

Key characteristics

- Awareness of an object
- Subject-object structure
- Temporal
- Arises within differentiated manifestation

"Consciousness presupposes awareness, but awareness does not presuppose consciousness."

↓ Reflexivity



4. SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS

Awareness of awareness

- Consciousness taking itself as an object
- "I am aware that I am aware"
- Reflexivity
- A higher-order form of consciousness
- Emerges in complex cognitive systems

Key characteristics

- Awareness of awareness
- Reflexive
- Temporal
- Depends on consciousness
- Associated with complex brains (e.g., humans)

"For awareness to be aware of itself, it would have to become its own object. At that point we have crossed into consciousness."

Why is there a differentiated manifestation at all?

The proposal does not answer this question. It merely relocates the mystery.

Perhaps the fundamental question is not how matter becomes aware, but what is the relationship between timeless awareness and the temporal world of experience.