

For release April 2014

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Author website: <http://davidsayre.com>

Something There Is

Seeking a Rational Faith for Our Children

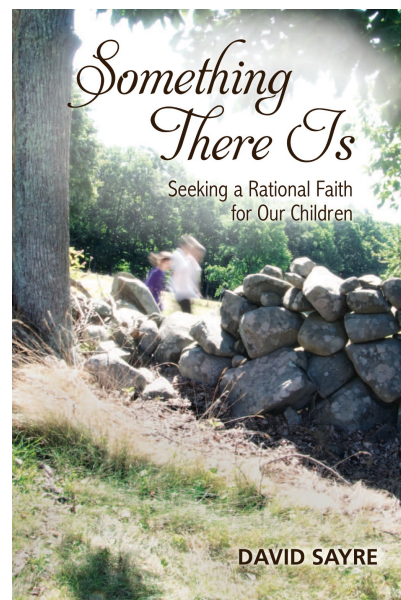
Author website: <http://davidsayre.com>

Book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqFsIS4c8R0>

by David Sayre

- Brief, thought-provoking essays
- Science aligned with faith to create a new life view
- Will stimulate conversations about development of faith and scientific reality

In letters to his children from wildly diverse settings—the Pentagon, The White House, the World Trade Center, prisons, cathedrals, reservations—Sayre joins his struggles with other scientists seeking a faith that will last



This autobiographical odyssey seeks in places of great striving a “rational faith”—one true to both our highest religious ideas and our advancing sciences. As founder of both charitable and technical businesses, the author leads us to places of the greatest despair and the greatest power on earth.

There we meet amazing examples of good and evil, interwoven with contemporary scientists’ own searches for meaning, explaining faith and love, truth and life, time and order and beauty. **The things we hold sacred are real, after all.**

Reader’s comments for *Something There Is*...

“What is the shape of faith today? . . . In **one of the more brilliant essays of our time**, David Sayre helps us understand what our greatest artists hinted at . . . what our best scientists came to understand . . .”

—from “Musings”—Robert Cotner, Editor, *The Caxtonian*, Vol. XI, No. 3

“The whole book is **marvelously written** and its structure, in the form of individual letters, makes it **highly readable**.”

—Gwilym Trefor Jones, Professor, School of Education, Bangor Campus, University of Wales

About the Author

DAVID SAYRE is the father of five children and many business and charitable ventures, an engineer who has led advances in communication and energy technologies for thirty years. He is the author of *The Great Improbability*, a novel (Peter E. Randall, 2009), and *Flatland*, a children’s book illustrated by Rebecca Emberley, coming in Spring 2014.

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Author Q&A with David Dayton Sayre (2pgs)

The author reflects on his essay collection, *Something There is*, a scientific journey through the evolution of the human species' search for truth.

PER: What inspired you to complete this collection of letters and dedicate them to your descendants?

David Sayre Dayton: The original inspiration was to give a rational faith to my small children as they grew. The subject grew as I did, however, and ultimately became a life's work that I hope may support the search of others.

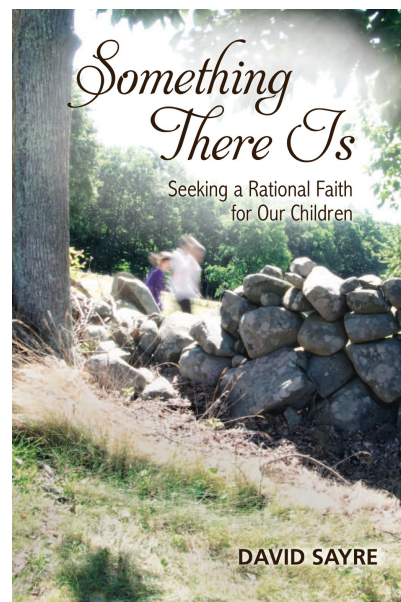
PER: How do your experiences throughout your entrepreneurial years influence your philosophical views in this collection?

DSD: I was fortunate first to find a nonprofit organization that invited social entrepreneurs into our corporate "incubator," and then to found profit-making companies specializing in communication and energy efficiency (the two sciences that contend with the two forms of "entropy"). These led me first to places of the greatest despair and the greatest power on earth (and the people who inhabit them), and then to the writings of leading physicists who have wrestled with the same search.

Over many years of listening and sharing and reading, I found these struggles and writings contributing to the same search. I have not invented anything here, but combined the discoveries and anguish of others. My integration of their voices had to be entirely rational (which means committed to truth) and to reflect the insights of our advancing sciences. Probably the greatest joy in this journey has been finding that things like beauty, love, and freedom are rooted in truth, in the local reduction of entropy, and that we can understand them. "The things we hold sacred are real, after all."

PER: *Something There Is* reflects that rational faith is about communicating with the universe. Could you elaborate on why you believe true communication can only happen when both sides are surprised with new information?

DSD: There is a rigorous mathematical answer to that question, discovered by Claude Shannon (the father of information theory). The amount of information in any message can be precisely measured and is inversely proportional to the probability of receiving that message. If we know it in advance, no information is transferred; if we know nothing about it, the information is maximized. (I expand on this in Note 3, pp. 38-39)



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PER: You mention in The Berkshire Hills essay, “If we can be freed of limiting concepts and discarded world views, why not seek a broader identity?”

In such a digital age where communication is more often than not conveyed through a screen, how does one find the ability to seek a broader sense of being?

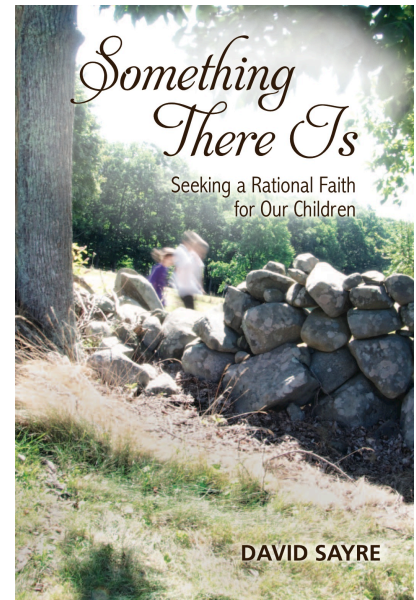
DSD: Our capacity for relation is not necessarily diminished by the absence of a physical presence. We share ideas in many forms, and some will argue that the greater reach of digital inter-connection actually enhances the number and depth of our relationships. I don’t have an informed opinion on that argument, but our freedom to learn and build together, to communicate, to heal and love, and to seek and make beauty, are our ways of expressing the whole intelligence in which we live. We don’t seek a broader “self” that is individual and isolated, but to reach beyond such boundaries.

PER: How would you describe your writing style and genre? Over what length of time did you write the essays?

DSD: I have tried to write with some music in my lines, using metaphor that is consistent and scientifically meaningful. Looking back at the style, I regret somewhat its opacity. The opening line will puzzle most readers and put off many—I wrote it because I liked its poetic description of intelligent life as the “great improbability,” the ultimate affront to entropy. As to the length of time, almost forty years elapsed between my early readings and my publication of the first edition.

PER: Artificial Intelligence is something mentioned frequently throughout this collection, do you hope your reader will gain a different perspective on the possibility that unknown activity may exist in the universe?

DSD: Yes, I do hope readers will gain an improved perspective on the probability of intelligent life in many (probably infinite) forms, around our universe and others. I do not consider any expression of freedom, communication, and organizing to be “artificial.” The evolution of DNA-based cellular life on Earth is not likely the only way to develop expressions of intelligence. We may or may not find evidences of other expressions. The capacity to learn, heal, love and find beauty are to me sacred, irrespective of their forms and media.



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