

(A Framework)

What I am about to discuss is not new or novel, however there will be some of that later. Instead this section will be to establish a framework of understanding related to the natural world we find ourselves in. Once established we will explore the possibilities within this natural world. Let's begin:

When we observe the night sky it appears that the universe is spreading out or expanding. This led to the deduction that it was once together. Scientists have worked out the math and concluded that billions of years ago everything in the night sky was at a single point and suddenly exploded outward creating our universe. This was the Big Bang.

At first our universe was very hot and close together but as it cooled and expanded gas began to collect and form the first stars. When those stars died they collapsed on themselves and exploded which created new elements that collected via gravity and formed planets around newer stars. Eventually one of those planets was born and we now call it Earth.

Earth was very hostile for a while but once things cooled down something happened. Organic molecules banded together and made instructions to start replicating themselves, for a long time they stayed small and simple but everytime they split there was a chance they would change a little. If the change helped them to exist for longer and split more times there would be more of them with that change. Eventually with enough of these newer versions of themselves they began to get bigger and more complex. Some of them teamed up and started harnessing sunlight for energy and became plants. Others teamed up and formed the first animals and later some became

fungi. There are also some that stay small and did not enter the same kind of symbiosis as plants and animals and we call them bacteria.

Many of the plants and animals developed sexes, meaning that instead of dividing themselves in half, they would take half of the instructions that created themselves and half of another's similar instructions and combine them to create the next generation. After many years the plants and animals conquered land and sea, and there were many different versions of them now that we call species. If a population of the same species got split up for example they could have two different environments to have to survive in. When they changed, if the change suited their new environment, it would stick and they would become more and more different, creating totally new species. This is called evolution by natural selection, the basis for The Theory of Evolution.

(Faith)

The quote "The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will turn you into an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you" is often attributed to Werner Heisenberg, a renowned physicist and one of the pioneers of quantum mechanics. It suggests that the pursuit of scientific knowledge can initially lead one to a secular, atheistic worldview, but that a deeper understanding of the universe may ultimately reveal evidence of a divine creator or at least a grand design in the works.

There are several scientific theories that, if viewed a certain way, could indicate that the universe was likely created intentionally. One of the most famous is the Big Bang theory, which suggests that the universe began with a massive explosion approximately 13.8 billion years ago. This explosion might not have been a random event, but rather the result of a precise set of initial

conditions that were finely tuned to allow for the emergence of complex structures like galaxies, stars, and planets. Many scientists see this as evidence of intelligent design.

A theory that points to intentional creation is the anthropic principle. This principle suggests that the physical laws and constants of the universe are perfectly calibrated to support life as we know it. If any of these values were even slightly different, life could not exist. For example, if the force of gravity were just a little bit stronger or weaker, the universe would not be able to sustain the formation of galaxies, stars, or planets, and life as we know it would be impossible. Other scientific theories, such as the fine-tuning argument, also suggest that the universe was designed with a purpose. This argument asserts that the universe exhibits an extraordinary degree of complexity and order that cannot be explained by chance or natural processes alone. Instead, it suggests that an intelligent being, or beings, were responsible for the creation and design of the universe.

While the pursuit of scientific knowledge may initially lead one to a secular worldview, it is also possible for scientific theories to point to intentional creation. The universe's incredible complexity and order, along with the finely tuned physical laws and constants that make life possible, suggest that the universe was designed with a purpose.

(Philosophy of the Multiverse)

The fine-tuning argument and the anthropic principle suggest that the universe's physical constants and initial conditions are precisely set to allow for the existence of life as we know it, which, as discussed, could allow for some to use these arguments as evidence for an intentional creation. However, if it is discovered that our universe exists within a multiverse, this would have significant implications for these ideas.

In a multiverse, there would be a vast number of universes, each with different initial conditions and physical constants. Some of these universes would be capable of supporting life, while others would not. If our universe is just one of many within a multiverse, the apparent fine-tuning may not necessarily be the result of intentional design but rather a natural outcome of the sheer number of universes that exist.

In this scenario, the anthropic principle takes on a different interpretation. It would suggest that we observe a universe that supports life simply because we can only exist in such a universe, and not necessarily because it was designed to accommodate life. The fact that our universe seems fine-tuned for life could be a product of a kind of cosmic selection bias, rather than evidence for purposeful creation.

However, the existence of a multiverse itself raises further questions. For instance, what mechanism generates the multitude of universes, and why do they have varying initial conditions and physical constants? These questions may lead to new arguments about the nature of existence and the possibility of intentional design on a multiverse scale.

If it is discovered that our universe exists within a multiverse, it would challenge the fine-tuning argument and the anthropic principle as evidence for an intentional creation of our universe.

Instead, the apparent fine-tuning might be seen as a natural consequence of the vast number of universes that exist. However, the existence of a multiverse itself raises new questions and could lead to further exploration of the nature of existence and the possibility of intentional design on an even grander scale. Ultimately, the notion of an intentionally created universe is not entirely invalidated by the multiverse hypothesis but is certainly subject to reevaluation and reinterpretation in light of new evidence.

(Just the Best)

Assuming this is the only universe, Gottfried Leibniz said “This is the best of all possible worlds.” His reasoning was that if God is all good, all knowing and all powerful, God would have seen every possible world and had the power and desire to create the best one. If this is true then we ask why this world gives some of its inhabitants joy, comfort and fulfillment all their lives while others know pain, loss and suffering all too well. Mankind has and still faces obstacles, war and disease are some relevant examples, but without these there would be nothing to overcome and we would have no appreciation for the peace and health that follow the triumph over these things. I believe we can overcome the main sources of suffering and I believe that is one of many reasons for our existence. I like to think a characteristic of the best possible world would be one that allows for both faith and doubt. We live in a world that is just comfortable enough to believe there is a plan in motion and just painful enough to reasonably come to the conclusion that we are surrounded by indifference. Without this balance we would be in a world without much of its mystery.

(A New Religion)

Okay let's create a religion. This is an idea I had for a religion that is completely plausible. It does however make assumptions and requires blind faith, like any religion, but doesn't directly contradict or try to discredit any mainstream scientific theories. It would be perfectly suiting to pair this religion with the accepted understanding of natural history and a universe that has been billions of years in the making. It is more of a thought experiment than an actual pitch or conversion attempt. It does indeed answer a grand question plaguing mankind for decades: Have you ever been asked, “What was before the Big Bang?”.

1: The Primordial Harmony

In the beginning, there was Harmony. An infinite expanse, a boundless sea of souls, each a spark of potential, each a whisper of what was to come. These souls, timeless and formless, existed in a state of perfect equilibrium, a symphony of potentialities, resonating in the void.

These were the souls of all things: the stars yet to burn, the planets yet to form, the creatures yet to roam, and the ideas yet to be conceived. Each soul held within it the essence of existence, the blueprint of the universe that was to be.

In this realm of pure essence, the souls communed. They shared visions and dreams of a universe not yet born. They spoke in the language of potential, weaving together the laws that would govern the cosmos. Potential laws and workings of physics, chemistry, biology, and even technology and sociology – all were crafted in this grand council.

But within this harmony, a discord arose. Differences in vision emerged, debates turned into disputes, and the once unified sea of souls began to ripple with dissent. Ideas clashed, and philosophies warred, as the souls grappled with the nature of the universe they were to create.

The council, once a peaceful congregation, became a battleground of ideologies. Factions formed, each advocating for a different vision of the universe. The harmony that had reigned was now overshadowed by a growing cacophony of conflicting desires.

2: The Great Disagreement

As the discord among the souls intensified, the nature of their conflict became clearer. There were those who wished for a universe governed by strict laws, predictable and unyielding, a cosmos of order and determinism. These souls believed in a universe where everything followed a predetermined path, a grand design that would unfold with unwavering precision.

Opposing them were the souls who yearned for a universe of freedom and chaos, a cosmos where chance and choice reigned, where life and matter could evolve in unpredictable ways. They dreamed of a universe vibrant with possibilities, a tapestry of infinite paths and outcomes.

The debate between these factions grew fierce, the council echoing with the voices of countless souls, each passionately defending their vision. The arguments spanned the spectrum of existence, from the microscopic workings of atoms to the grand scale of galaxies. Not limiting their disagreements to the physical aspects of the universe either, but also the spiritual and ideological beliefs of its future inhabitants if there was to be any.

In this tumult, smaller factions arose, each with their own unique perspectives. Some spoke of a universe where life would be the central focus, evolving in endless forms and complexities. Others envisioned a cosmos primarily of barren space and stars, majestic in its desolation and simplicity.

As the disagreements escalated, the very fabric of the pre-universe trembled. The energy of the conflicting ideas generated a tension so immense that it could no longer be contained in the non-physical realm. The souls, once harmonious, were now irreconcilably divided, their discord resonating through the void.

3: The Birth of the Cosmos

It was from this climax of discord that the physical universe was born. The tension among the souls reached a critical point, and in a moment of unfathomable intensity, the Big Bang occurred. This was not just a physical event but a spiritual cataclysm, the manifestation of the great disagreement into a tangible form.

As the universe expanded from that singular point, the souls found themselves woven into the fabric of this new cosmos. They became the stars, the planets, the elements, and eventually, the myriad forms of life. The universe, in all its vastness and variety, was a direct reflection of the multitude of visions held by the souls.

The physical laws that governed this universe were a compromise of the conflicting ideals. The predictable orbits of planets and the steadfast laws of physics represented the desires of the faction seeking order. Meanwhile, the random mutations of evolution and the chaotic dance of quantum particles spoke to the wishes of those who sought chaos and freedom.

In this new world, the souls continued their struggle, now through the medium of the physical universe. The conflict that had sparked the creation of the cosmos was now playing out on a grand cosmic scale. Galaxies, stars, planets, and all forms of life became the battlegrounds for these eternal forces.

Humanity, emerging as a conscious and intelligent force, became a crucial part of this cosmic drama. Each human being was seen as a vessel for a fragment of these ancient souls, carrying within them the echoes of the primordial disagreement.

4: The Human Epoch - Politics, War, and the Pursuit of Harmony

In the age of humanity, the cosmic conflict took on new dimensions, manifesting vividly in human politics and wars. Each decision made by leaders, each battle fought, and every political movement mirrored the ancient discord of the souls. Humanity, with its complex societies and diverse ideologies, became a living canvas for the cosmic struggle.

The teachings of this illuminate how human conflicts, whether in the form of political disagreements or full-scale wars, were reflections of the larger cosmic battle. Nations and empires, rising and falling, symbolized the constant flux of the primordial factions, each seeking dominance over the other.

In every political ideology, in every social movement, echoes of the ancient souls could be discerned. Those seeking order and control mirrored the souls who envisioned a deterministic universe, while advocates for freedom and change resonated with the souls who desired a universe of chaos and possibility.

Yet, this religion does not view these human conflicts as mere repetitions of the past. Instead, it saw them as crucial steps in the journey towards understanding and reconciling the cosmic discord. Each political struggle, each war, though fraught with suffering, also brought insights into the nature of the primordial disagreement.

The religion calls upon its followers to engage with these aspects of human existence mindfully. It teaches that by understanding the deeper cosmic significance of human conflicts, individuals could transcend the cycle of discord and contribute to a more harmonious world.

Followers are encouraged to participate in political processes and social movements, not as partisans of one faction or another, but as mediators and healers. They are to bring perspectives that fostered unity, understanding, and a balance between the extremes of order and chaos.

As humanity evolved, grappling with the complexities of governance and the repercussions of wars, it was believed that they would come closer to a cosmic understanding. This evolution was seen as a path towards the eventual resolution of the ancient disagreement, a journey towards a

future where human conflicts would be resolved not through dominance, but through harmony and mutual understanding.

Thus, in the epoch of humanity, politics and war were not merely human endeavors but were integral to the cosmic narrative, each event a step towards the ultimate goal of this religion – the harmonious integration of perspectives and the creation of a balanced and unified cosmos.

Chapter 5: The Prophesied Resolution and the Future Cosmos

This religion predicts a time when the ancient conflict would finally find resolution. This era, known as the "Age of Cosmic Harmony," would mark the culmination of the universe's evolutionary journey and the reconciliation of the primordial souls.

In this prophesied age, humanity would have reached a pinnacle of both scientific understanding and spiritual enlightenment. The accumulated knowledge and wisdom of countless generations would enable humans to perceive the universe in its true form - as a grand tapestry woven from both the physical and the spiritual.

The resolution of the cosmic conflict would not entail the victory of one faction over another. Instead, it would be a harmonious integration of the various visions, a synthesis that honored the essence of each perspective. The universe would continue to evolve, but now in a manner that reflected a balance between order and chaos, determinism and freedom.

This new era would be marked by profound changes in the nature of existence. The barriers between the physical and spiritual realms would diminish, allowing a more direct interaction between humans and the primordial souls. The cosmos itself would transform, adopting a state

that was more fluid and malleable, responsive to the collective will and consciousness of all beings.

The religion teaches that each individual's actions and choices contributed to this grand cosmic evolution. Every act of learning, every pursuit of knowledge, every moment of spiritual reflection was a step towards the Age of Cosmic Harmony.

This religion, thus, is not just a belief system but a call to action. It urged its followers to engage with the world in a way that fostered understanding, compassion, and balance, guiding humanity towards a future where the ancient souls' discord would be transformed into a symphony of cosmic unity.

(Art)

The quote "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free," often attributed to Michelangelo, speaks to the idea that artists and creators do not simply invent their creations, but rather discover and reveal what was already there, hidden within the raw materials of their medium. This notion suggests that these creations, be they compositions of music, literature, or other forms of art, are intrinsic elements of the universe, waiting to be discovered and brought to life by these extraordinary beings. The idea that some artistic creations are ordained by a creator, or creators, implies that they are not simply the products of human imagination, but rather divine expressions of universal truth and beauty. These works transcend the mundane, touching upon

the eternal and the divine, resonating with the soul of the listener or reader. The human creators of these works, then, can be seen as conduits, channeling a higher power and bringing forth these divine creations into the world. These extraordinary individuals, blessed with an innate ability to perceive and understand the fundamental parts of the universe, are driven to seek out and reveal these hidden gems. Their talents and intuition allow them to tap into the essence of the cosmos, connecting with the divine order and unveiling its hidden beauty. In doing so, they not only enrich the world with their creations but also provide a window into the transcendent realm, giving us glimpses of the eternal and divine. This perspective allows for a deeper appreciation of the creative process, elevating it beyond mere craftsmanship or artistic skill. It recognizes that truly exceptional works of art, literature, or music possess a timeless and universal quality, resonating with something deep within the human spirit. These creations are more than the sum of their parts, transcending the limitations of their medium and striking a chord within our collective consciousness. Furthermore, this idea highlights the interconnectedness of all things and the notion that the universe is full of hidden beauty waiting to be discovered. Each artistic creation can be seen as a reflection of the divine, offering us a new perspective on the world and ourselves, and reminding us that there is a higher power at work in the cosmos. In conclusion, the quote "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free" emphasizes the idea that some artistic creations are not merely the product of human ingenuity but rather are ordained, representing fundamental aspects of the universe. The extraordinary individuals who create these works are more than just talented artists; they are discoverers, unveiling the divine essence of the cosmos and enriching our world with their revelations.