

The Origin and Purpose of the Universe

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Two of the eight questions that the Commission for Extended Science says in its remit cannot be answered by materialistic, mechanistic science are “The origin of everything. The Big Bang theory is full of holes” and “Inherent purpose in the universe”.

How can we address these issues in a rational, systemic manner that is acceptable to scientists who are open and willing to question their beliefs and assumptions? How can we humans discover the Origin and Purpose of the Universe? Indeed, do we yet know what the Universe really is?

Well, science is based on the observation of experiments, which are based on human experience. Such experiments sometimes require much practice to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge, like being a concert pianist. Scientists also need to ask questions to solve problems. Because science has traditionally focused its attention on our external worlds, it generally eschews psychological questions about our inner experiences that can only be answered by self-inquiry.

One of the most important of these evaded questions is “What is the essential difference between humans and machines with so-called artificial general intelligence?” I began to ponder this question after I wrote a program to calculate the roots of quadratic equations in September 1964 in my first job as a mathematician/programmer in the R&D department of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

However, I was not able to give my full-time attention to discovering what it truly means to be a human being until May 1980, a couple of days after resigning from my marketing job as an information systems architect with IBM in London. Being free of the constraints of the economic machine, I embarked on a thought experiment, inspired by the thought experiments that Albert Einstein conducted to formulate the special and general theories of relativity. The experiment is the reverse of Alan Turing’s imitation game, in which he sought to demonstrate that machines could think for themselves.

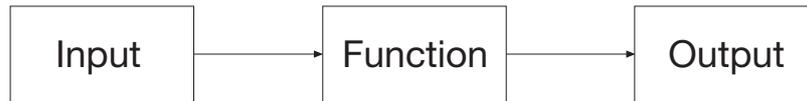
To show that this is not possible, I imagined that I was a computer that switched itself off and on again so that it had no programs within it, not even a bootstrap program to load the operating system. Starting from a *tabula rasa* ‘scraped tablet’, this computer then had the task of programming itself to integrate all knowledge in all cultures and disciplines at all times—past, present, and future—into a coherent whole, rather like the Internet. Without an external human programmer telling the machine how to do this, the only source of energy for this experiment in learning was from within the human being conducting the experiment in the Eternal Now, free of the past and the future.

Including the thought experiment in the territory being mapped, I observe it with my inner eye, like a television camera filming itself filming. However, I did not begin an experiment to map the Universe through an act of free will. It was something that happened to me following an apocalyptic, Kundalini-like, eureka moment three weeks earlier. Furthermore, I was well-prepared to conduct this autodidactic experiment by all the events that had happened to me during the thirty-eight years since my conception, none of which I had any control over as a being separate from any other being, including the Supreme Being. Similarly, these events happened to me, just like writing this article. I am conscious of doing so, revising and editing as necessary, but I am not in charge. As the Advaita sages teach, there is no doership.

This wondrous creative experience tells me that we humans are not machines and nothing but machines, invalidating the mechanistic paradigm that drives so much of science and business today. For

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computers operate in the horizontal dimension of time, receiving some input from the past, doing some data processing, and producing an output in the future, illustrated here. Nothing radically new can arise from such a mechanistic process.



Furthermore, my life experience shows that we are all interconnected to each other, to Nature, and to the Divine Cosmos. In Reality, none of us are autonomous beings, living our lives independently of others. Paradoxically, to realize this fundamental truth of existence, I have needed to distance myself from a world that believes that we, as separate beings, must fight each other for a slice of the finite monetary cake or that just pays lip service to the mantra that we are all one. Yet, we all have the potential to realize this truth in the depth of intimate being, if that is what is meant to happen in the collective.

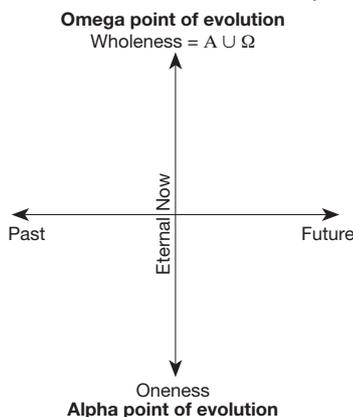


To begin at the beginning, I experience the Divine Origin of the Universe as Stillness and Immanent, Transcendent Presence, meaning ‘before being’ or ‘prior to existence’, for *Presence* derives from Latin *praesentia* ‘presence’, participle of *praesse* ‘to be before’, from *prae* ‘before’ and *esse* ‘to be’. The Origin of the Universe is its *Datum*, from Latin *dare* ‘to give; to cause’.

Everything that exists in the relativistic world of form, from clusters of galaxies to the joy of writing these words, emerges through the action of the Logos from Stillness and Presence in a synergistic process I call evolution, using the esoteric rather than the exoteric meaning of *Logos* in Greek: the immanent and rational conception of Divine Intelligence governing the Cosmos.

But the growth of the complexity of structure does not continue indefinitely. There is an inherent purpose in the Universe to reach its Glorious Culmination, which I call *Wholeness*, cognate with *healthy* and *holy*. Wholeness marks the termination of hologenesis, of all holistic, convergent evolutionary processes on Earth, from Greek *ólos* ‘whole’, cognate with *safe* and root of *to holon* ‘the universe’. So Wholeness is the Universe, from Latin *universus* ‘all together, whole, entire’, literally ‘turned into one’, from *unus* ‘one’ and *versus*, past participle of *vertere* ‘to turn’.

Another term for Wholeness is *Cosmic Consciousness*, from Greek *kosmos* ‘universal order’ and Latin *cum* ‘together with’ and *scire* ‘to know’, from Proto-Indo-European (PIE) base **skei-* ‘to cut, split’, also root of *schizoid* and *science*, *scire* meaning in this latter case ‘to separate one thing from another, to discern’. In contrast, art is a synthesizing activity, putting back together what science has divided, for *art* derives from Latin *ars* ‘skill, way, method’, from PIE base **ar-* ‘to fit together’, also root of *order* and *harmony*.



Ineffable, Nondual Wholeness is inseparable from the Origin of the Universe, for Alpha and Omega are one, coexisting in the vertical dimension of time, illustrated here. So the Universe begins and ends in the Non-manifest—in the Absolute Truth—which is ever present, transcending the categories, even those of Alpha and Omega. Nobody can return Home to Wholeness, for no one has ever left Home. Nothing could be simpler.

Self-reflective Divine Intelligence is the eyesight of Consciousness, distinguishing humans from the other animals and computers, Consciousness providing the coherent light to view the Cosmos holographically. But what goes on between the beginning and the end, when we conduct an experiment in learning that begins at the end and ends at the beginning, recapitulating the Cosmogonic Cycle? Well, quite amazingly, it is

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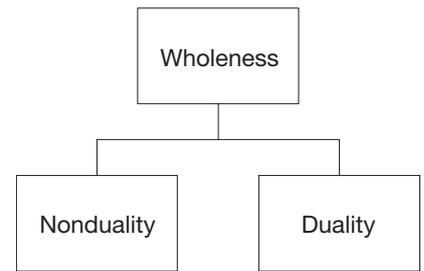
crystal clear that the ultimate purpose of the Universe is to reveal its innermost secrets to intelligent, conscious, self-aware beings: what it is, how it is designed, and its origin and purpose. The diagram on the last page of this article encapsulates this cosmology of cosmologies on a single sheet of A4 paper.

Heraclitus of Ephesus called the most significant of the Universe’s secrets the *Hidden Harmony*, hidden because so few in the West have discovered its existence, from the days of Plato and Aristotle to present times. In words, the Hidden Harmony is the *Principle of Unity*, which states *Wholeness is the union of all opposites*. In the notation of mathematical logic, this irrefutable, universal truth is the paradoxical *Cosmic Equation*, the simple, elegant equation that can explain everything, where *W* is any whole, including Wholeness, *A* is any being, including the Supreme Being and all human beings, \cup is union, and \sim is not:

$$W = A = A \cup \sim A$$

There is thus a primary-secondary relationship between the Nondual, Formless Absolute and the relativistic, dualistic world of form, depicted here, an example of Hegelian logic. If *A* is the thesis and not-*A* the antithesis, then *A* is the synthesis.

The Universe—as the Totality of Existence—is not just a physical universe of matter, space, and time, accessible by our five external senses. Indeed, there can be any number of such concurrent and consecutive universes, dying in black holes and emerging again in big bangs, as abstractions from or appearances in Consciousness.



We can most simply see why the multiverse of physical universes is quite insignificant in the overall scheme of things from the way that mathematicians and software developers represent the concepts of mass, space, and time in their equations and functions. These parameters are treated in exactly the same way as other physical variables, like volts, amperes, and ohms, measuring electrical potential, current, and resistance, respectively.

Other numerical variables in business are the quantities of products on the shelves of supermarkets and their prices. So when we buy a bag of potatoes, we can calculate its cost from the product of the weight of the potatoes and the price per kilogram. This equation has exactly the same form as $V = IR$ and a host of similar equations, such as $F = ma$.

Information systems architects go even further in their semantic class models, treating both qualitative and quantitative measures in exactly the same way, as dimensions or domains of values. Generalizing from business to the Totality of Existence, this egalitarian approach to concept formation shows that *the underlying structure of the manifest Universe is an infinitely dimensional network of meaningful hierarchical relationships*. This is the Cosmic Hierarchy with three attributes: generalizing, accumulative, and evolutionary. The Universe thus has a holographic, self-similar structure, viewed from a Holoramic 'Whole-seeing' vantage point, as from the summit of a mountain.

Such systemic reasoning invalidates the materialistic paradigm that governs science and business today. Most significantly, as there is nothing in the Universe—viewed as an information system—but meaningful structure-forming relationships, such relationships are causal, energetic, and synergistic, a generalization of fields in physics and biology. For relationships make the world go round. The Datum of the Universe is the Universal Field, known as the *Æther* or *Akasha* to the ancients—the Quintessence of the Cosmos—which could explain many phenomena that puzzle scientists today.



The Universe is like an iceberg, with 90%, as the Cosmic Psyche, lying beneath the surface. Furthermore, 90% of the Cosmic Psyche is currently the collective unconscious, lying in the shadows,

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from which much of our behaviour is unknowingly driven. We can only be fully healthy as individuals and as a society, realizing our maximum potential, when we are able and willing to bring our limiting beliefs and demons, as blind spots, into the full light of consciousness so that they can be dissolved.

This means that when Life reveals that opposites can never be separated—such as the observer and observed—it becomes possible for self-aware beings to understand what the Universe is and its Grand Design. When this happens, individuals, as undivided exemplars of *Homo sapiens sapiens* ‘wise-wise human’, have the potential to apply Self-reflective Intelligence to realize the Universe’s ultimate purpose, and hence their own life’s purpose. There is then nothing more for us to do in life, having realized Life’s purpose in our specific region of our particular physical universe. We can die in Peace and Stillness, satisfied that Life has enabled us to accomplish all that is our potential to realize as humans.

Indeed, because we all live in the same Universe, many can sense through the clouds of their cultural conditioning its ultimate purpose at any moment. For thousands of years, spiritual seekers have been engaged in involutory, dying practices, taking the short cut to God without first discovering how the Universe is intelligently designed. By both practising and ceasing meditative, yogic, and tantric exercises, we can realize our True Nature, Authentic Self, and Genuine Identity in union with the Divine, underlying what has traditionally been called ‘human nature’, much troubled by fear and ignorance.

From a human perspective, such contemplative practices are absolutely essential at the present time, as 13.8 billion years of evolution pass through its most momentous turning point, called evolution’s *Accumulation Point* in chaos theory. Our ignorance of what the Universe is and how it is designed to evolve and deteriorate is inhibiting us from adapting to our rapidly changing environment by becoming free of the sense of a separate self, by realizing that the Divine Essence we all share is Love.

Most significantly, the Hidden Harmony tells us that all structures in the Universe are born to die, including Western civilization and the global economy. Furthermore, with average global temperatures already set to rise to 5° above their pre-industrial base in the next few decades, it is unlikely that more than a few millions of our species will survive beyond 2100, living without the creature comforts that many of us enjoy today.

The critical decade is the 2020s. If we have a deluded view of the Cosmos and of how it is ordered, we cannot possibly design a life-enhancing system of governance that is in harmony with the fundamental laws of the Universe. It is thus vital that we complete the final revolution in science that has been unfolding during the past few decades by 2020, just as Isaac Newton completed the first in 1687 with the *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*. Otherwise, it is unlikely that the next generations will be ready to make the changes in their lives that are necessary to equanimously face the inevitable extinction of our species during the sixth mass extinction, currently underway.

However, we need to note that the revolutionary transformation of the prevailing scientific worldview will not happen until the joy of changing and the pain of not changing are greater than the joy of not changing and the pain of changing. So, in today’s political turmoil, it is most uncertain what future awaits our children and grandchildren, even in the next few weeks and months, never mind years and decades.

We have the potential, as a species, to live in love, peace, and harmony with each other and our environment, awakening in the Age of Light at the end of time before our inevitable demise. As none of us is ever separate from any other, the only practical way forward for humanity today is to harmonize evolutionary convergence, fulfilling the Universe’s Cosmic Purpose by cognitively and experientially returning to its Divine Origin, from which we are never separate. Nothing is more important at these times of the greatest existential global crisis in human history.

The Grand Design of the Universe Revealed by Conscious Evolution

