

A Non-Atheistic Cosmology

1: An Outline

by Robin Bloor

“This most beautiful system of the sun, planets and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.” ~ Isaac Newton

The Thesis

All modern cosmologies are atheistic. They all exclude the possibility of an Absolute intelligence having any role in the creation or evolution of the Universe. Nevertheless it is possible to formulate an intellectually defensible non-atheistic cosmology. Indeed such a cosmology was introduced by the mystic George Gurdjieff over a hundred years ago, and taught to his pupils. It has attracted little attention, but in the coming years that is unlikely to remain the case for a variety of reasons.

The Backdrop

All cosmology since the advent of the so-called “Age of Enlightenment” has been an effort to determine the mechanics of the dead body of the Universe. Everything, except for life on Earth (or possibly other equivalent life forms on other “lucky” planets), is presumed to be inert, lifeless matter or, in the case of shiny suns and events such as supernovae, extreme energy in the wild.

There has been no effort to conceive of, never mind discuss, the possibility of an absolute intelligence—or even the possibility of intelligence more remarkable than that possessed by man. Nevertheless, modern science paints an unambiguous picture. The Universe is inanimate, except for lifeforms that randomly arise on “sainted” planets.

There is no mystery how this came about—it is well known. For Western Europe, the Catholic Church was once the deciding authority on “truth.” In arriving at their cosmological view, they depended heavily on their interpretation of the text of The Bible. They forfeited their intellectual hegemony because of their identification with a geocentric (i.e. Earth-centric) Universe—which stemmed from their interpretation of Genesis.

When Galileo disputed this “order of things” with telescopic evidence, the Church engaged in forced suppression, quickly losing credibility, and science ascended to the “throne of truth.” In the 19th century, there was another famous intellectual confrontation. The Church did not take kindly to Darwin’s theory of evolution for scriptural reasons. In Genesis, if taken literally, there was a clear explanation of how mankind came about, and it admitted no possibility of evolution from lower life forms.

The Church's opposition to Darwin simply drew attention to the debate, and year after year, the mounting fossil evidence voted strongly in favor of the Darwinian theory. The Church was soon irrelevant in the field of biology. Indeed it was many years before it brought anything to the intellectual debate. When it did, it brought an assertion but no evidence—advocating “intelligent design” as the mechanism of evolution. The idea was that while the fossil record indicated an evolutionary tree, the new species that appeared on it were the outcome of intelligent design by a higher intelligence rather than the primitive and increasingly difficult to defend “survival of the fittest.” Intelligent design does not explain evolution; it simply states, “something intelligent was responsible for this.”

Lambda Cold Dark Matter

The currently preferred cosmology of modern science, the Lambda CDM theory, asserts that the Universe came into existence when a “something” smaller in volume than Planck's volume (a cube where each side is of length 1.616×10^{-35} meters) began to expand. The theory asserts that it has continued to expand ever since. It does not suggest what the something was, perhaps because physics has yet to identify anything in the Universe that small. An electron, for example, is around 1020 larger than Planck's volume. Aside from that, the Lambda CDM theory asserts that about 85% of the matter in the observable Universe is dark matter (i.e., invisible), and about 68% of the total energy in the observable Universe is dark energy (also invisible). So dark matter and dark energy together comprise 95% of the Universe, and we can only observe 5% of it. Aside from that, the Universe seems to host many what are called “black holes”—invisible aggregations of matter that tend to hide out at the center of galaxies. There is, of course, no evidence for any of these undetectable things—how could there be?

This may be the most ludicrous cosmology ever invented by man at any point in his brief history. The idea that some absolute intelligence created the Universe in a week seems way more credible. Or how about the creation story of the Bushongo people of the Congo? They assert that a god called Bumba existed in darkness before the creation. One day fell ill, so ill that he vomited the sun, moon, and stars into existence. He didn't stop at that. To relieve the pain of his illness, he released nine creatures, which proceeded to create all the world's animals, and eventually humans. More credible than Big Bang imho.

Our great-grandchildren will laugh hysterically when they learn about the Lambda CDM myth, which contains vastly more invisible things than all the denizens of Christian heaven—angels, archangels, cherubim, and seraphim.

In a world where such a cosmology is taken seriously, it doesn't seem particularly daring to introduce an alternative.

Everything is Material

One of the challenges of a non-atheistic cosmology is to circumvent the possibility of “supreme intervention.” Imagine something happening somewhere in the Universe (perhaps the brutal murder of a child) and the Absolute being observing it. Naturally, perhaps, one might expect some intervention of some kind, especially from a ‘Loving

God.” However, before we discuss the “power” of an Absolute intelligence, let’s lay down one of the primary assertions of this non-atheistic cosmology.

1. Everything is Material

If everything is material, then even the Absolute intelligence (God or whatever word you choose) must be material. As such, the substance of this Absolute intelligence can be weighed and measured. It is important to understand that, in this cosmology, such materiality applies to everything. Everything, for example, that physics classifies as energy (light, electricity, fire, etc.) is a material of some kind. Similarly, every noun of psychology (thoughts, emotions, ideas, etc.), these too are material of some kind.

If everything is material, then it is limited in quantity. So, for example, gold is material, and there is only so much gold on this planet. If it were possible to make gold in some way, then as gold is material, it would require that some other material be transformed into gold by some process for that amount to increase. Likewise, if emotions are material, then at any given moment of this planet, there is only so much hatred and so much love, and this could, in theory, be weighed and measured.

If we now consider information, then according to this assertion, there is only so much information on this planet at any given moment, and it too can be weighed and measured. And again, if we distinguish between knowledge and information by asserting (as this cosmology does) that knowledge is information digested by a living being capable of thought, then there is only so much knowledge on this planet. It too can be weighed and measured.

We simply mention this to distinguish between this non-atheistic cosmology and other cosmologies. In other cosmologies, the substances of knowledge and information go undefined. Indeed such cosmologies are rarely examined from the perspective of materiality. On the contrary, this non-atheistic cosmology is entirely materialistic.

2. Constraints On the Absolute Intelligence

In this non-atheistic cosmology, the Absolute intelligence is bound by the laws he enacted to create the Universe. Imagine that the Absolute invents a game of cards such as whist, where for example, the ace beats the deuce. Having specified such rules, he can no more violate them than anyone who plays the game. If he did, he would destroy the game. So if we ask the question, is there anything that the Absolute cannot do, then one thing he cannot do is beat the ace with the deuce. It is as impossible for him as for anyone else.

Thus in this non-atheistic cosmology, the Absolute create the Universe by creating laws and is therefore constrained to obey those laws or destroy his creation. If it so happens that the Universe he creates includes, in various locations, acts of brutality, murder, injustice, lying, greed, and so on, then so be it. He cannot intervene.

3. Everything is either alive or a substance that will be or is part of a living thing.

In this non-atheistic cosmology, nothing is inert. Certainly, there are many life forms, and all of them can die in the biological sense. However, at their death, their bodies become food for other life forms, and thus a general reciprocal feeding occurs, with life forms

feeding off other life forms. Everything in the Universe is either a living thing or a substance that will be fed on and become part of a living thing. In particular, everything modern science's cosmology treats as inert, such as galaxies, suns, planets, and moons, are regarded as alive.

The Consequences of Atheistic Cosmology

The theory of “Big Bang creation” is purely mathematical. It stems from a hypothesis, originally proposed by Edwin Hubble, that the Universe is expanding. Modeling the expansion of the observable Universe based on various calculations, the expansion was extrapolated backwards an estimated 13.77 billion years, based on the assumption that the expansion all originated from one place.

Astronomically we have been observing the Universe for less than 200 years, and we presume to predict events across 13.77 billion years from these meager observations. There is so much assumption in this that it is clearly without validity. Moreover, the expansion of the Universe itself is unproven. It is merely a theory.

Consider the situation where a scientist observes an antelope running through the forest and measures its progress for just one second, discovering that it is running at 30 mph. Extrapolating with the same wild abandon as the Big Bang theorists, he can declare with confidence that in about two years and two months, the same antelope will be running at exactly 30mph. It is an absurd claim. However, if you assume that planets and suns and even galaxies are dead and inert, you can model them as if they were nothing more than billiard balls. Model the Universe mathematically on that basis, and you can arrive at ridiculous conclusions.

Mathematics is not science; it is simply a tool that science can use. A mathematical model, while it may prove useful, proves nothing at all. Never has, never will.

Albert Einstein put it best when he said:

“As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality.”

This is a problem with pretty much the whole of the Lambda CDM cosmology. It's almost all mathematics, involving virtually no science.

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