Theological Thoughts

Isaac Newton, on his deathbed, opined that his most important contribution to humanity was: his commentary on the Book of Daniel! I am not yet on my deathbed; but let me talk theology a bit!

God is out of fashion in science because (and thanks, Isaac Newton) we seem to have explained the seemingly inexplicable. “We have no need for that hypothesis” is, I think, the general attitude. But, even so, everyone, including every scientist, does wonder: Why existence? Surely, what we would expect, scientifically, is, simply, nothing: no time, no space, no nothing?

Every generation’s intellectuals develop a theory of our existence. Ours, today, is evolution, plus physics. In addition, the discovery of vast numbers of planets in our galaxy, which are clearly overwhelmingly lifeless, strongly suggests that we humans are merely an improbable byproduct.

Some do point out how puzzlingly unlikely is the composition of the baryonic matter of the universe, and the sequence of events needed to produce YOU. Merely the protons and electrons produced in the Big Bang are not sufficient for evolving you and me. But, happily, we find the universe to be strewn with ALL of the biologically-necessary heavier elements, they having been generated in the deep interiors of stars over billions of years, and then been dispersed widely by the dying stars’ explosions. [And merging neutron stars spew Gold and Silver!] To have that complex history actually happen has required use of all four of the known forces (Strong; Weak; Electromagnetic; Gravitational) and critically that their strengths be just right. But: I.D.? Meh!

CURVE BALL: Today’s conception of the universe does not (yet) fully take into account the implications of Quantum Mechanics. I have shown that the universe does not actually exist. There isn’t any stuff: only observations: mental! NOT observations OF anything: for there aren’t any things. If you accept, as you now must, Henry (1990; confirmed by Moshe Shapiro, though I know of no indication that Shapiro ever knew of the existence of my paper Quantum Mechanics Made Transparent) you will enter unfamiliar intellectual territory. You will be forced to think about our existence in a way that is dramatically new (at least to the Western culture).

For I have shown that quantum mechanics is mathematically trivial and that it is inevitable.

Quantum mechanics says that your making observations changes the past. While that is totally non-controversial it is rarely discussed. Just too weird! The finest person who talked about it, extensively, clearly, publicly, was my late friend John Wheeler. But, even John wavered!

Post-Henry (& Moshe Shapiro!) I hope that the intellectual dam might finally break, and it will become scientifically OK to speculate on a theological origin for humankind. I did not expect this but I welcome it. (I can’t see any alternative!) Through algebra, we connect with God.

To have this view become the new normal will not be easy, just as the Copernican revolution was not at all easy! Copernicus dared to publish only on his deathbed; Galileo lied to his students for decades (even so, ending up in house arrest; albeit visited by John Milton!). That dam broke with the publication of Galileo’s great book: anyone who doesn’t agree with Galileo that the world turns daily, and circles the Sun annually, is, today, considered to be a fool.

I am doing my level best, today, via my web page, to ‘pull a Galileo’: The Universe is mental.

https://henry.pha.jhu.edu/rch.html

... step one, was invention of spoken language ... written language ... Numbers! ... Algebra!

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