

THE OUTLAW UNIVERSE

There are two eternities: One that has existed until this point in time, and one that begins from this point and will exist beyond until. Neither one is comprehensible to the human mind, and there is no actual evidence to preclude the following:

When God spoke, a non-hole was cut in infinite space (a not hole, if you must). At this point energy and time were created, and now there will always be energy and time. Eternity was cut in half: From eternity past there was never anything. From that point, and throughout an eternal future, there will always be something.

If one is looking for it in space, this particle can never be found. The search would be for a finite speck – infinitely small, relative to the infinite expanse of the darkness within which it exists. To those of us who were born within this speck, it contains every fragment of energy, matter, and time that has ever existed – to include the energy that has been radiating outwards at the speed of light ever since. To us it is all we know, and without outside information it is all we can ever know.

Mankind is uncomfortable with eternal concepts, so it is natural for some to invent endless speculations to avoid facing them.

Such is the level of this faith, that actual evidence is not even needed to embrace it; a lack of proof to the contrary is all that is required. One potential example might be the assumption that an infinite number of universes such as ours must have already popped into existence – after all, we can't disprove it. And why should we think that we are so special that we're the only one? There is no way to prove or disprove such things, and certainly they would have no usefulness or impact upon our lives even if they *did* exist – other than to waste our minds and lives in debating useless intelligent sounding philosophy.

Some on the other hand, have given God permission to exist, and are free to enjoy walking with him without requiring him to comply with capricious speculations.

Can we do any better if we retreat into the fringes of things that are actually possible to know? At what point would clues relating to the creation of the universe become relevant to our lives? The earliest observable clues are found at distances and periods of time that – other than our perception of them – can have very little affect upon our lives. Even so, they can begin to expand our knowledge of science, and to provide us with an anchor point from which to validate or dismiss religious concepts.

The fact that energy exists at all, tells us that there is something out there beyond what the power of human rationality has been able to unlock. In other words, the origin of matter is an expression of something we cannot quantify or analyze beyond the limits of clues encrypted in creation. As far as this dot of universe is concerned, it is merely the evidence of the absolute from which all matter, time, and meaning originates. All available expression of the nature and purpose of this absolute is contained within this observable creation.

Perhaps the most fundamental decision a human has the power to make is whether or not they would care if God exists. If the answer is no, then any discussion relating to the existence of God is a waste of time. Having said that, let's at least take a walk through what basic science can tell us about the nature of creation and its Creator.

A letter from nature

Almost everyone agrees that the physical realm expresses the spiritual realm (or a lack thereof in the case of the atheist) A good example of the unifying power of this statement is the similarity of the quotes from two very different people – Try and guess who they were.

"My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable Superior Spirit Who reveals Himself

in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble minds. That deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God"

and

"..for since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through that which has been made."

Besides these two, many of us have at times stood in awe of the magnificent beauty and power of nature, "knowing" that there was something even greater behind it. The challenge comes in trying to interpret the observed phenomenon. In some cases we will see science telling us things contrary to what we have assumed or cherished – for instance: It had been assumed for millennia that the universe was in some sort of eternal equilibrium, but in 1927 Georges Lemaître, a Belgian priest, postulated the "Big Bang" theory. Within two years Edwin Hubble provided this work with solid mathematical support.

This theory was incompatible with philosophies such as Hinduism and her various children, with their endlessly cyclic patterns and a balanced universe. In contrast, the big-bang models a starting point in time, and the eternal imbalance of gradually dissipating energy. When Lemaître came up with his theory, even Einstein was quoted as saying "a most annoying proposition." Speaking of Dr. E, he is the one responsible for the first of the above two quotes. His partner in philosophy – interestingly enough – was the apostle Paul.

So what other spiritual insights might we derive from nature?

The canvas of darkness

I use this to describe the primordial condition of the universe: No temperature, energy, matter, time, motion, or any other phenomenon. Temperature is a property of matter or radiation, and cannot exist without them. Radiant energy cannot be produced without activity or deteriorating changes in matter. Mechanical energy cannot exist without particles. Particles cannot exist without energy intense enough to create them. Time cannot exist without motion or other forms of change. Motion cannot exist, without waves of energy or particles moving with respect to each other. This is the canvas of absolute zero energy upon which creation was born, and creation itself has been disintegrating back into ever-thinning chaos ever since.

Upon this medium with no boundaries or reference points, an infinitely small particle (relative to the canvas) defines the limits of our entire universe. Upon The creation of this particle, time, energy, and purpose were born.

Consider law one

It has long been understood that nothing can arise out of nothing. Law one (of thermal dynamics) tells us that energy can be changed, but not created or destroyed. By this law the universe could never have come into existence in the first place.

As mankind has struggled to figure out how the universe can exist without our understanding, the late Steven Hawking contrived theoretical mathematics to suggest that a particle-anti-particle pair could spontaneously arise out of nothing. But alas, the fine print requires an energy field of some kind for this to occur – again, requiring the existence of "something" before it.

If there was a mechanism by which energy could spontaneously arise out of nothing, it would have happened an infinite number of times by now in eternity past, and our cosmos would be very different from what it is today.

In short, the origin of matter remains outside the most diligently hunted limits of human rationality and the finest minds of science. The only actual evidence so far requires a supernatural origin of the universe. Even so, many choose to maintain a blind faith that there must be a different answer out there somewhere that is tiny enough to fit within the collective comprehension of mankind.

Law two

We have also observed that everything deteriorates from energetic and ordered states into dissipation and randomness. We call this “Law two,” or “entropy” (chaos).

This law suggests a universal ethic – consider a house for example: The boards are all the right length and in the right places. Now detonate an explosive under it and the material still exists, but it is now scattered and disordered. The material had value while it was in order, but randomize it and the same material is now a mess to be cleaned up. A well ordered brain is a beautiful thing, but randomize it with hallucinogens or a bullet, and it loses function. Some of the most enduring music in history is the mathematically structured work of Bach. His themes continually resurface in movies and various other productions. Music that strives for random and shock effects makes for fads and interesting experiments, but most of us would rather not live there.

That which builds order and function increases value, and that which randomizes and scatters decreases value. It is interesting that this form of ethic, while not based upon absolutes, does provide us with a moral direction.

On the other hand, entropy can provide energy for growth and order. Shortly after the big bang, the concentrated energy began to fuse into particles, where it would be stored until the particles themselves would be modified or destroyed. Within our Sun, it is the fusion and destruction of such particles by which their energy is yielded to provides its brilliance. A tender weed on Earth receives this energy and uses it to cunningly modify inorganic minerals into structures and edible compounds. But at each stage, energy is released. Some will be captured by other organisms, but much will be converted to heat to be dispersed throughout the universe.

So the potential ethic lies in what is done with this treasure of energy as it inexorably dissipates. If it is applied in constructive ways, it produces good things. If it is used to disrupt order and structure, it is generally evil.

During the 60’s there were mantras flying around bent on randomness. I was hearing my peers say things like “Down with the system”, “If it feels good, do it.” and “Tune in, turn on, and drop out.” My perspective was: “Build something, and if I like it, I’ll buy it.” It was a time of experimenting, while rampant protests deprived people of their rights to free speech, and destroyed properties that people had spent decades of their lives to earn and build. It was also a period of exploring new lifestyles in commune experiments, and of dangerous new drugs.

I had a friend who had participated in the Drop City commune near Trinidad, Colorado. This was a particularly blatant adventure into randomness in that one rule of this experiment was that there were to be no bosses. Within a few short years, it was abandoned and rusting into the goat pasture upon which it had been born. A few gained direction out of the chaos, but randomness, drug infestations and addictions generally prevailed. One early morning I saw my friend staggering down the street wailing “My brother is dead!” The best I could do for him at the moment was to give him a hug. His brother had been toying with randomness by playing Russian roulette, and had just blown his brains out.

Besides individual tragic events, chaos began to encroach upon our society in general; as the survivors of that generation began to infiltrate into positions of leadership, and the government itself.

While traveling during the 60’s, I spent a little time with a good friend who had done a tour with the Marines in Viet Nam. By now he was so calloused, that he even laughed as he described some of the scenes. It appeared that he had no conscience at all concerning the men he had killed. A little later

however, he mentioned a girlfriend whom he had gotten pregnant, and had assisted her in locating a clandestine abortion clinic. Unthinkably, he choked as he declared “Bill, I’ve killed my own son!” I tried to convince him that he hadn’t, but I knew I was lying.

A few years later the Supreme Court tried to invoke science to decree that life does not exist until birth takes place – only to be told that a unique life is created as soon as the male and female chromosomes combine and the zygote is formed. When they tried to decree that this genetically unique individual was part of the woman’s tissue, they were informed that for the first few days of its life it develops rapidly without even being attached to the woman. When it finally does attach, it does not even circulate the woman’s blood, but through an osmotic process it derives its nutrients and expels its waste – while never becoming a part of the woman’s tissue – any more than it does after birth while suckling its mother’s milk.

Since that time, America’s chaos has continued to grow without a foundation, or guiding principles. Murder has been redefined as woman’s rights, and theft as funding abortions through money extracted from honest people through taxes – many of whom are opposed to abortion. For my part, I quit a good-paying job so I could withdraw money from this system instead of paying for this carnage.

Law three

The origin of the universe is further precluded by a third law we call “absolute zero.” Absolute zero is the primal state of zero energy in which no kinetic energy exists. In its purest form, it would be the canvas of darkness as described above.

Although the above evidence forbids a natural origin of the universe, we have the power to believe whatever we wish – but it might be wise to keep the evidence in nature in mind when we do.

Lessons from a human perspective

Besides the fact that the universe exists at all, the most obvious thing is – that compared to us – it is big. Light can travel around the world seven times in a single second. You would have to travel at this speed for eight minutes to reach the sun, and then for more than four years to reach the next nearest star. You would then need to continue on for two and one half *million* years to reach the nearest significant galaxy outside our own. Twenty six *billion* years at this speed would get you across the entire universe, but since this period is almost twice the age of the universe things would be a little different by the time you got there.

Inevitable futures

In addition to the things scientists can tell us about astronomical history, they can also predict that our solar system will sooner or later make earth uninhabitable. A number of years ago Steven Hawking warned the world that in order for humankind to survive, we will eventually need to establish extraterrestrial colonies. A few years later he offered a more urgent warning: He declared that mankind was in far greater danger from itself, than from more distant and predictable cosmic disasters.

In view of the very brief tenure of humankind within the scale of cosmic evolution, it follows that our spiritual opportunities likewise have a date code. We do not have forever to prepare for forever. And within this brief age of mankind, our individual lives have a very limited amount of time in which to make eternal decisions.

Lessons from the outlaw

If we listen to it, our universe provides us with important instruction.

- * The universe is of supernatural origin.
- * It has a built-in ethic.

- * There is a single point from which it was all created.
- * The universe is neither cyclic nor balanced.
- * Our lifespans are unspeakably short compared to time since creation.

Religious prejudice

The above explorations have a greater impact upon some religions than they do upon others. Religions requiring an eternal recycling of physical life for instance must now explain how the eternal dissipation of energy does not apply to them. A challenge for other religions would be their concept of a balance between good and evil, light-side/dark side, etcetera. An eternally imbalanced universe originating from a single point is obviously incompatible with such beliefs. Those clinging by faith to a natural cause for the origin of the universe are also challenged by multiple threads of scientific evidence. Christianity on the other hand, remains unscathed by any of these findings.

The Absolute

Given that the universe and the physical laws that govern it were written on a canvass of absolute darkness, we have no reason to imagine limitations of any kind upon the Creator – whether size, power, love, hate, knowledge, or intelligence. No matter how much we say about size, we are still ignorant of God’s true nature. The only evidence we have so far is that God is not bound by finite terms or scales of any kind. His love, his intelligence, knowledge and seriousness are not just big, but absolute. This is how a God of infinite magnitude may not only be aware of our existence, but also of our most intimate details and thoughts. God is the absolute of the universe by which everything is defined and has its meaning. Anything less than this, is simply not God.

So what are humans?

What importance could a temporary minuscule flake of dust like planet earth possibly have in so vast a universe – let alone microscopic humanity that has infested it? They live a few years and then are consumed to yield their energy to other organisms which will also return to dust.

God has chosen to give each person a chance to become eternally relevant. During the sparkle of time between birth and our return to dust, we are given the opportunity to connect – and not only that, but to share this life with others as well. What is the value of something very small that will continue to benefit for eternity? It is infinite – do the math. Those who connect, will join the Creator in his eternal will; those who do not will be consumed in the decay of a dissipating universe.

Beyond rationality

Rationality and empirical data are valuable tools, and we are responsible to use them wisely, but the universe does not always play fair. How do we deal with credibly witnessed occurrences of paranormal phenomenon? The easy way out is to cling to a faith that there is a physical or psychological explanation for every thing noted – and thereby avoid having to consider them further.

I have this category of observations I like to call “earmarks of the supernatural,” by which I try to discern whether or not I am dealing with a rational phenomenon. One of these is statistics. During a technical career, I have often tracked down the root sources of problems through statistics. An examination of data can often reveal trends that are suspiciously proportional to the sources of the problems. From such information, predictions can be made concerning the efficacy of proposed corrective actions. In order to determine whether I am dealing with good or evil, I evaluate the effects upon those involved. Was there chaos and emotional damage? Or was there healing and provision?

In spite of the mountain of credible data relating to UFOs, no statistical data has been able to quantify or predict these sightings. The unerring fundamental science of mathematics is absolutely helpless to demonstrate or predict anything in this case.

Beyond this example I would also include things conceivable but suspiciously improbable. As a young man I was camping on the California side of the Colorado River, when I decided to swim to Arizona. It looked less than a half mile away so I went for it. The current was strong, so I was putting a lot of effort into it so I wouldn't have so far to walk back to camp. By about three fourths of the way there I ran out of energy so suddenly that I wouldn't have had the strength to yell even if there had been a boat nearby. I was at peace with God, but disappointed that my life had been so short. With just my face above the waves I prayed in my spirit: "God, if you have anything else for me to do in life, you're going to have to do something, because there is nothing I can do." During the final couple of words of that prayer my toe touched bottom, and a few second later I was relaxing and catching my breath on a sand bar covered by shallow water. I have little option but to consider it a miracle – not just from the statistical improbability of selecting that very second, but from the timing of the spiritual context as well. Believe what you must.

Another earmark would be the cases when we just seem to know things that prompt us to take irrational actions that have very important results. I was returning home from the Bay Area one afternoon on a straight section of highway among moderate traffic at about seventy five miles per hour. The clouds were dark and threatening. About a half-mile ahead, there was a powerful bolt of lightening that came down on one side of the road but suddenly veered horizontally across the highway and went into the earth on the other side. It was instantly followed by an extreme downpour.

A few seconds later I spotted an oncoming car sliding sideways through the instant mud on the surface of the meridian. Naturally traffic began to slow down, but I felt overwhelmingly that I was not to – and obeyed. A couple of seconds later, when abreast of the oncoming car, its wheels caught, and it shot into my lane. I watched the collision in my rear view mirror, where I would have been had I slowed down. I pulled over and went sprinting back in the downpour to two corpses and three smoking cars. I got home a little later that night, but decided not to disturb my wife by telling her what had happened. But then I had to explain a patch of blood on my shirt obtained while assisting a survivor.

Another evidence of the supernatural lies in spiritual gifts in which people are given insights into another person's thoughts or future. Sometimes these also give information relating to how the person should deal with a situation. I remember being on the receiving end of this one.

A prophetic friend warned me of a pending disaster, and she also told me to "yield to the instruction it would bring, so that the time could be short." (I immediately knew it would be an accident but didn't tell her.) After arguing with God for three weeks my custom motorcycle missed a curve above a bank of boulders. Rather than climb to the road to seek help, I found my tools and battery among the rocks, repaired the chopper, and lifted it one end at a time over the rocks to get it back up to the road. I thought I could handle it, and refused later offers of rides to a hospital. After gradually weakening over twenty four hours of intense pain (and thirty-some hours without a blink of sleep), I knew that I would soon die without medical attention. I had to ask for a ride to a hospital. I was in surgery within two hours but continued to argue with God for the next eight days until I finally got the message and was released. Ninety percent of all this was unnecessary, and God had graciously given me a heads-up on how it could have been avoided. When God speaks quietly listen up – you won't like it if he has to shout.

Yet another category of miracle ignores statistics, and unabashedly defies physics. The context of such events is also important. By the sixth month of my wife's first pregnancy, her back pains were excruciating. As a young lady she had been diagnosed as having one leg a little shorter than the other,

and was prescribed corrective shoes. By the time I had met her she had accomplished a stride that made the difference unnoticeable – without the benefit of ugly shoes.

We were attending a small Pentecostal church in Big Bear Lake CA, and since they were having a woman evangelist as a guest speaker that night, my wife opted to not join me. After church, when I asked the lady to pray for my wife and explained that she didn't like women preachers, she just laughed and said that she gets that a lot. So we prayed together, and she gave me some instructions on what to do when I got home.

With just the two of us in the quietness of our living room, she sat in a wooden chair with her pelvis firmly against the back, so it could not be pivoted at all. When I supported her heels next to each other in my palms, the difference in the lengths of her legs was obvious to both of us. As we prayed, we both watched her legs adjust to equal lengths in a matter of seconds. Her back pains went away, and have never returned.

As we wrestle with the concept of a supernatural origin for the universe itself, nothing in it precludes supernatural mysteries within our own selves as well. But if we insist upon believing in a cosmos small enough for humans (individually or collectively) to understand, we also prevent things we know in our hearts from helping to guide our lives. In such cases our myopic perspectives render us helpless against a world full of chaotic philosophies and spiritual dead ends. Otherwise, we all have a sense of purpose – whether it ends with the gratification of what's contained within our skins, or with a desire to serve one greater than ourselves.

God's agenda

If God exists, why doesn't he just tell us so, so that we don't have to wonder? I got a clue into this one during a discussion with an atheist who asserted "You can't prove that God exists."

"You can't prove that he doesn't exist either," I replied. So we agreed. Then I appeared to change the subject, and kind of became another listener to the words coming out of my own mouth. "Is it possible to love if you don't have the choice to not love?"

"No; you can't love if you don't have a choice."

"If we could prove the existence of God, would we not have to at least pretend to love God – regardless of what we actually felt?"

"Probably."

"Then the fact that we can neither prove nor disprove God is evidence that a God who has made it possible to be loved, exists."

