

Your Place Living in the Cosmos

The Larger Picture
by
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Time seems tight these days and I know why. It's that our *attention checking account* is severely overdrawn. It's like that old joke about being so poor you can't even pay attention.

With tongues hanging out, like some exhausted hound dog who's been running game trails all night, we jump from one You Tube, Television show, Facebook post, zoom meeting to the gym and then off to see our therapist on our way to Walmart, after we pick up the kids but before Yoga class. Who has time keeping up with the latest scientific breakthroughs in our cosmological understandings of the universe? Yet there's something within a few of us, maybe call it a "frisky curiosity," to step aside from the chaotic-mundane for a glimpse of the big picture.

Wrapping my head around those big questions, which are the threads of this "big picture," has been a lifelong quest of mine. As a child, I was infamous for the incessant stream of questions I inflicted upon my parents and teachers. It didn't get any better as I got older. Something in me was always seeking to better understand this universe I was flung into and how it worked. The interesting thing is how, only within the last few decades, many of these bigger questions - about the universe and our place within it - could really be answered. This wild time of erupting, overflowing information is truly an amazing time to be alive!

Here are some of the critical understandings leading to our current "Big Picture." Since it's so easy getting caught up in the fine grain details when discussing cosmology, I'm just hitting the high spots. Because, like I indicated before, time and attention are precious commodities these days.

- **Our sun is a star!**
This seemingly trivial fact is one of the most counter-intuitive ideas ever realized.
(Consider how crazy this idea would have sounded to 99.9999% of your ancestors.)
- **We live on a planet circling a third-generation star.**
And all that implies!
- **Stars have a definite life cycle and violent star-deaths.**
Supernovas have provided the materials (elements) for making planets and ourselves.
We truly are stardust powered by starlight!

- **The universe appears to have popped into existence around 14 billion years ago out of nothing.** (It's also expanding at an increasing rate for uncertain reasons.)
- **Our cosmos has immensity and structure that far outstrips comprehension or even imagination.** (There more stars and planets than sand grains on earth!)
- **Approximately 97% of the universe is composed of a type of matter/energy of which our science is totally clueless.** (Everything we know - and are so proud of- concerns only 3% of the universe.)
- **Humans, and all living things on earth, have evolved over hundreds of millions of years.** (This discovery required a massive shift in perspective, many have yet to make it!)
- **Species are not the result of a one-time-creation, but instead come from the endless selection of better adapted variations, and this process is still going on.** (This thing called "life" is a fluid, vital energy ever seeking new ways of planetary expression)
- **Humans are not a separate or special creation.**
(We are inextricably linked to all life forms and the cosmos at large.)
- **Our body is a colonial aggregate much like a hive that's composed of countless other individual beings. Indeed, there are more microbial cells within us than our own cells!**
(Even our cells are made up of numerous discrete, microscopic beings, such as the Mitochondria, having their own DNA.)
- **There really are no solid particles.**
(Matter is 99% empty space and the universe is made up of energy having various frequencies or vibrational rates.)
- **Matter and energy are different aspects of the same 'thing' and are mathematically interconvertible.**
(Energy = the mass X 300,000 km/sec X 300,000 km/sec)
- **It's possible for information to travel instantaneously between entangled "particles" any distance.**
(*This defies explanation by current models*)
- **Consciousness is a primal aspect of the universe and experiments testing this are affected by the awareness of an observer every time.**
(*This also defies explanation by current models*)

The above discoveries about this universe, and our place in it, were accomplished (*more or less*) using the classical scientific method of investigation by individuals fully invested in the belief-model of materialism.

This model assumes that learning the laws governing the interactions of matter and energy are all that's necessary for understanding how the universe works, including ourselves. Within this classic model, there's no acknowledgement of consciousness and certainly no consideration of its role in the working of the cosmos. However, over the past hundred years, experimental evidence from quantum physics experiments revealed consciousness can, most definitely, affect the physical universe. Here, I'm referring to the empirical evidence from countless experiments demonstrating the "observer's effect" on experimental outcome.

***Yet,** there were other scientific investigations going on that were not constrained by the classical approach. In the mid 1800's Phineas Quimby's research into mental healing pointed to other laws operating that had slipped through the cracks of the classical approach. His results were irrefutable, even though his methods were about as far outside the materialistic model you could get. The only tool he used was "*mind.*" Decades later, Ernest Holmes would extend and elaborate on Quimby's results and provide a theoretical framework for understanding them. He called this new science, "The Science of Mind." (*He could have called it, The Science of Consciousness.*)

If one focuses only upon the materialistic and energetic scientific discoveries for orientation to their place in the cosmos, they will not find it. In so doing, an important and absolutely essential aspect will be missed; **their place and function within Mind.** This is truly the "**Great Story.**" Indeed, this is the greatest ever told. Therefore, I must include the additional bullet points to the critical understandings discovered:

- **There's a Universal Mind/Consciousness within the universe which we share.**
- **Mind/Consciousness is the prime creative force, and through thought and word we direct the power of "Mind-in-motion" in some inexplicable way.**
- **Mind-in-motion initiates the *condensation* of form and circumstance within time and space from the energetic Mind-field.**
- **The relative speed of this creative process is determined by the felt-consciousness (mental equivalent) of the individual initiating Mind-in-motion.**
- **Each, is an individualization of Universal Mind specializing the energetic Mind-field within an eternal process of Self-Realization i.e. The Infinite expressing infinity.**

