
PHYSICS AND RELIGION

By Ir J.A.J. van Leunen

Retired physicist & software researcher

Location: Asten, the Netherlands

Website: www.crypts-of-physics.eu

Communicate your comments to info at that site.

ABSTRACT

When deliberating about the fundamentals of physics often the existence of a creator and the relation to religion comes up. This article gives the personal opinion of the author on this subject.

INTRODUCTION

I am not knowledgeable in religions. However, I know something of physics and of mathematics. It is easy for me to find a creator that is supported by the laws of physics and the theorems of mathematics. I soon give you a sketch. It is much more difficult if not impossible to find the thing that created and controls the creator. I will also explain why.

UNIVERSE AS A CREATOR

Let us first take the easy part and start with the habits of multi-dimensional Fourier transforms. A Fourier transform converts something that is very localized into something wide spread and vice versa. At the same time the parameter space turns into its canonical conjugate equivalent. Now take the universe as a subject and do the Fourier transform. It may be necessary to do some coordinate transformations in order to get a proper Fourier transform, but that is a secondary consideration. The universe is something that is very wide spread in its position coordinate system. Thus in the corresponding canonical conjugate (momentum) coordinate system the result of the transformation is very much localized. You could view it as an individual located in momentum space. If you do the same thing for the time domain then finally you get an individual in the momentum-energy domain.

We know that universe is evolving and during that evolution very complex items are created. Thus, universe as an individual is its own creator. A mechanism called modularization achieves that when conditions are favorable, the result is that very complex systems arise. If

modules can be generated out of modules this process can go very far. It even achieves the generation of intelligent species¹. Those specimens can use their intelligence to speed up the evolution process. What in the beginning was a purely stochastic process then turns into an intelligence driven creation process. Thus nature builds conglomerates; starting from pure energy it creates particles, then atoms and molecules, then living species, then intelligent species and then God knows what. Nature appears to possess a built in tendency to reduce complexity and at the same time it builds more and more complicated systems.

THE UPPER CREATOR

Now comes the hard part. Consider the creator of the discussed creator. He is the creator of the universe. He tolerates that the first creator uses a very harsh way to achieve his goal. The evolution process is very hard for the subjects that fall off in the creation process. They are torn apart and the debris is used as resource for new creations. We humans do not see that as a big problem as long as it concerns dead stuff, but as soon as it concerns living species and especially when it concerns animals or humans, then we feel pity for the victims.

Religions nearly all suggest that this upper creator of the primary creator shows concern with what happens to the living species. At least he must take care of the intelligent species. However, if he does that, then he must intervene in the first creation process. With other words, he must change the laws that govern the first creation process. Despite the fact that many humans believe that this is possible, physics does not show that such things actually happen. Which law of nature has built in controls such that the upper creator can control those laws?

However, laws are one part of the story. What actually happens is not only controlled by the laws of nature. It is also controlled by (boundary) conditions. A much larger amount of influential boundary conditions exists than the number of laws of nature. The upper creator can control the boundary and starting conditions of the primary creation process. That is a huge task, but he is almighty. It means that from the moment that it started, everything is already set. So it has little sense to pray to this almighty upper creator, then he already planned everything. He even planned your prayer.

Still religion can be good. It keeps communities together. It can give their members a happy and secure feeling. On the other hand religions can also be intolerant with respect to other religions. Wars are fought for economic reasons but they are also fought for reasons of religious nature. That is not good. Animals and even plants fight wars for economic reasons. Only humans fight for religious purposes, which if you think about it, is pure madness. Intelligent species should know better.

¹ <http://www.vixra.org/abs/1101.0064>