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VOLUME TWO

Y-ORIGINS

ARTICLE 8:

Imagine The Designer

DOES THE UNIVERSE REVEAL CLUES
ABOUT THE NATURE OF ITS DESIGNER?

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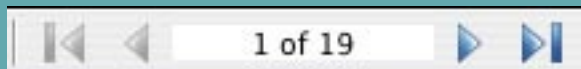
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Imagine the Designer

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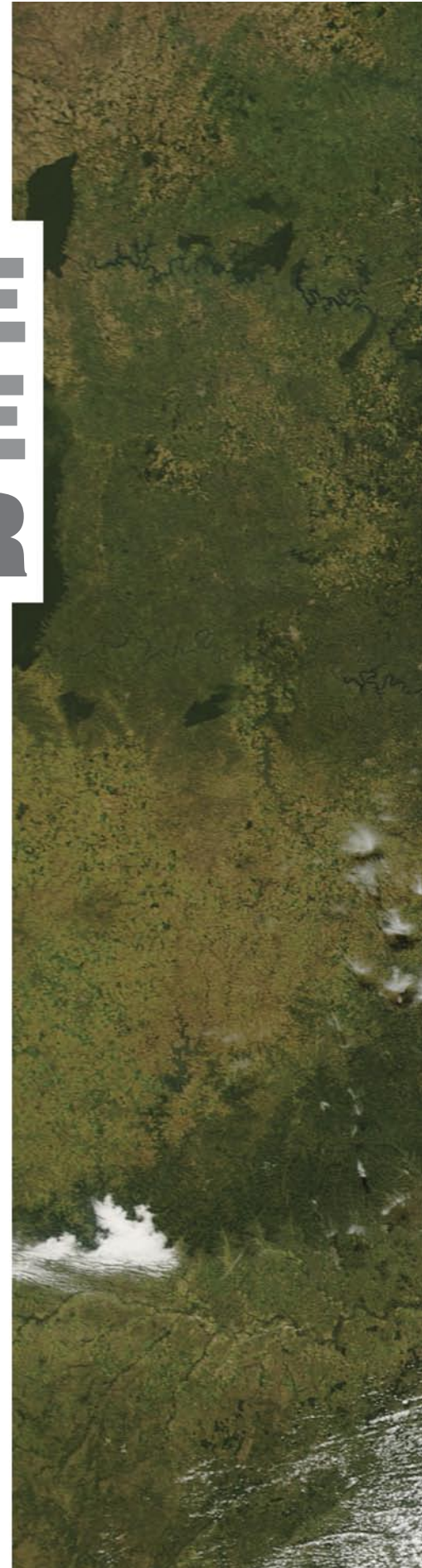
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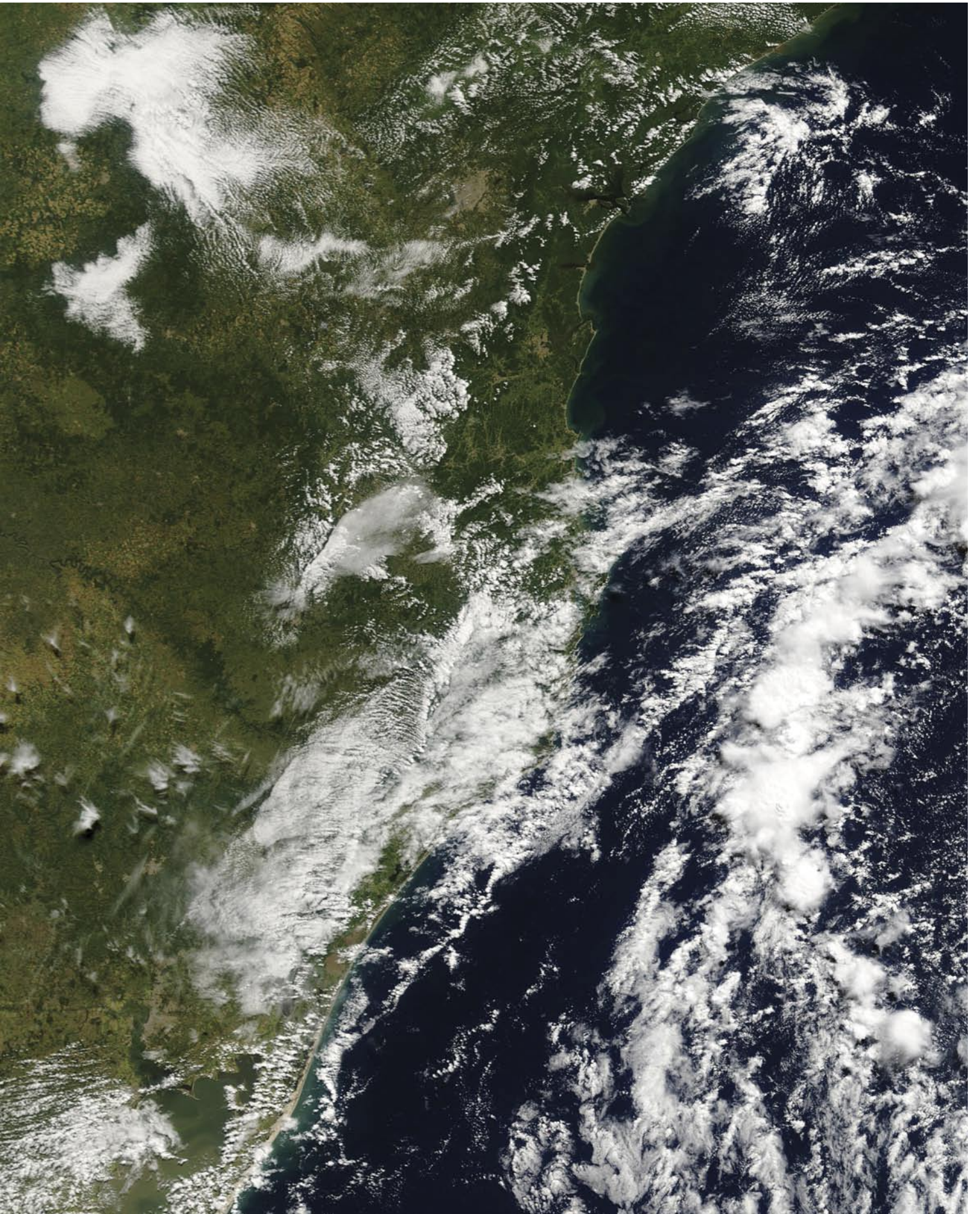
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Larry Chapman

IMAGINE THE DESIGNER

THE UNIVERSE
NOT ONLY
IMPLIES
THE EXISTENCE OF A
DESIGNER BUT
SUGGESTS
SOMETHING ABOUT
WHAT HE MIGHT
BE LIKE





In the movie *Contact*, Jodi Foster portrays Ellie Arroway, a beautiful young scientist obsessed with finding intelligent life on other planets. One day, as Ellie monitors radio transmissions from space, a coded message flashes across her computer screen. The stunned Ellie realizes that intelligent beings have communicated with Earth from beyond our galaxy.

Decoding the instructions, Ellie and her colleagues discover the encrypted blueprint for an advanced spacecraft that will transport them to the distant galaxy, millions of light years from Earth. Once the spacecraft has been built, Ellie is chosen to become its sole passenger.

Although Ellie's boyfriend objects, her passion for meaning in life overpowers her love for him. Turning to him, Ellie explains her reason for leaving him: "I've been searching for something, some reason why we are here. What are we doing here? Who are we?"

Ellie speaks for many of us who wonder about life. Who are we, and why are we here? (Actually, some of you may be wondering about more mundane things, like what's for dinner, or what *she* thinks of you.)

Has science, with its new discoveries in outer space and inside the molecular world, reached a point where it can shed light on such profound questions? Never has there been a more exciting time in the history of science. What does the fine-tuning of cosmos and intricate complexity of DNA mean to us?

WHAT OR WHO IS
BEHIND ALL THIS
BRILLIANCE?

HAS A DESIGNER
LEFT ANY CLUES
ABOUT HIS NATURE
OR HIS PURPOSE?

THESE ARE THE
QUESTIONS
SCIENTISTS, AS
WELL AS THE REST
OF US WHO ARE
INTERESTED IN THE
RESULTS OF THEIR
EXPLORATION, ARE
DRAWN TO ASK.

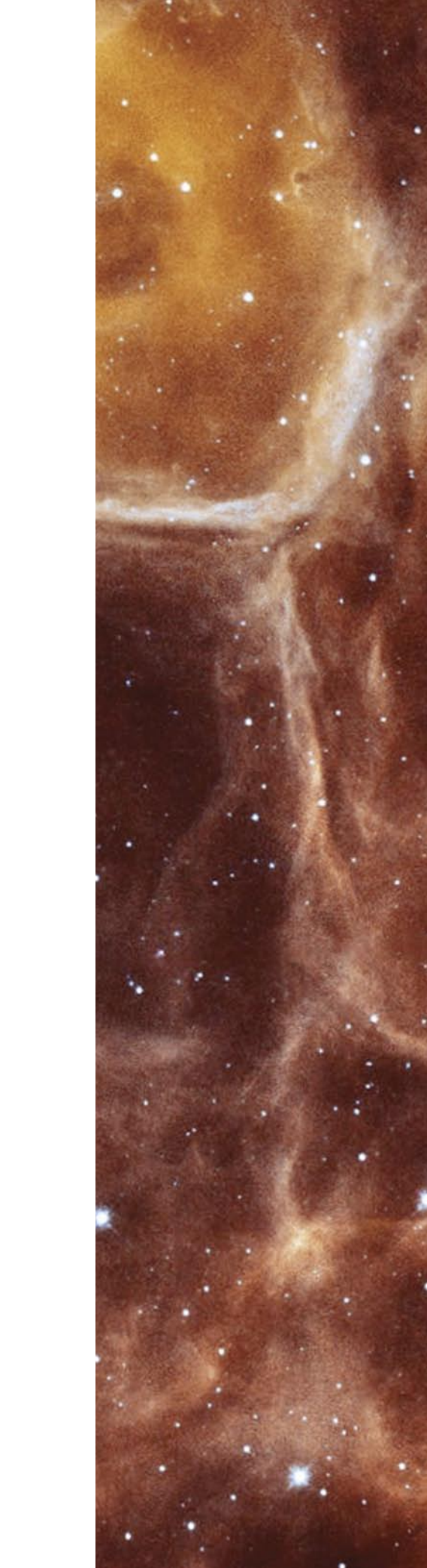
ADMITTING THE APPEARANCE OF DESIGN

In light of recent discoveries, many leading scientists have had their materialistic presuppositions challenged. One of those, Sir Fred Hoyle, was a world-renowned astronomer and founder of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge.

Although Hoyle remained an agnostic, the brilliant astronomer remarked, "A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology."¹

Hoyle is not alone. Other great scientists have alluded to the compelling evidence for design in the universe, yet have been unwilling to ask the question of who planned it, or to delve into the reason behind the universe. Stephen Hawking admits scientists' reticence to probe questions of our origins, stating, "There must be religious overtones. But I think most scientists prefer to shy away from the religious side of it."²

However, there are scientists who are not so shy, and are asking profound questions: Why is the universe so finely-tuned for life? Has a designer left his fingerprints? Why are we here?



“THERE MUST BE
RELIGIOUS OVERTONES.
BUT I THINK MOST
SCIENTISTS PREFER TO
SHY AWAY FROM THE
RELIGIOUS SIDE OF IT.”

STEPHEN HAWKING

ASKING
DEEPER
QUESTIONS

Although Hawking tries to avoid religious discussion, he still asks,

What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe? The usual approach of science of constructing a mathematical model cannot answer the questions of why there should be a universe for the model to describe.

Up to now, most scientists have been too occupied with the development of new theories that describe *what* the universe is to ask the question *why*. On the other hand, the people whose business it is to ask *why*, the philosophers, have not been able to keep up with the advance of scientific theories.³

Here Hawking opens up new territory for scientists. Since Copernicus, and especially after Darwin, materialism had ruled the day in science. Any reference to God was scoffed at as a “God of the Gaps” argument, another way of saying “God is merely a stop-gap explanation for lack of knowledge, and has no place in our materialistic universe.” But now it is scientists who are actually initiating the discussion about an intelligent designer.

Theoretical astrophysicist George Greenstein, in his book, *Symbiotic Universe*, asks, “Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon the scientific proof of the existence of a Supreme Being? Was it God who stepped in and so providentially crafted the cosmos for our benefit?”⁴

Greenstein is a luminary in his field, being a professor of astronomy at Amherst College and a recipient of the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science. This isn’t Forrest Gump here, scratching his head at the complexity of it all or attributing to God what he simply can’t grasp. Neither are other scientists who, like Greenstein, are looking at the scientific evidence and pondering the reality of God.

WHAT KIND OF DESIGNER?

If leading scientists like Greenstein are right in their conclusions that a designer exists, are there things that can be deduced about his nature from the observation of the universe? Why did he create us? Has he left any clues about our purpose here on planet Earth? Although these questions move beyond science into the realm of natural theology, they have been provoked by new discoveries in science.

So, if a designer has left clues about himself, where would we look for them? To begin our search, we need to examine the universe to see if he has left his fingerprints. Just as the paintings of *The Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa* tell us something about their artist, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* reveals clues about its composer, we should be able to discern clues about a designer by observing his universe.

Although scientific evidence only gives us a partial picture of what a designer is like, the universe does reveal some insightful clues about his nature.



The following characteristics seem to emerge. The designer is a

- purposeful designer
- powerful designer
- superintelligent designer
- personal designer

Once scientists discovered the remarkable fine-tuning of the universe, many reasoned there must be a purpose behind it. Paul Davies, one of the leading theoretical physicists in the world, writes, “If the universe has been designed by God, then it must have a purpose.”⁵

Mathematician Roger Penrose –who, with Hawking, derived proof for the beginning of time –offers his insight:

There is a certain sense in which I would say the universe has a purpose. It's not there just somehow by chance. Some people take the view that the universe is simply there and it runs along –it's a bit as though it just sort of computes, and we happen by accident to find ourselves in this thing. I don't think that's a very fruitful or helpful way of looking at the universe. I think that there is something much deeper about it, about its existence, which we have very little inkling of at the moment.⁶

Penrose deduces that the fine-tuning of physical constants (see article 3) for man's existence is so improbable that it must have been intentionally planned. And it follows that whoever intentionally created the universe has a purpose that must include us. In his book, *Superforce*, Davies writes,

The laws which enable the universe to come into being spontaneously seem themselves to be the product of exceedingly ingenious design. If physics is the product of design, the universe must have a purpose, and the evidence of modern physics suggests strongly to me that the purpose included us.⁷

If purpose is apparent from the fine-tuning of the universe, its awesome power is evident from startling new discoveries made possible by Hubble and other high-powered telescopes. Consider a few of the latest findings:

- Black holes have such powerful gravitational force that even light cannot escape their grasp. Large ones gobble up stars like our Sun as mere snacks. (Maybe yummy...but a little too hot).⁸
- Supernova eruptions are so powerful that their light can rival the visual brightness of an entire galaxy with 100 billion suns. The resulting neutron star is so dense that on Earth, one teaspoonful would weigh a billion tons!⁹
- Quasars generate the energy of 100 galaxies, shine with the intensity of a trillion suns, and reach temperatures of several million degrees.¹⁰

- Gamma-ray bursts have the power of 10 billion billion suns. A single gamma-ray burst is capable of obliterating life on Earth in milliseconds.¹¹

Power demonstrated by great earthquakes and thermonuclear explosions would be virtually insignificant when contrasted with that of black holes, gamma-rays, or quasars. Yet, even those are miniscule when compared with the power demonstrated at the beginning of the universe. Scientists are not only amazed at the power within the cosmos, but even more in awe of the power required to create and control it all.

“IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SUDDENLY, WITHOUT INTENDING TO, WE HAVE STUMBLER UPON THE SCIENTIFIC PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF A SUPREME BEING? WAS IT GOD WHO STEPPED IN AND SO PROVIDENTIALLY CRAFTED THE COSMOS FOR OUR BENEFIT?”

GEORGE GREENSTEIN,
SYMBIOTIC UNIVERSE

Scientists are also in awe at the incredible genius behind the universe. Arguably the greatest mind in the history of science, Albert Einstein acknowledges that the mind behind the universe is a “superintelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.”¹² Einstein acknowledged this intelligence without ever defining it in personal terms.

Perhaps with DNA engineering, man will discover ways to increase human intelligence or develop supercomputers far more advanced than Deep Blue, the IBM version that defeated Grandmaster Gary Kasparov in chess. But as Einstein notes, we can’t compare human genius with the intelligence of the one who designed it along with the universe and its laws of physics, quantum mechanics, and the intricate complexity of DNA? Astronomer Hugh Ross explains that it is impossible to impose any limit on either

the power or intelligence of a transcendent Creator.¹³ That is because the Creator would not be restricted by any of the constraints of our four-dimensional world—including time.

Think for a minute of a being outside of time and the limitations of gravity and other natural forces. Our natural laws would have no power over him since he would be in complete control of them. And, being outside of time, he would know everything in the past—present—and future.

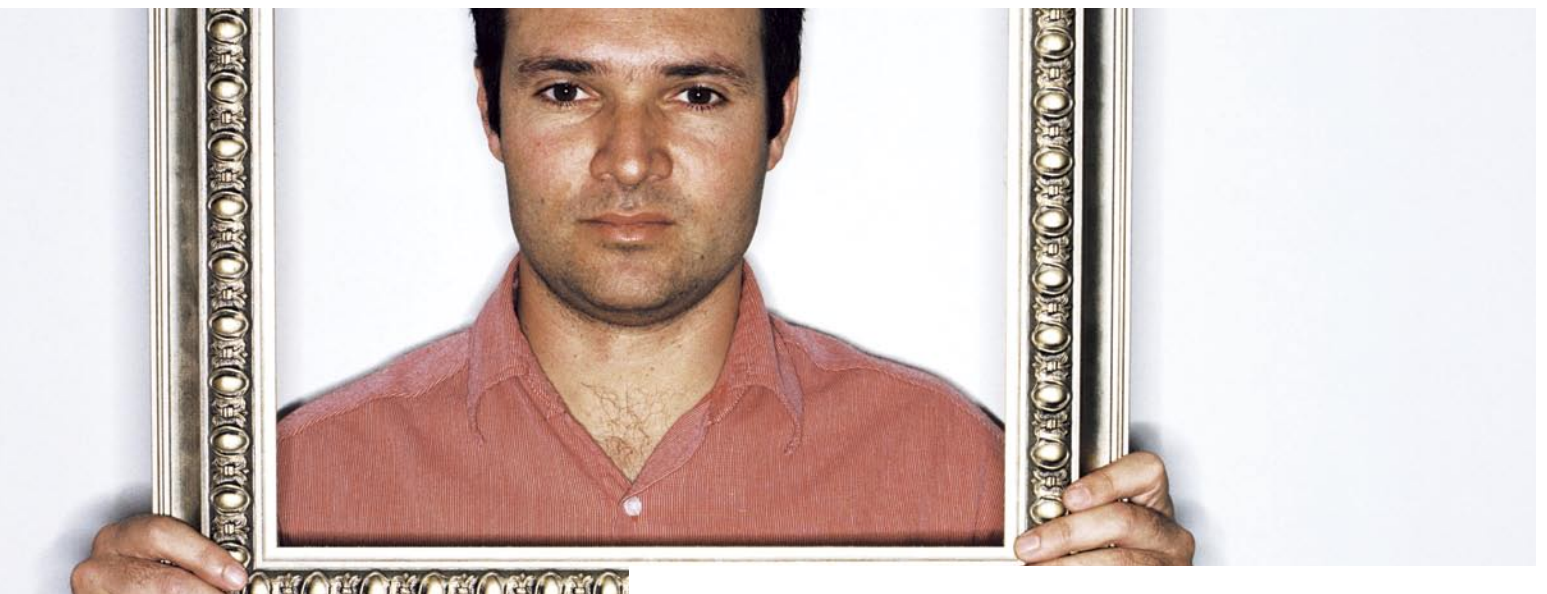
But is the Creator of the universe merely an energy force like a microwave or is he personal like us? Is he aloof and non-relational like *The Force* in *Star Wars*? If so, how was an impersonal force capable of creating personal, relational beings? This is the question that has puzzled both scientists and philosophers.

In *Contact*, Ellie Arroway supposedly discovers the purpose she had been

yearning for, but not from a personal creator. After returning from her encounter with an advanced civilization, Ellie tells her Christian friend Palmer,

The story I have to tell you isn’t exactly about Punishment and Reward. . . . There’s not a word in it about Jesus. Part of my message is that we’re not central to the purpose of the Cosmos.¹⁴

Ellie continues, “The universe was made on purpose. . . . In whatever galaxy you happen to find yourself, you take the circumference of a circle, divide it by its diameter, measure closely enough, and uncover a miracle—another circle, drawn kilometers downstream of the decimal point. There would be richer messages farther in. It doesn’t matter what you look like, or what you’re made of, or where you come from. As long as you live in this universe, and have a modest talent for mathematics, sooner or later you’ll find it.” Sagan ends his novel with this message: “She found what she had been searching for.”¹⁵



HAS THE DESIGNER SPOKEN?

Is it possible that an impersonal, mathematical force like Ellie's circles is behind everything in the cosmos? In his book, *The Kalam Cosmological Argument*, Dr. William Lane Craig argues that it isn't. He states that a beginning to the universe proves that its Creator is personal. Craig summarizes the possibilities:

1. The universe either (a) had a beginning or (b) had no beginning.
2. If it had a beginning, the beginning was either (a) caused or (b) uncaused.
3. If it had a cause, the cause was either (a) personal or (b) not personal.¹⁶

Therefore, since the evidence clearly points to a universe that had a primary cause, it logically follows that the cause was personal. According to Craig, intelligence, volition (will), and power are all implied in the act of creating. If we think about a painting such as the Mona Lisa, we see the same things. Leonardo Da Vinci needed intelligence, volition, and power to paint the image he wanted to portray. These attributes point to Da Vinci being a person, and not a mere force.

Philosopher Francis Schaeffer concurs, asserting, "No one has ever demonstrated how...an impersonal being can produce the needed complexity of the universe, let alone the personality of man."¹⁷

Yet, in spite of these arguments for a personal creator, materialists remain unconvinced. They speak of a cold, uncaring universe that has originated by undirected forces blindly operating through eons of time. They believe in a universe without any purpose. But some startling new evidence recently brought forth seems to challenge their skepticism.

In *The Privileged Planet*, theologian Jay Richards and astronomer Guillermo Gonzalez reveal a startling fact: Earth has been placed in an optimal location for scientific observation of our universe.¹⁸

In other words, if Earth was in a slightly different position in our solar system or galaxy, or located in another galaxy, we might find ourselves looking at a night sky with no stars to observe. Or the sky might be so flooded with light that we couldn't distinguish one star from another. If we didn't have this optimal position, many of the discoveries about our universe would have been impossible.

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FRANCIS SCHAEFFER

Imagine being in a large room with many seats and one tiny window with a view of space. One front row seat has a view, while the occupants of other seats can't see out. Earth's position in the universe is like having that front-row seat. Our front-row seat to the universe isn't part of the fine-tuning requirement for life, but it seems to have been given to us intentionally. Richards and Gonzalez conclude that a designer wants us to know and understand his universe.

At this point many might ask, "so what? How does that impact my life?" The obvious next question is, has a personal creator related to us in ways we can better understand? And if so, where do we look to discover more about his nature, and what he has said about our purpose?

Agnostic George Smoot has remarked that an obvious parallel exists between the big bang and the Christian teaching of creation from nothing.¹⁹ Smoot takes his inference to the Christian God no further, presumably leaving it for theologians.

Theology, like philosophy or science, makes logical deductions—in this case, logical deductions about the nature of God. So let's see what we can logically deduce from what science has told us about God. Since we have seen evidence from science and logic that the Creator of the universe is purposeful, powerful, superintelligent, and personal, he certainly would understand our desire to know more about him and his purpose for creating us.

A creator who intentionally designed us with consciousness, personality, and the ability to communicate would be able to communicate with us if he so desired. Just as SETI is searching outer space for messages from intelligent beings in other galaxies, so we would expect a personal creator to have given us a message in a way we could understand. Of all creatures on Earth, humans are the only ones who are able to communicate propositional ideas—and we do it through written and spoken language.

Although our brief attempt to make sense of the universe cannot possibly look at each religion or its god, Smoot's assertion that a parallel exists between the scientific evidence for a beginning and the Christian teaching of creation deserves a deeper look.

The Judeo-Christian Bible remarkably presents a God who is purposeful, powerful, superintelligent, and personal. It speaks of this God as an infinite, eternal Creator, who alone made everything there is from nothing. Although he is presented as a fearsome God of law and order, he is also shown to be a God of love who created us for a relationship with himself.

Well, perhaps we should stop here. But we can't resist taking our logic one more step. If God were really there, and if he revealed himself through science, and even through the written word, would that be sufficient? Would that show the highest order of care and communication? We're persuaded that it would not.

If you really love someone, sending them an email every month or so just wouldn't cut it. Sooner or later, if you really care, you'll be compelled to drop in for a visit—show up and get involved in his or her life.

We close by suggesting that God may in fact have done just that—"shown up." Here we leave physics and chemistry and biology, and turn to history, a field of human inquiry that can also provide knowledge about the real world.

As we examine the history of mankind, is there any evidence that a designer has paid us a visit—and actually dropped in on us? Is it possible that God has visited Earth in human form? Many laugh at such an idea, recalling numerous ancient myths and legends that utter tales of superhuman gods visiting Earth. However, if the Creator paid us a visit, we would not be looking for a myth, but a real person who has transformed history.

Whereas history records the feats of many great people, only one person has truly transformed history. Yale historian, Jaroslav Pelikan tells us his name: "Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries." When the great secular historian, H. G. Wells was asked what person had the biggest impact upon world history, he answered, "By this test, Jesus stands first."

But historical impact is only one element of Jesus' uniqueness. There are several other reasons why this one man is worthy of a deeper look. His life, his reported miracles, and his claims, convinced his followers that he was more than a mere man. They left a

written record that Jesus was the one who put the stars in space, established the laws of the universe, and created you and me.

But were they deluded? Or could the entire account of Jesus have been a conspiracy like The *Da Vinci Code* asserts? Was Jesus Christ just a great man who was later deified by the Roman emperor, Constantine and the fourth century church? Or are the written accounts in the New Testament right? Did the Creator actually drop in on us and pay us a visit?

These all-important questions about this intriguing person are the subject of another investigation: *Y-Jesus*. In the *Y-Jesus* magazine which is about the most fascinating person in history, we examine evidence outside the Bible and tradition in order to solve the mystery of Jesus' true identity. And if he is really who he claimed to be, we want to know what he said about you and me, and our purpose in the universe.

As we contemplate our place on this remote planet in a universe of ten billion trillion stars, we come back to the question, are we accidents, or are we special?¹⁸

Materialist Stephen Jay Gould considered us lucky to be alive—"the glorious accident resulting from 60 trillion contingent events." Yet, as leading scientists examine the universe, another picture is beginning to emerge. Many of these scientists are convinced that we are a divine conception, the intentional work of a powerful, superintelligent, purposeful designer. If true, we are special.

As we examine
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QUOTES

FRED HOYLE (BRITISH ASTROPHYSICIST)

“A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question.”

GEORGE ELLIS (BRITISH ASTROPHYSICIST)

“Amazing fine tuning occurs in the laws that make this [complexity] possible. Realization of the complexity of what is accomplished makes it very difficult not to use the word ‘miraculous’ without taking a stand as to the ontological status of the word.”

PAUL DAVIES (BRITISH ASTROPHYSICIST)

“There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all. It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature’s numbers to make the Universe. The impression of design is overwhelming.”

ALAN SANDAGE (WINNER OF THE CRAWFORD PRIZE IN ASTRONOMY)

“I find it quite improbable that such order came out of chaos. There has to be some organizing principle. God to me is a mystery but is the explanation for the miracle of existence, why there is something instead of nothing.”

JOHN O’KEEFE (NASA ASTRONOMER)

“We are, by astronomical standards, a pampered, cosseted, cherished group of creatures. If the universe had not been made with the most exacting precision we could never have come into existence. It is my view that these circumstances indicate the universe was created for man to live in.”

GEORGE GREENSTEIN (ASTRONOMER)

“As we survey all the evidence, the thought insistently arises that some supernatural agency—or, rather, Agency—must be involved. Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon scientific proof of the existence of a Supreme Being? Was it God who stepped in and so providentially crafted the cosmos for our benefit?”

ARTHUR EDDINGTON (ASTROPHYSICIST)

“The idea of a universal mind or Logos would be, I think, a fairly plausible inference from the present state of scientific theory.”

ARNO PENZIAS (NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS)

“Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying (one might say ‘supernatural’) plan.”

ROGER PENROSE (MATHEMATICIAN AND AUTHOR)

“I would say the universe has a purpose. It’s not there just somehow by chance.”

TONY ROTHMAN (PHYSICIST)

"When confronted with the order and beauty of the universe and the strange coincidences of nature, it's very tempting to take the leap of faith from science into religion. I am sure many physicists want to. I only wish they would admit it."

VERA KISTIAKOWSKY (MIT PHYSICIST)

"The exquisite order displayed by our scientific understanding of the physical world calls for the divine."

STEPHEN HAWKING (BRITISH ASTROPHYSICIST)

"What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe? ...

Up to now, most scientists have been too occupied with the development of new theories that describe *what* the universe is to ask the question *why*?"

ALEXANDER POLYAKOV (SOVIET MATHEMATICIAN)

"We know that nature is described by the best of all possible mathematics because God created it."

ED HARRISON (COSMOLOGIST)

"Here is the cosmological proof of the existence of God—the design argument of Paley—updated and refurbished. The fine tuning of the universe provides prima facie evidence of deistic design. Take your choice: blind chance that requires multitudes of universes or design that requires only one. Many scientists, when they admit their views, incline toward the teleological or design argument."

EDWARD MILNE (BRITISH COSMOLOGIST)

"As to the cause of the Universe, in context of expansion, that is left for the reader to insert, but our picture is incomplete without Him [God]."

BARRY PARKER (COSMOLOGIST)

"Who created these laws? There is no question but that a God will always be needed."

DRS. ZHAVI, AND DEKEL (COSMOLOGISTS)

"This type of universe, however, seems to require a degree of fine tuning of the initial conditions that is in apparent conflict with 'common wisdom'."

ARTHUR L. SCHAWLOW (PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT STANFORD UNIVER- SITY, 1981 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS)

"It seems to me that when confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask *why* and not just *how*. The only possible answers are religious. . . . I find a need for God in the universe and in my own life."

HENRY "FRITZ" SCHAE- FER (COMPUTATIONAL QUANTUM CHEMIST)

"The significance and joy in my science comes in those occasional moments of discovering something new and saying to myself, 'So that's how God did it.' My goal is to understand a little corner of God's plan."

WERNHER VON BRAUN (PIONEER ROCKET ENGINEER)

"I find it as difficult to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the universe as it is to comprehend a theologian who would deny the advances of science."

QUESTIONS ABOUT ORIGINS

Q. WHAT NEW DISCOVERY IN ASTRONOMY HAS PROVOKED MANY LEADING SCIENTISTS TO RETHINK THE ORIGIN OF OUR UNIVERSE?

A. Most scientists thought the universe had always existed until Edwin Hubble observed that the universe is expanding. Scientists now believe that the universe originated with a one-time explosion of incredible force called, “the big bang.” But scientists wonder how everything in our cosmos could come from nothing. Something or someone must have been there to cause it to begin. Astrophysicist George Smoot (an agnostic) said, *“If you’re religious, it’s like looking at God.”* (See article 1)

Q. HOW COULD A “BIG BANG” RANDOMLY RESULT IN THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR LIFE?

A. Scientists have calculated that several conditions vital for life needed to be fine-tuned to a razor’s edge. Without this precise fine-tuning, our universe wouldn’t exist, let alone support life.

Leading astrophysicist Stephen Hawking writes, *“The odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like a big bang are enormous.... I think there are religious implications whenever you start to discuss the origins of the universe.”* (See article 2)

Q. HOW DO SCIENTISTS ACCOUNT FOR SUCH INCREDIBLE ODDS AGAINST LIFE EXISTING ON EARTH?

A. Many scientists admit that a finely-tuned universe, and a “just right” solar system and planet couldn’t have happened without a superintelligence. Others chalk it up to an incredible coincidence.

A few prefer to believe a speculative theory, that there may be an astronomical number of universes, and that ours just happens to be the one that supports life. However, theoretical physicist, Paul Davies confides what many scientists conclude, *“It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature’s numbers to make the Universe....The impression of design is overwhelming.”*

(See article 3)

Q. COULD INTRICATE ORGANS LIKE THE EYE HAVE EVOLVED BY UNGUIDED NATURAL PROCESSES?

A. Darwinian natural selection doesn’t explain how the eye’s many individual components could independently evolve, yet synchronize together to produce sight. Several molecular biologists conclude that irreducibly complex systems, like the eye, have been designed. Even Darwin admitted that the eye still gave him a “cold shudder.” (See article 4)

Q. CAN DNA'S DETAILED CODING BE EXPLAINED BY NATURAL PROCESSES?

A. DNA's intricate complexity caused its co-discoverer, Francis Crick, to call it "almost a miracle." Since no scientific process, including natural selection, is able to explain DNA's origin, many scientists believe that it must have been designed. Antony Flew was so impressed by the genius behind DNA that he renounced 50 years of atheistic leadership, arguing that DNA must have been designed by a superior intelligence. (See article 5)

Q. DOES EVIDENCE SUPPORT DARWIN'S THEORY THAT ALL LIFE EVOLVED BY UNDIRECTED NATURAL PROCESSES?

A. Evidence supports Darwin's theory of *microevolution*, where environmental adaptations result in variations within a single population, such as a species. This is why viruses mutate, house insects have evolved resistance to our pesticides, and dogs, cats, and humans, come in various shapes sizes and colors. Scientists are correct when they state Darwinian microevolution is factual.

However, Darwin's theory of *macroevolution*, says that over time, undirected natural processes led to all life forms, from the most primitive cell to human beings. He predicted countless fossils would prove him right. But the transitional fossils Darwin

predicted would validate macroevolution are embarrassingly absent. Even ardent evolutionist, Niles Eldredge admits, "*No one has found any such in-between creatures...and there is a growing conviction among many scientists that these transitional forms never existed.*" (See article 6)

Q. WHAT DO DNA AND THE FOSSIL TRAIL REVEAL ABOUT HUMAN ORIGINS?

A. Mitochondrial DNA studies have shown that our species originated from one location, and one mother (they call Eve). Although fossil hunters have discovered a few extinct species of hominids, these creatures are vastly inferior to humans in their intellectual capacities. Thus paleoanthropologists remain baffled by the single origin and sudden appearance of *Homo sapiens* in the fossil trail. (See article 7)

Q. IF A DESIGNER EXISTS, HAS HE GIVEN US CLUES THAT REVEAL WHAT HE IS LIKE?

A. Many scientists believe that a designer has put his "fingerprints" on the cosmos. Theoretical physicist Paul Davies writes, "*If physics is the product of design, the universe must have a purpose, and the evidence of modern physics suggests strongly to me, that the purpose included us.*" The evidence seems to indicate that the designer is not just purposeful, but that he is also personal, superintelligent, and immensely powerful. (See article 8)

Q. WHY DO SCIENTISTS DISAGREE ABOUT THE EVIDENCE FOR DESIGN?

A. Some scientists, regardless of the evidence, cannot accept intelligent design because they are adamantly opposed to the possibility that God is involved in the development of life. Others deny the existence of any higher power. Like Stephen Jay Gould, they believe that we are merely "cosmic accidents."

On the other hand, an increasing number of scientists have recognized evidence for intelligent design behind all the laws of science and the fine-tuning in the universe. Intelligent design proponents advocate "*following the evidence, wherever it leads.*"

Q. ARE INTELLIGENT DESIGN AND BIBLICAL CREATIONISM THE SAME?

A. Although some mistakenly lump them together, their premise is so different it's like comparing apples and oranges. Biblical creationism looks at science through the lens of Genesis, whereas intelligent design draws its inferences about our origins from scientific discoveries without any such filter. Intelligent design advocates vary in their religious beliefs, and leave the identity of the designer to theologians. Biblical creationists, on the other hand, specify the designer as the Judeo-Christian God. An increasing number of scientists believe that the discoveries in science point more and more to a position totally consistent with the Bible.

The following books are recommended as additional resources on both the origin of the universe and the origin of life. Although different viewpoints are expressed in these materials, they are recommended for a reader's better understanding of the subjects.

THE PRIVILEGED PLANET, GUILLERMO GONZALEZ & JAY RICHARDS

A unique perspective on cosmology which systematically builds the argument that planet Earth is not merely designed for human life, but also human discovery of the cosmos. For the serious science reader.

BEYOND EINSTEIN: THE COSMIC QUEST FOR THE THEORY OF THE UNIVERSE MICHIO KAKU & JENNIFER THOMPSON

A compelling read on the history of string theory in theoretical physicists' quest to solve the riddle of how two radically different principles, quantum physics and relativity, can both operate within the cosmos.

THE ELEGANT UNIVERSE, BRIAN GREENE

Greene attempts to take the very difficult science of string theory and make it interesting. This material has become the subject of a PBS television special by the same name.

RECOM- MENDED BOOKS

WRINKLES IN TIME, GEORGE SMOOT & KEAY DAVIDSON

This well written book provides a chronology of how scientists discovered the birth of the universe and confirmed its beginning with the COBE Satellite's remarkable discovery. Smoot recalls his personal experiences as head of the project.

DARWIN'S BLACK BOX, MICHAEL J. BEHE

Behe writes a compelling case for intelligent design from a biochemist's perspective. This is a must read for anyone wanting to understand the scientific basis for the Intelligent Design movement in science.

EVOLUTION: A THEORY IN CRISIS, MICHAEL DENTON

Molecular biologist Denton unveils scientific evidence which exposes Darwinian macro-evolutionary claims, pointing out its failure to fulfill Darwin's promises and expectations.

SCALING THE SECULAR CITY J. P. MORELAND

Dr. Moreland addresses the issues of how cosmology and biology interface with the Bible and Christianity. A professor of philosophy and lecturer on the college campus, Moreland brilliantly deals with the issues, arguments, and counter arguments at the forefront of the debate between naturalism and theism.

THE CASE FOR A CREATOR, LEE STROBEL

Former atheist Lee Strobel speaks with several leading scientists as he investigates the evidence for creation. Investigative reporter, Strobel writes as a layman, but tackles the difficult science issues with a mixture of humor, intelligence, and compelling interest.

THE DESIGN REVOLUTION, WILLIAM A. DEMBSKI

Dembski has brilliantly laid out the scientific basis for intelligent design. In this book he answers the toughest questions that have been asked by both skeptics and creationists.

SHOW ME GOD, FRED HEEREN

This excellent read asks the question, "Is God evident in the universe?" Heeren speaks with several leading scientists in an interview format, weaving in several interesting fictional stories for interest and clarity.

THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS, THOMAS S. KUHN

Considered by some as one of the most influential books of all time, Kuhn reveals how the scientific establishment is adverse to changing positions, even when new evidence proves the former paradigm as wrong. Although this is a book about science rather than a scientific treatise, it provides some insight into why naturalists are so vehemently opposed to intelligent design.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME, STEPHEN HAWKING

The best-selling science book of all time written by the world's leading theoretical physicist. Hawking traces the history of cosmology, probing, but not answering the question of why the universe came into existence.

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www.origins.org

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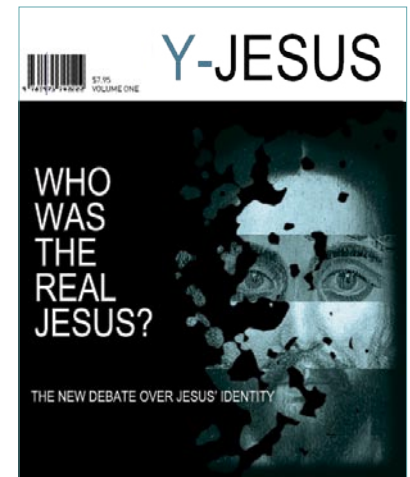
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