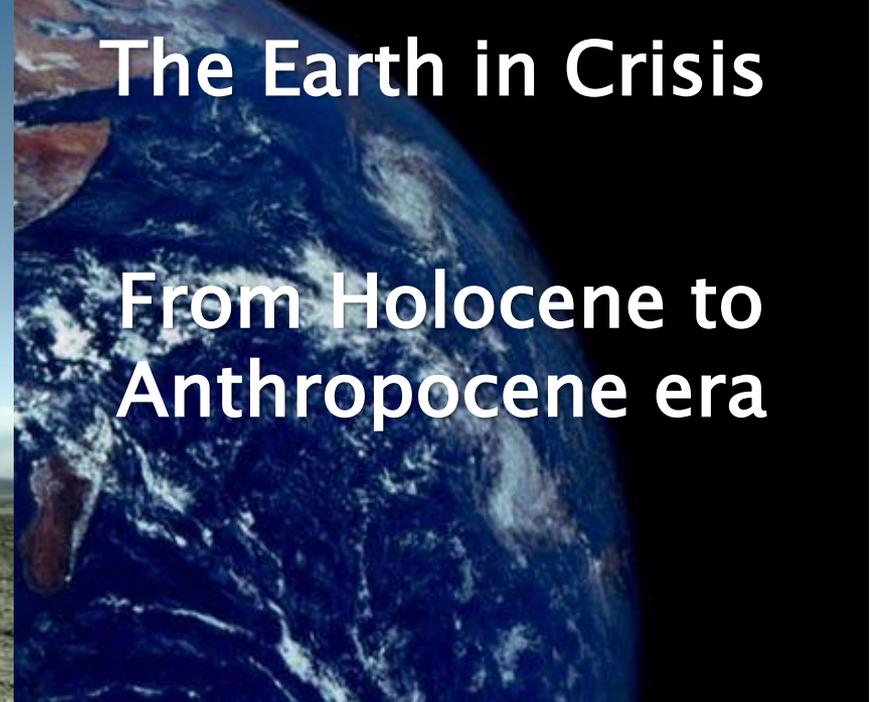


Consciousness & Christogenesis: Mind, Matter & Emerging Wholeness

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
May 5, 2017



The Earth in Crisis

From Holocene to Anthropocene era

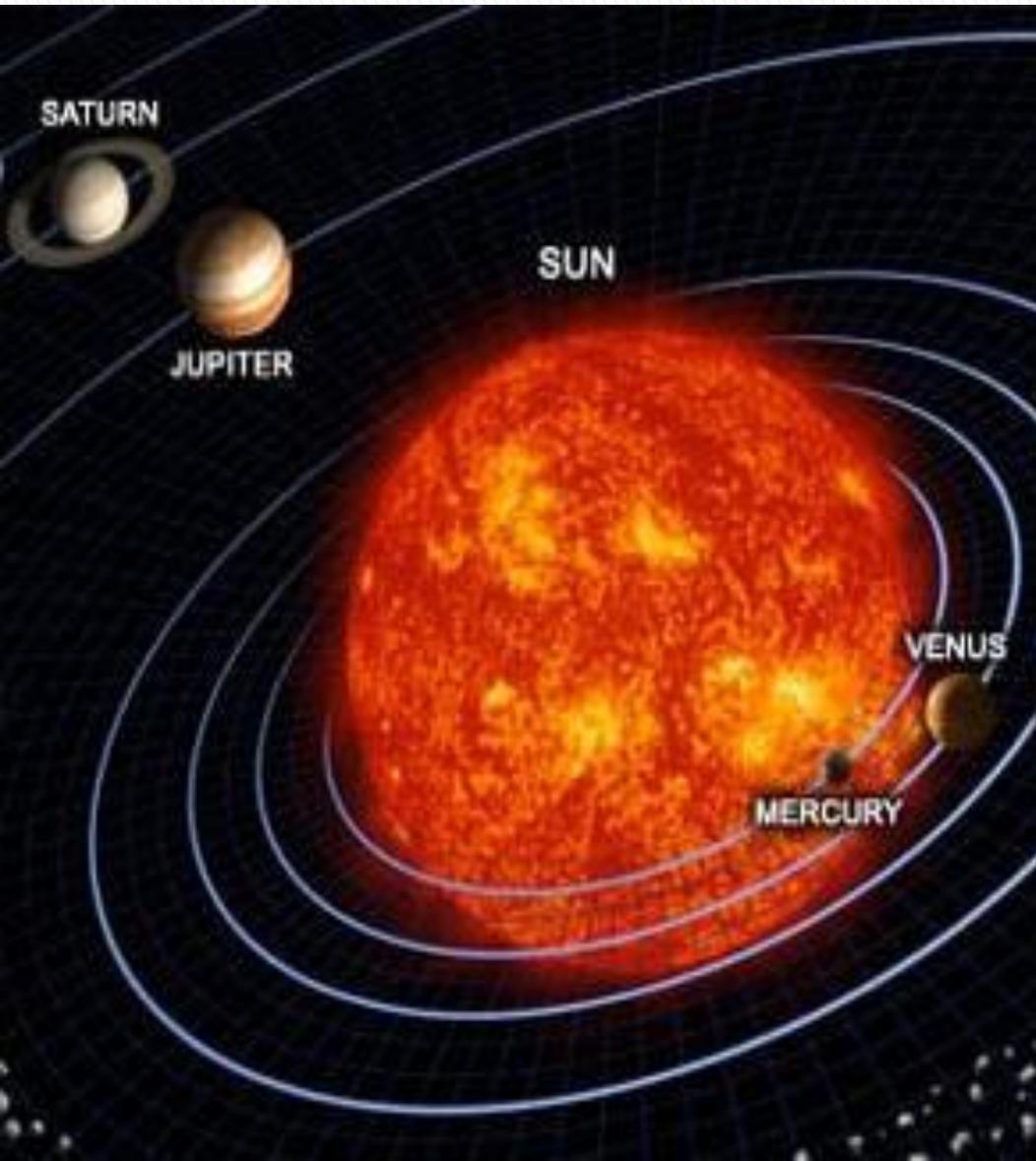


The Space of Transcendence: The Middle Ages



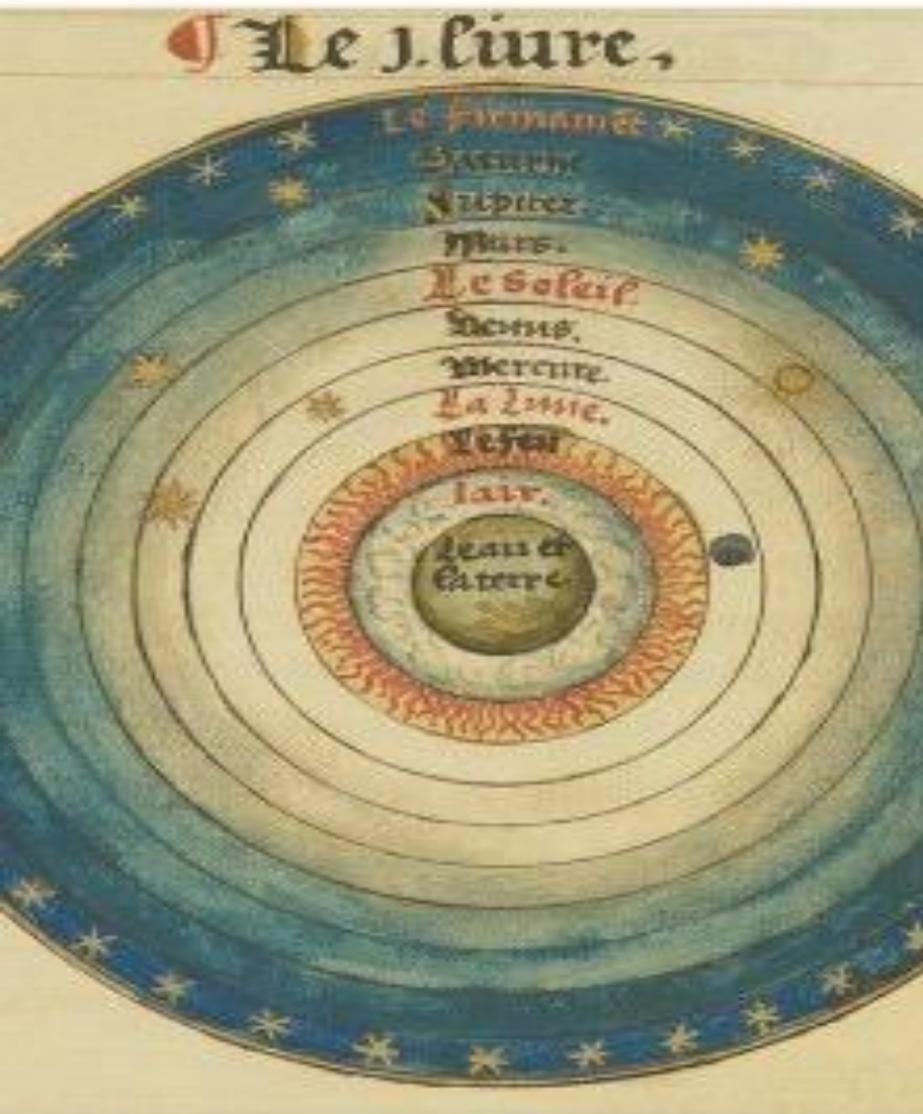
- ▶ The medieval Christian world picture had both a physical and spiritual realm.
- ▶ It incorporated a space for the body and a space for the soul.

Rise of Modern Science

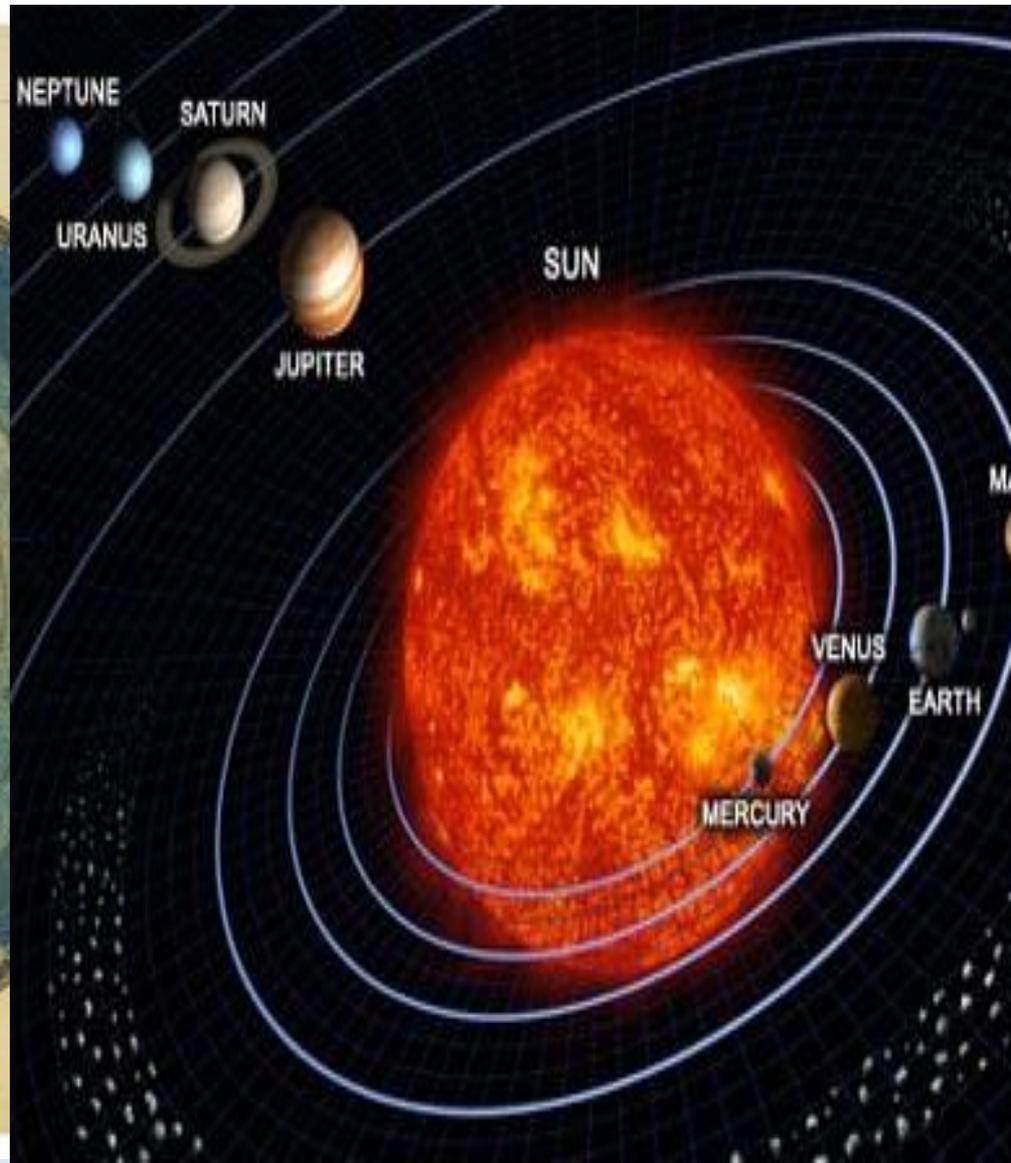


- ▶ **Modern science brought with it the conquering of space**
- ▶ **God was pushed out of the cosmos as an “unnecessary hypothesis.”**

Religion

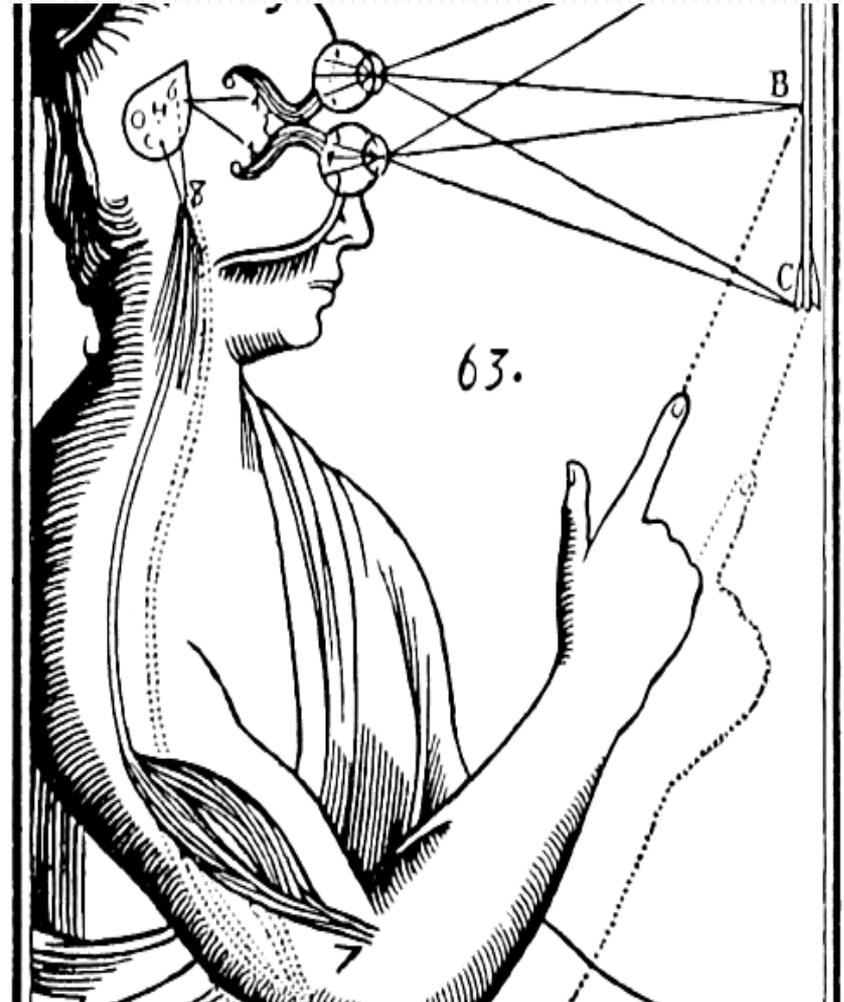


Science

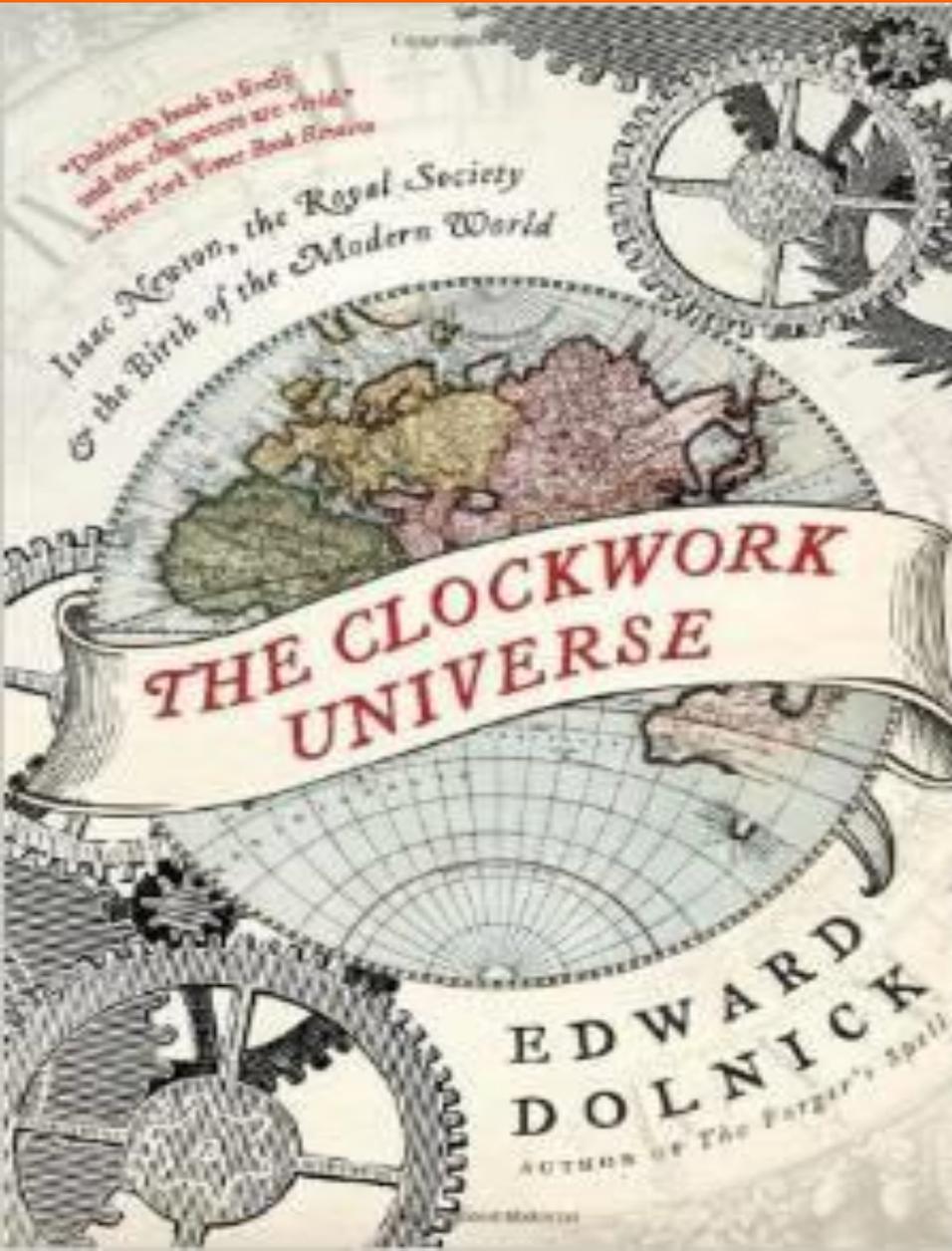


Descartes Error

- ▶ **Body = matter = machine.**
- ▶ **Soul = thinking, consciousness as self.**
- ▶ **Body and soul are absolutely distinct, coordinated externally by Creator.**
- ▶ **Internal intersection = pineal gland.**



SPATIAL SHIFTS



- ▶ By the seventeenth century, space was quantifiable leaving no room for any other kind of space to exist.
- ▶ Mind separate from matter
- ▶ The extension of space into the sphere of infinity gave rise to a bold new mechanistic philosophy that saw the world as a vast machine.

Nietzsche's Übermensch

“We have to become bigger than we are to live within the cavity created by the death of God. We must become gods ourselves if we are to live in this world without God.”

F. Nietzsche, “The Madman”



- ▶ **Detached observer**
 - ▶ **Mechanistic determinism**
 - ▶ **Absolute causality**
 - ▶ **Nature stripped of spirit**
 - ▶ **No role for human consciousness**
- 

***“The artificial separation
between humans and cosmos
is at the root
of our contemporary moral
confusion.”***

Teilhard de Chardin

Lost In Space?

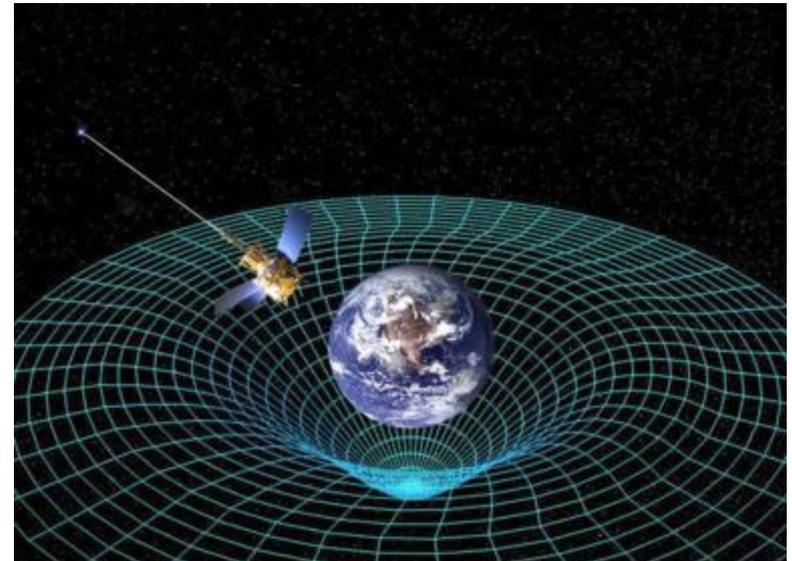


We

Theory of General Relativity

Einstein – No absolute space or time

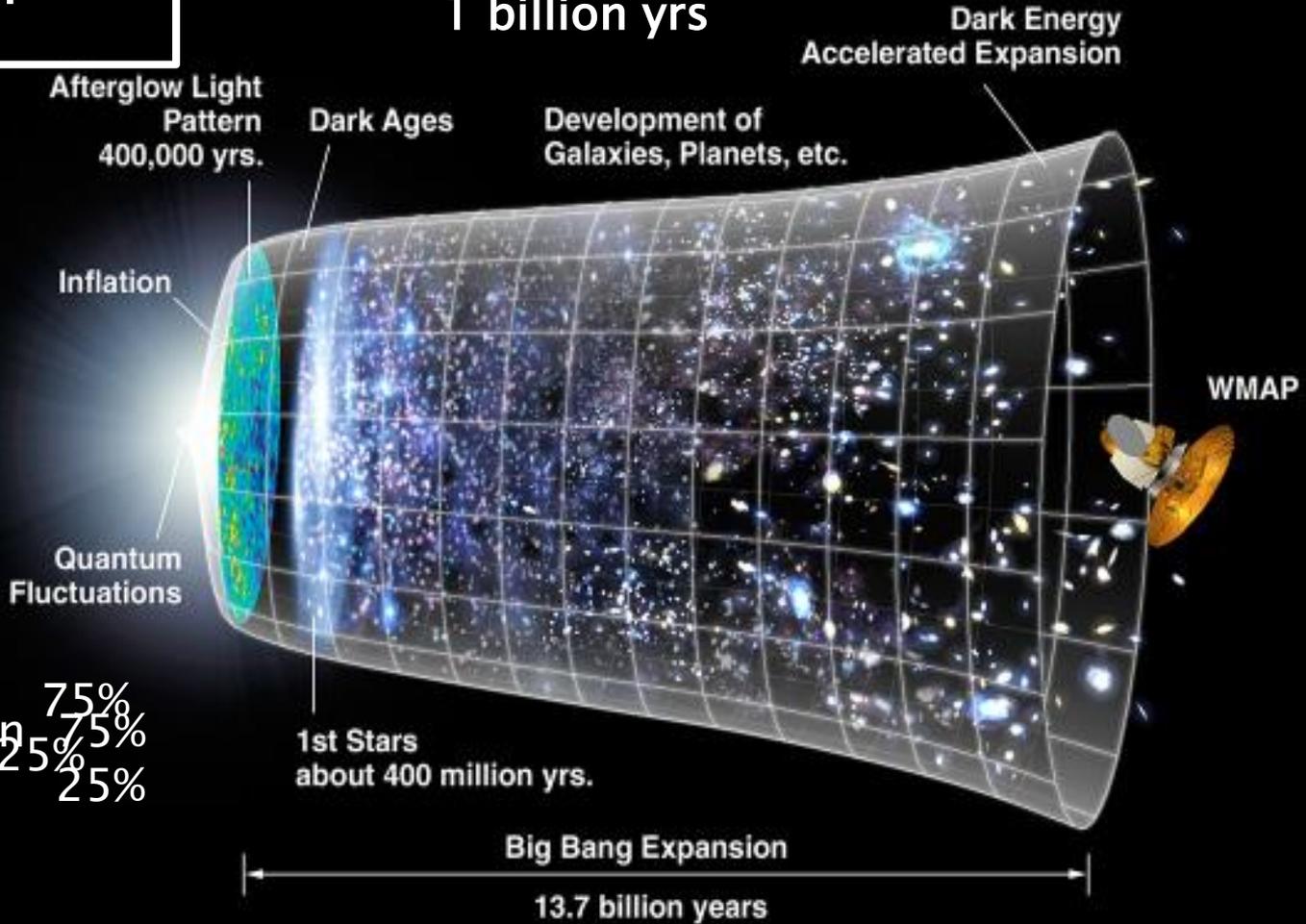
- ▶ **time does not flow at a fixed rate**
- ▶ **space–time is not flat but curved or "warped" by distribution of mass and energy in it.**
- ▶ **gravity acts to structure space**



The Hot Big Bang Cosmos

13.8 billion years

1 billion yrs



Hydrogen 75%
Helium 25%

Cosmic microwave background

The Expanding Universe

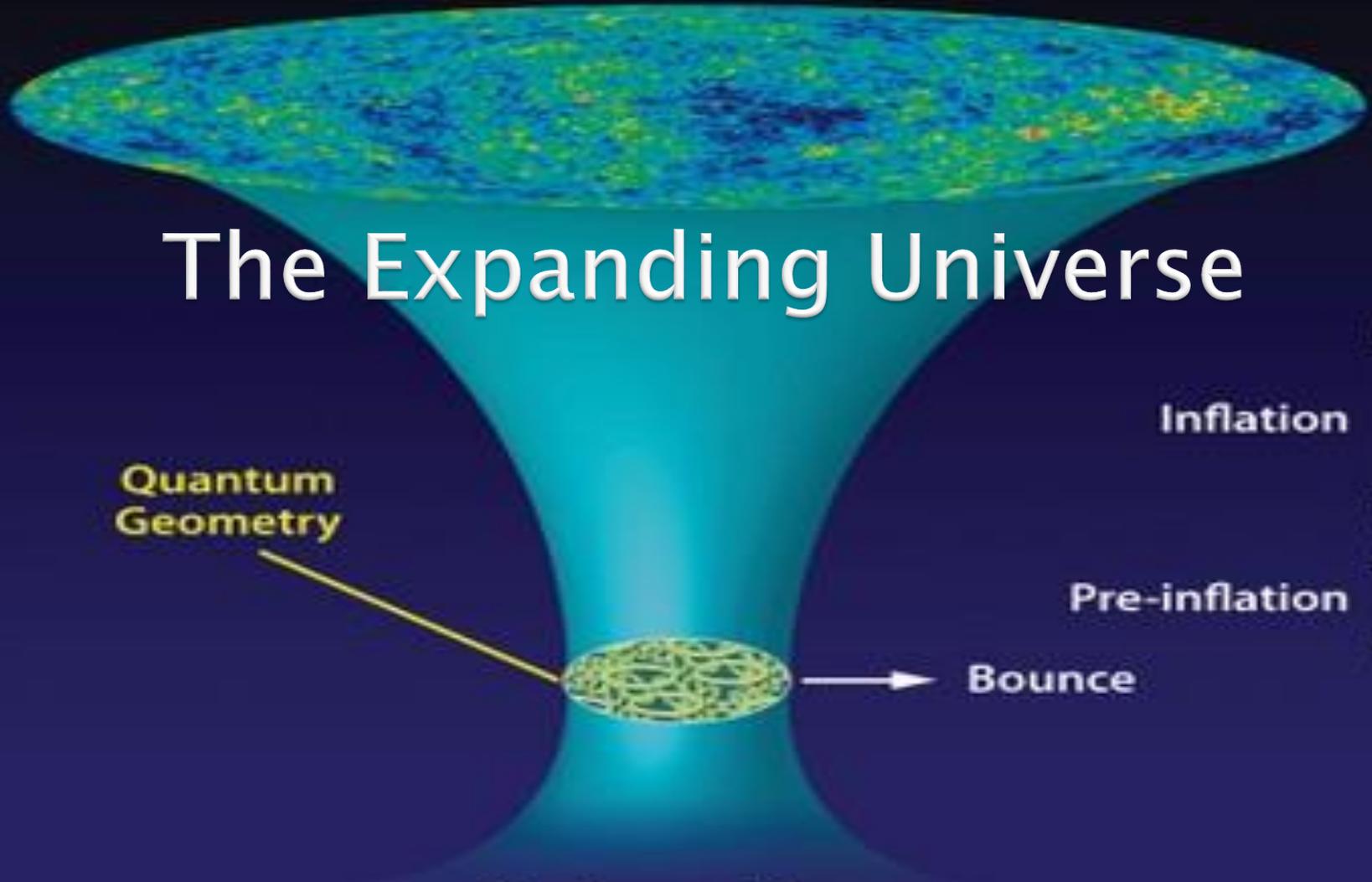
Quantum
Geometry

Inflation

Pre-inflation

Bounce

Pre-bounce Phase
of the Universe



THE LOCKHORNS

by Bunny Hoest
& John Reiner

3/15

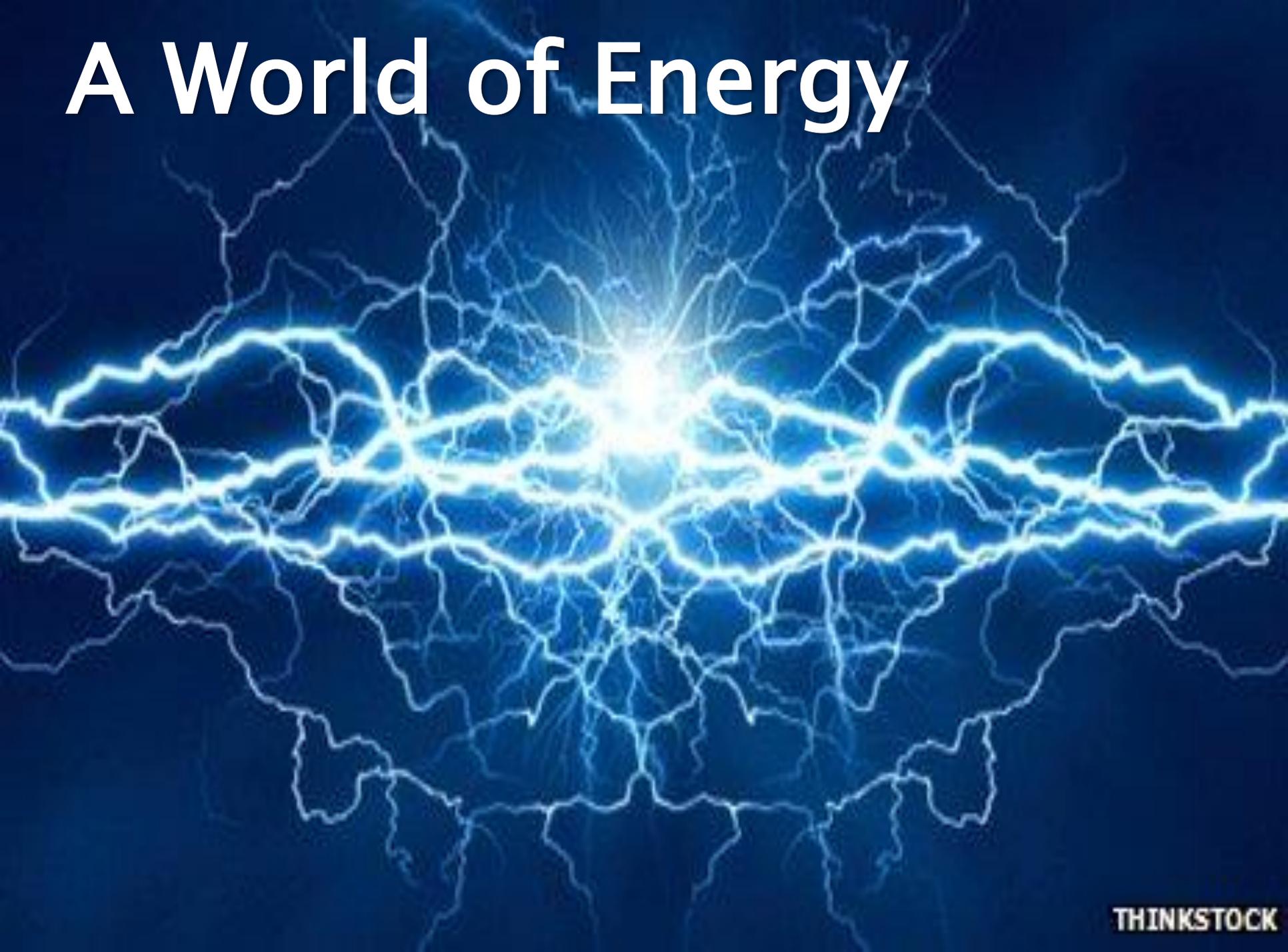
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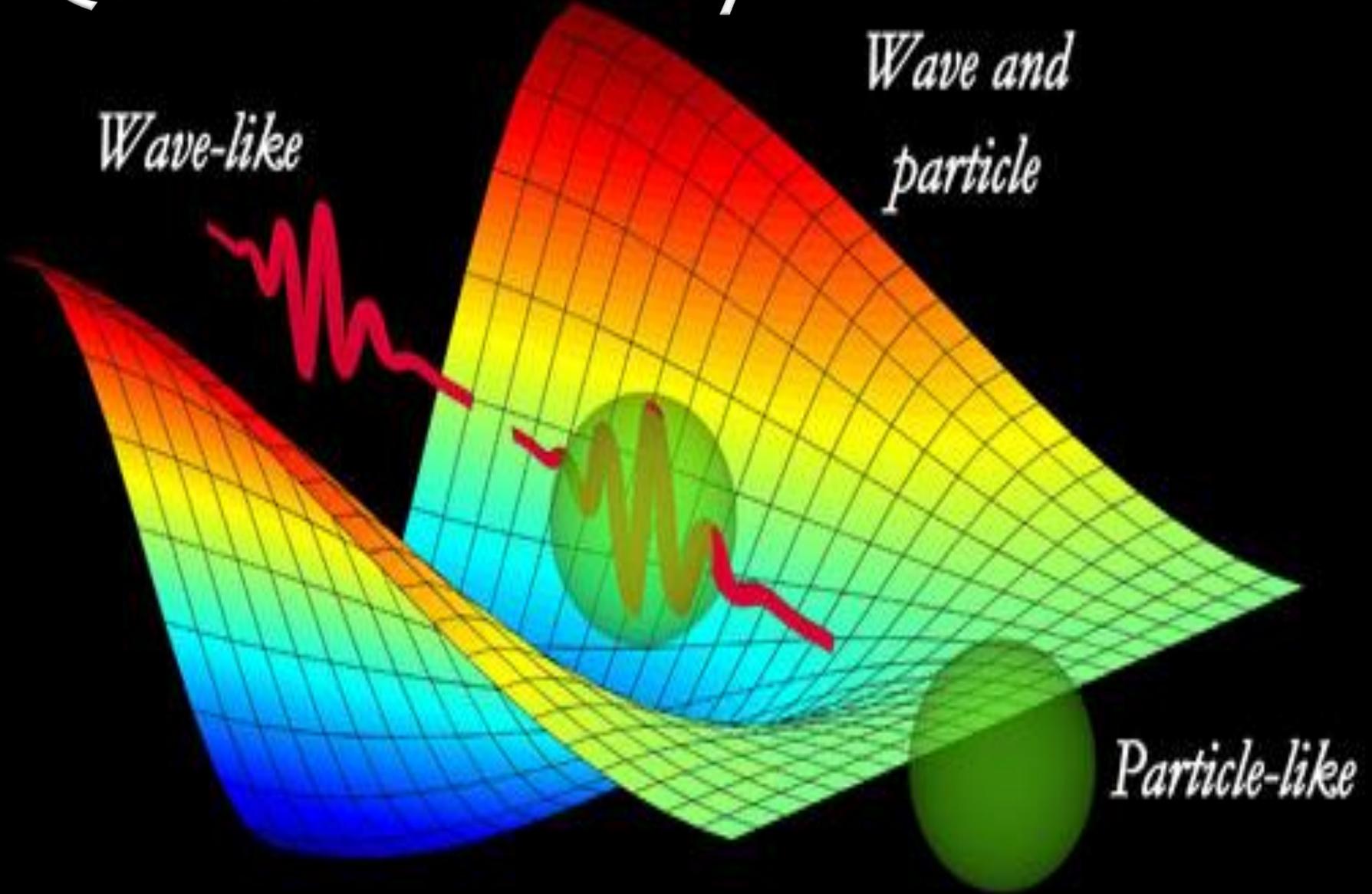
HOEST &
REINER

"DON'T FEEL BAD, LORETTA...
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING."

A World of Energy



Quantum Reality



The Hard Problem of Matter

“In having conscious experience we learn something about the intrinsic nature of physical stuff, for conscious experience is itself a form of physical stuff.”

Bertrand Russell

*“Mind no longer appears as an
accident intruder into the
realm of matter..... Mind may be the
creator and governor of the realm of
matter. . . .*

*The quantum phenomena make it
possible to propose that the
background of the universe is
mindlike.”*

James Jean (1950)

Quantum Reality

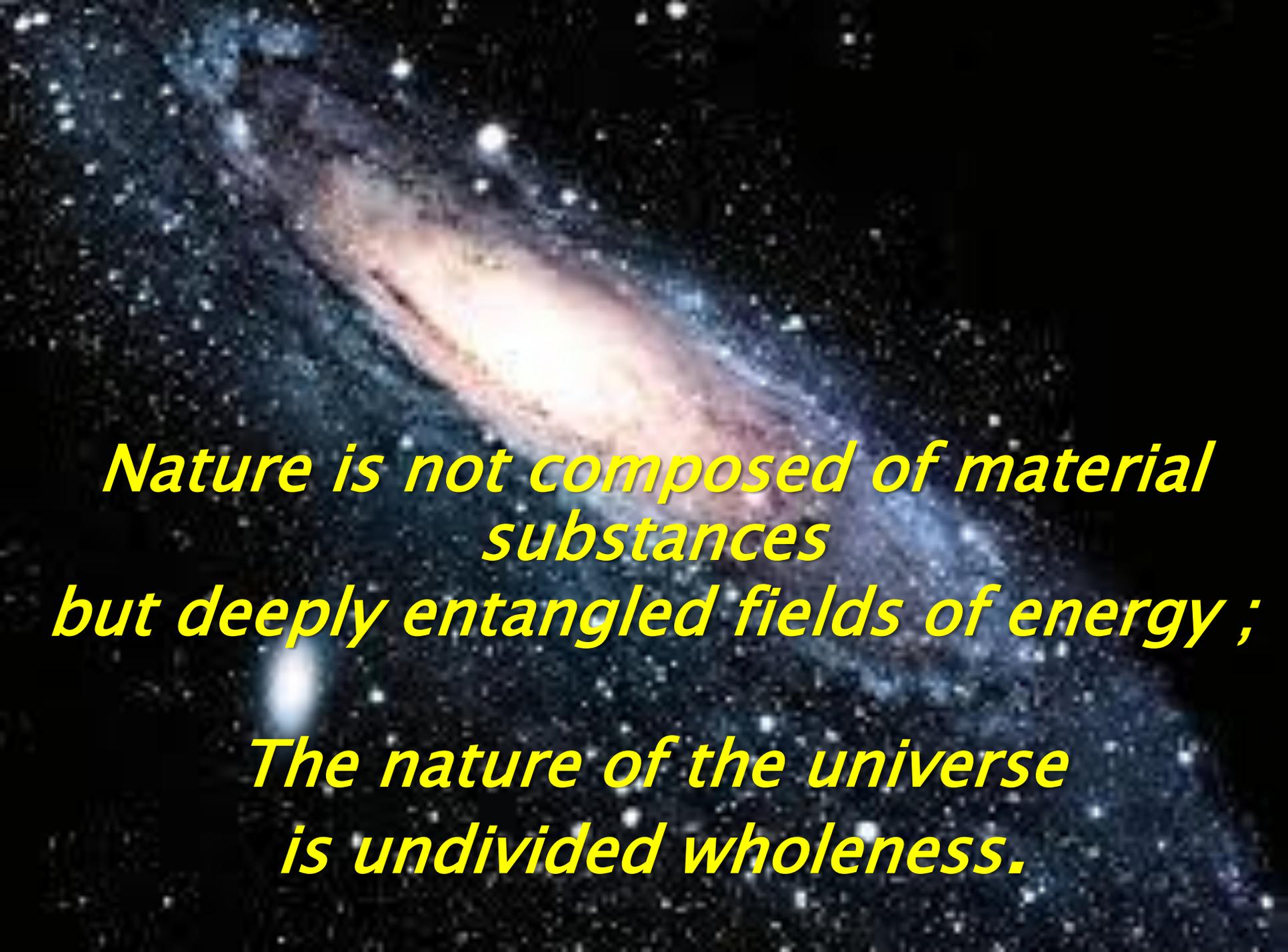
- ▶ Matter is not composed of basic building blocks but complicated webs of relations
- ▶ Cosmic life is intrinsically relational.
- ▶ Interconnectedness lies at core of all that exists.

Quantum Entanglement

- ▶ Take two particles whose spins cancel each other out to zero. Separate particles by distance. If measure particle A as “up” particle B is measured “down.”
- ▶ The measurement on A does not merely reveal an already established state of B: It actually *produces* that state → entangled.

“Non local action
at a distance”



A vibrant, multi-colored nebula or galaxy structure against a dark starry background. The central region is bright yellow and white, transitioning through orange and red to blue and purple at the edges. The background is filled with numerous small, bright stars of various colors.

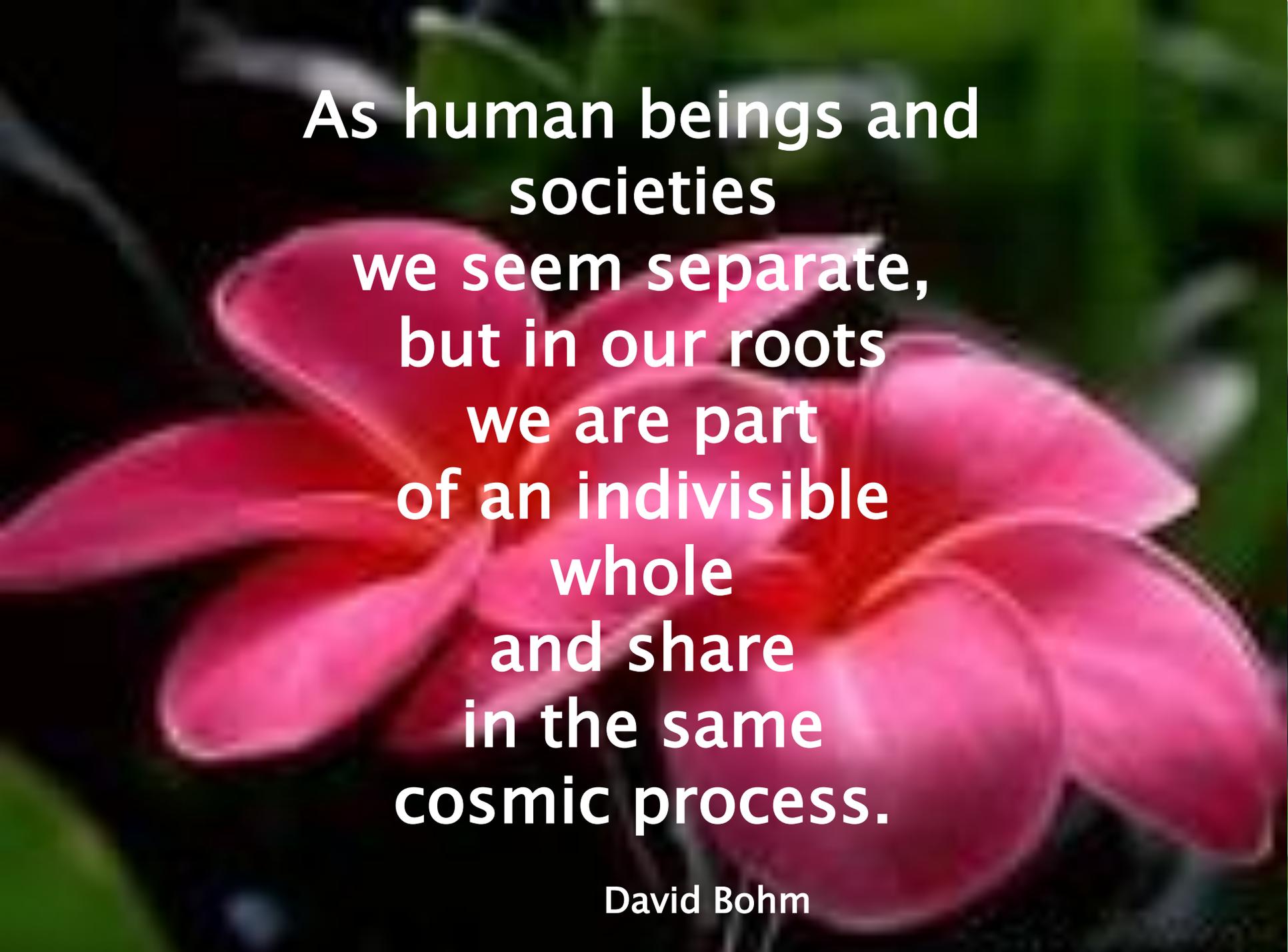
*Nature is not composed of material
substances
but deeply entangled fields of energy ;*

*The nature of the universe
is undivided wholeness.*



***“Pick a flower on earth and you
move the farthest star.”***

Paul Dirac, 1933



**As human beings and
societies
we seem separate,
but in our roots
we are part
of an indivisible
whole
and share
in the same
cosmic process.**

David Bohm

*“A human being is part of the whole,
called by us ‘Universe’;
a part limited in time and space.
One experiences oneself. . .
as something separated from the rest—
a kind of optical delusion
of one’s consciousness. . . .*

*Our task must be to free ourselves
from this prison by widening
our circle of compassion
to embrace all living creatures
and the whole of nature in its beauty.”*

Albert Einstein

Evolution

From Static → Dynamic

From Fixed → Changing

From Mechanism → Process

*Lawful nature at play
in the spontaneity of life*

The Encyclopedia of Life: 30 Volumes

**Each volume has 450 pages;
Each page = 1 million years**

Vol. 1 = Big Bang

Vol. 21 = Earth

Vol. 22 = Life

Vol. 29 = Cambrian period

Vol. 30 = Dinosaurs go extinct on p. 385

Vol. 30 = Mammals appear on p. 390

Vol. 30 = p. 450 last line, human beings

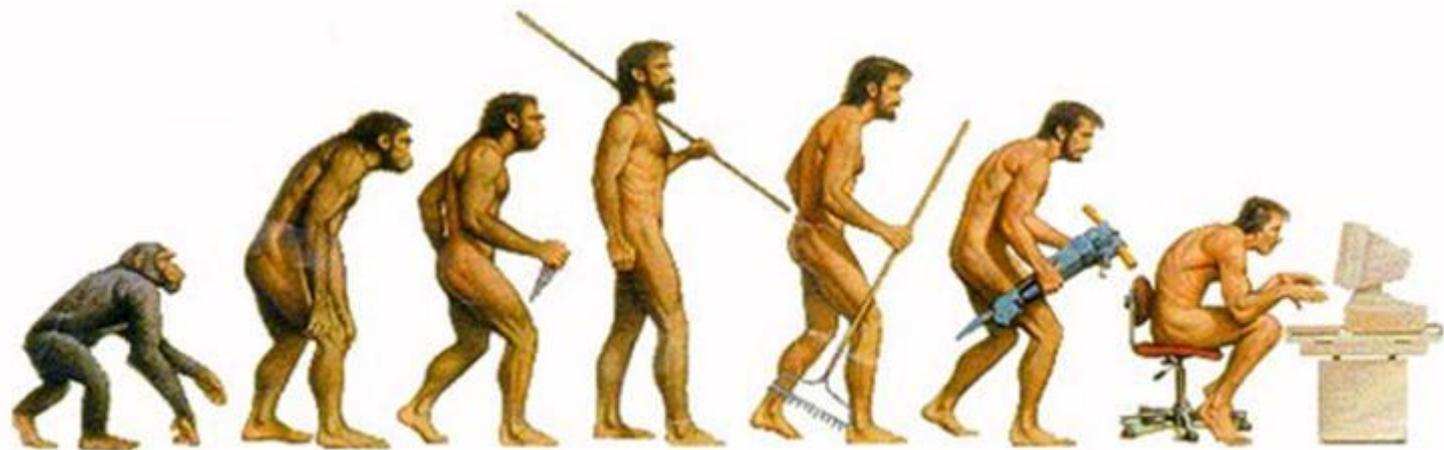


*Evolution is
not
background
to the human
story:*

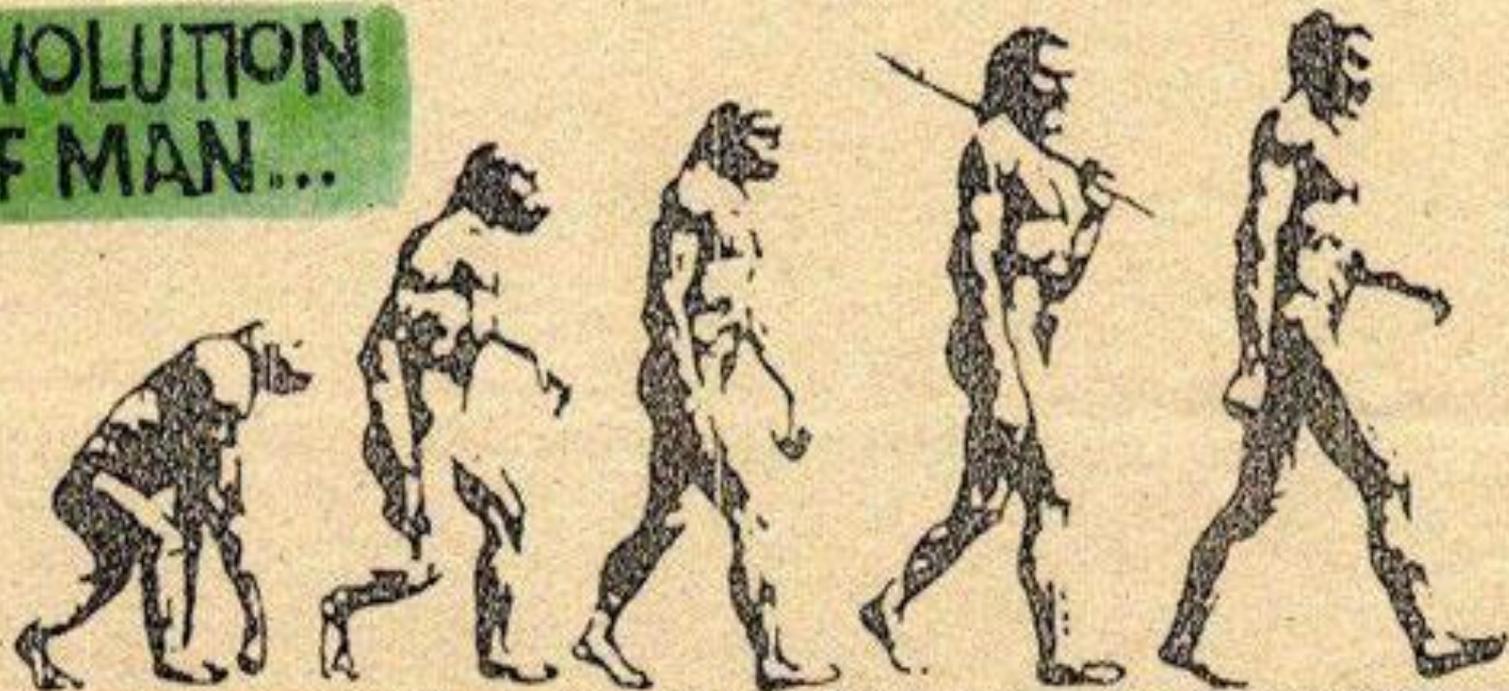
*it is the
human story.*

What does it mean to live "in evolution?"

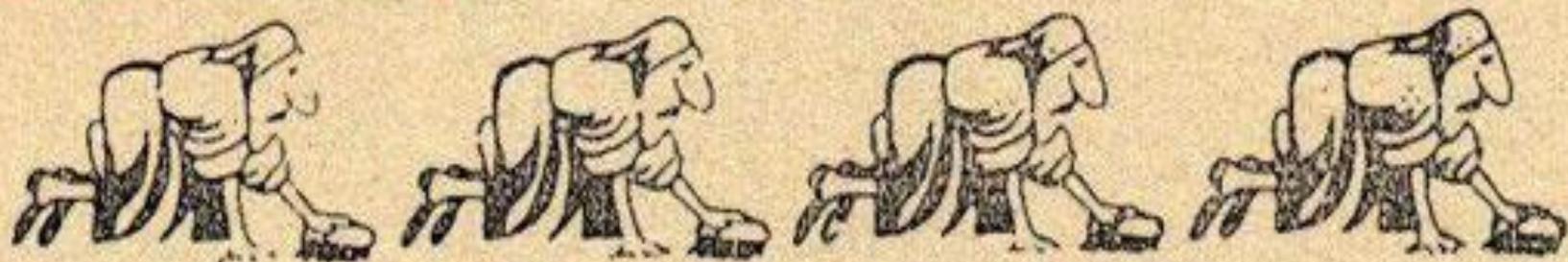
- ▶ **We are unfinished**
- ▶ **We are being created and are creating**
- ▶ **Life emerges toward newness/future**
- ▶ **An irreversibility of time**
- ▶ **Life evolves by creative power**



EVOLUTION
OF MAN...



and woman.



© Spalton

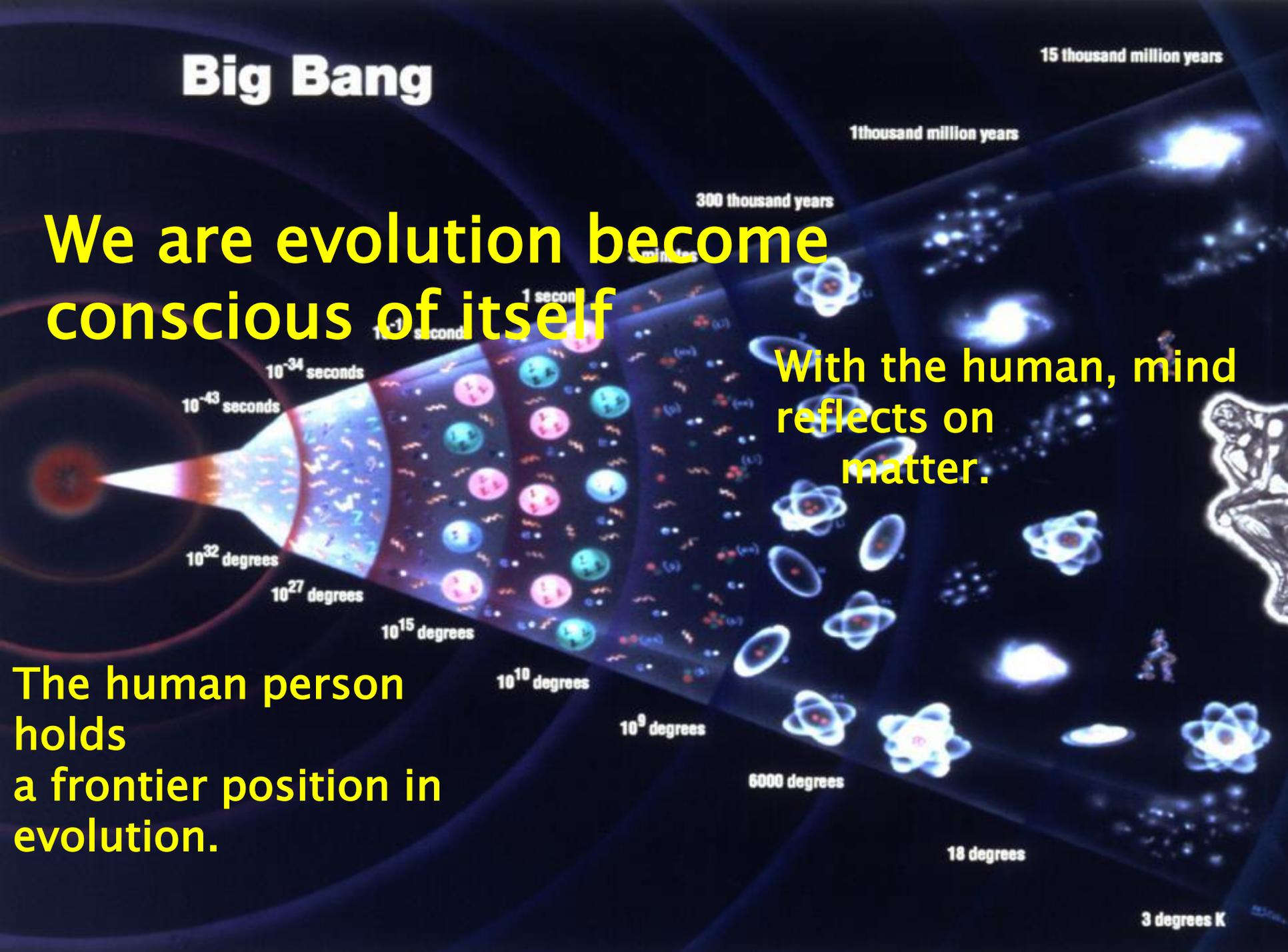
FunnyChill.com

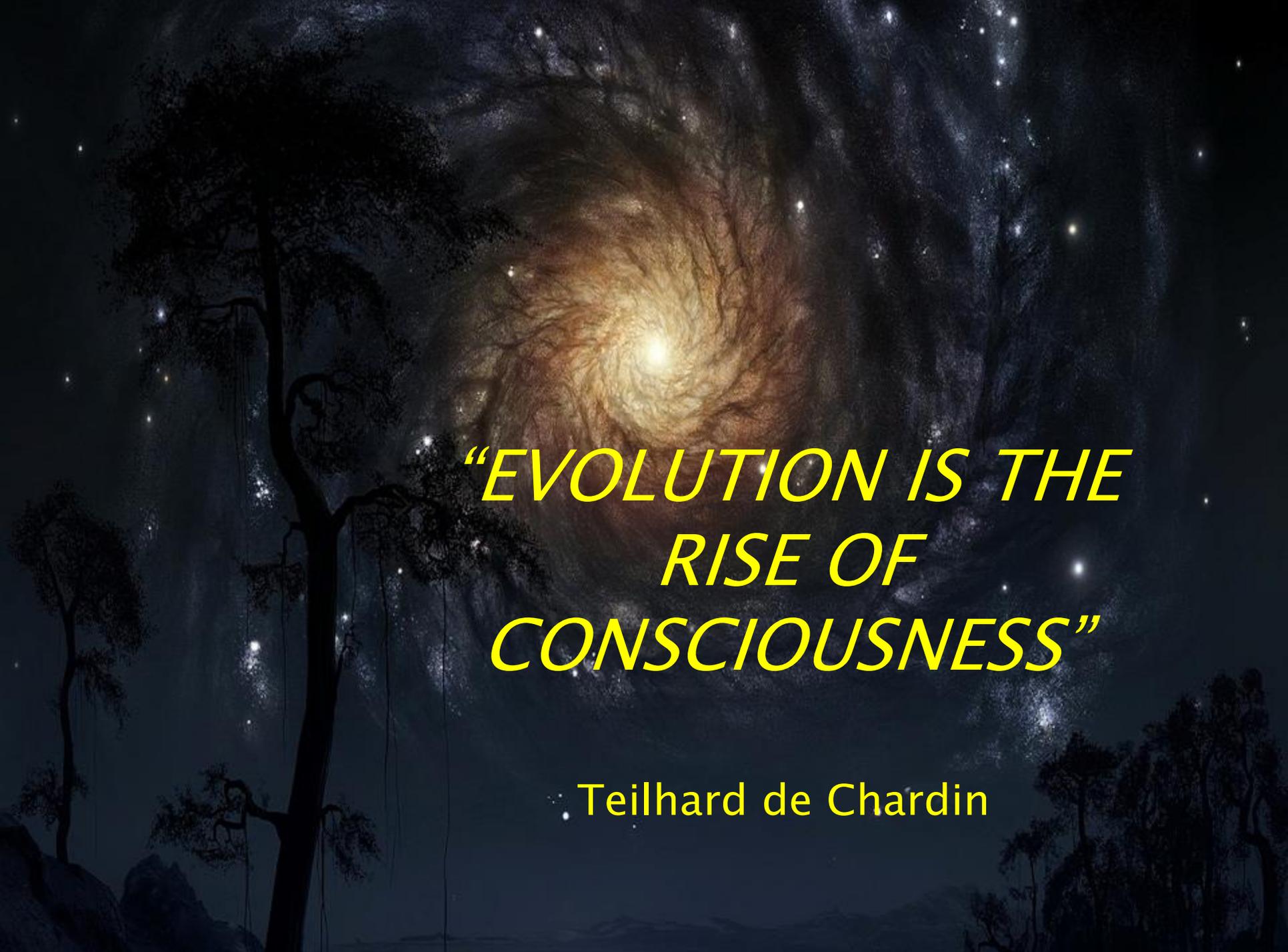
Big Bang

We are evolution become
conscious of itself

With the human, mind
reflects on
matter.

The human person
holds
a frontier position in
evolution.

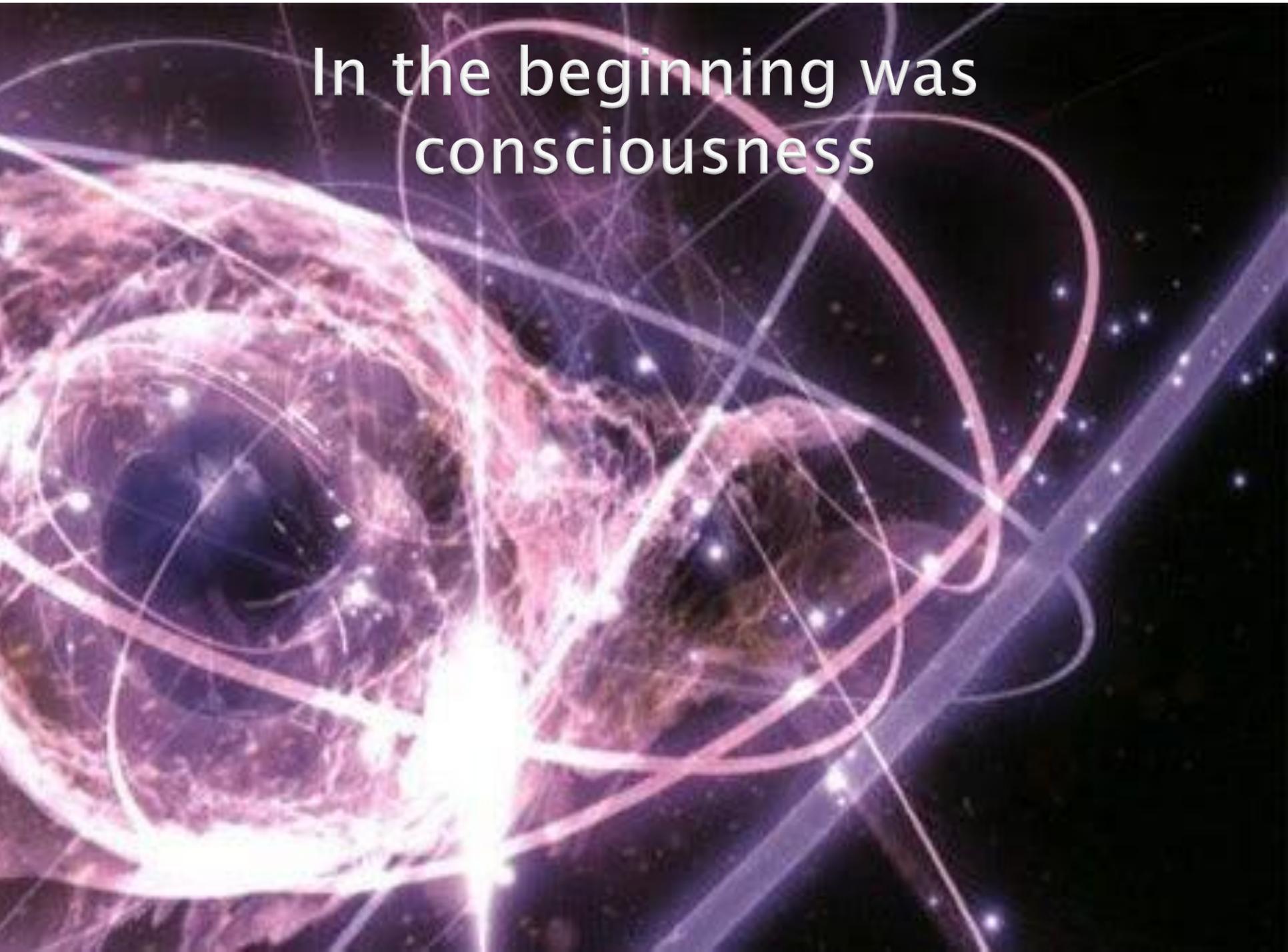


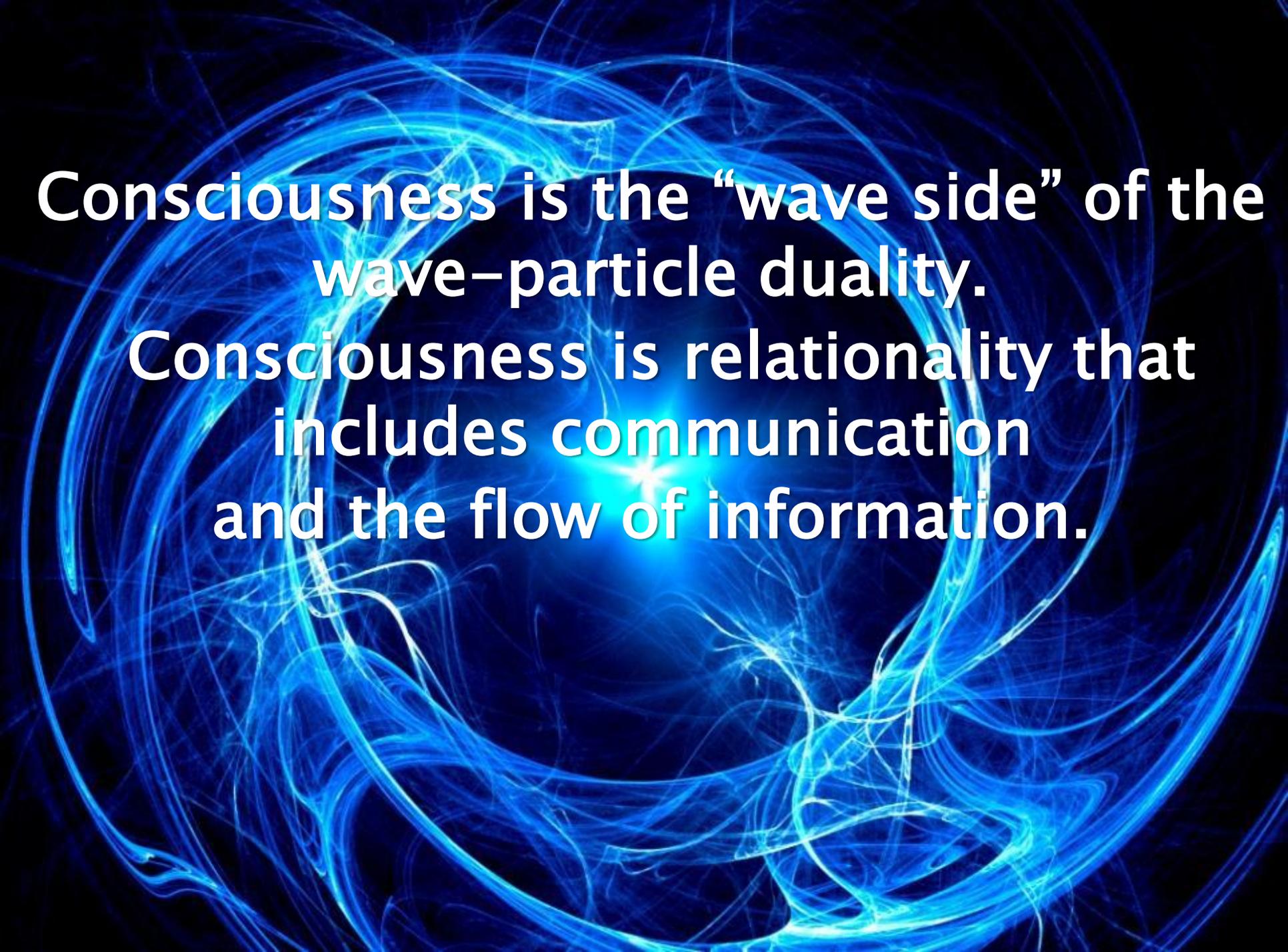
A composite image featuring a night sky with a prominent spiral galaxy in the center, surrounded by numerous stars and the Milky Way. In the foreground, there are dark silhouettes of trees and vines, suggesting a jungle or forest setting.

*“EVOLUTION IS THE
RISE OF
CONSCIOUSNESS”*

Teilhard de Chardin

In the beginning was
consciousness





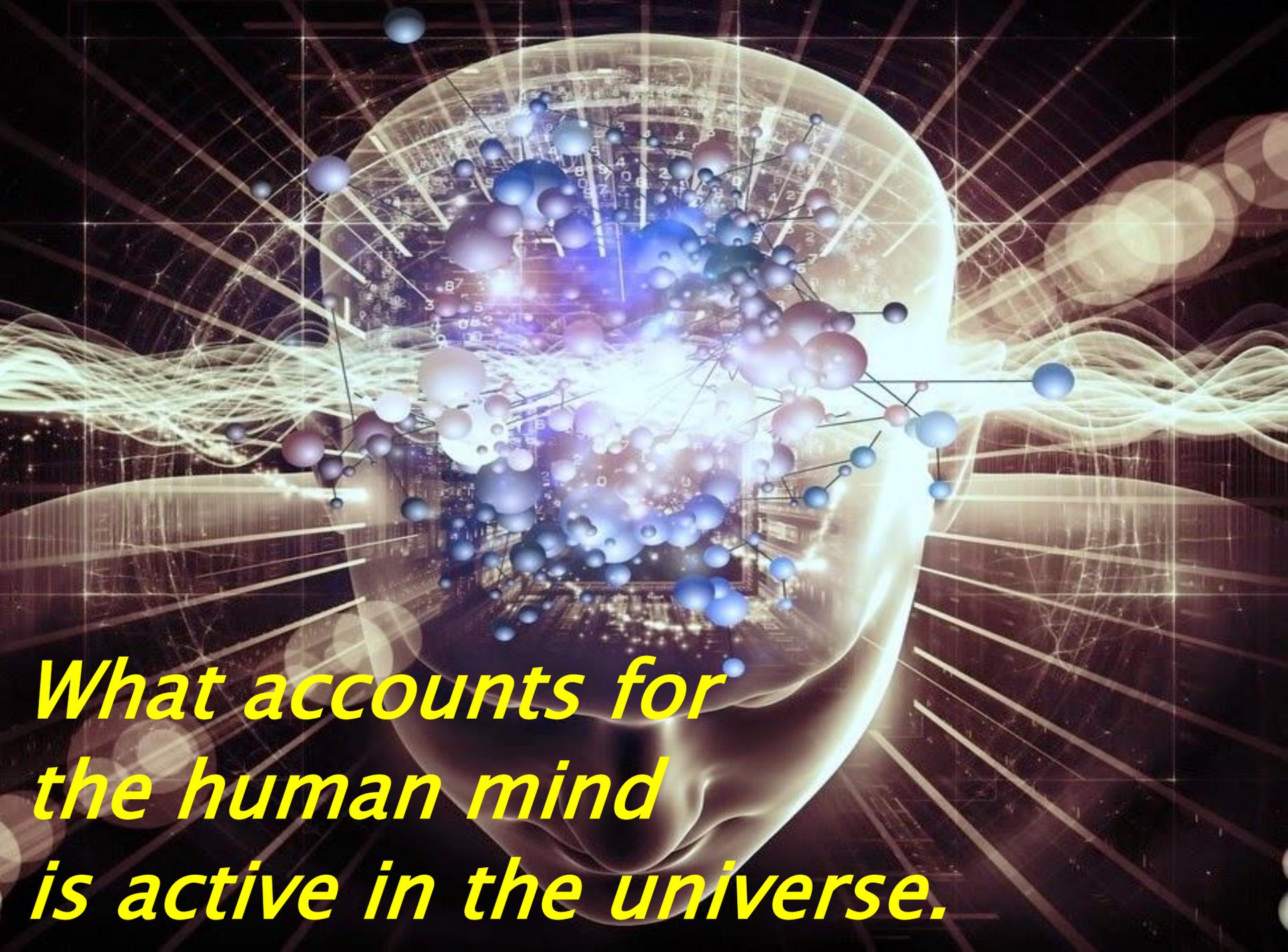
**Consciousness is the “wave side” of the
wave–particle duality.**

**Consciousness is relationality that
includes communication
and the flow of information.**

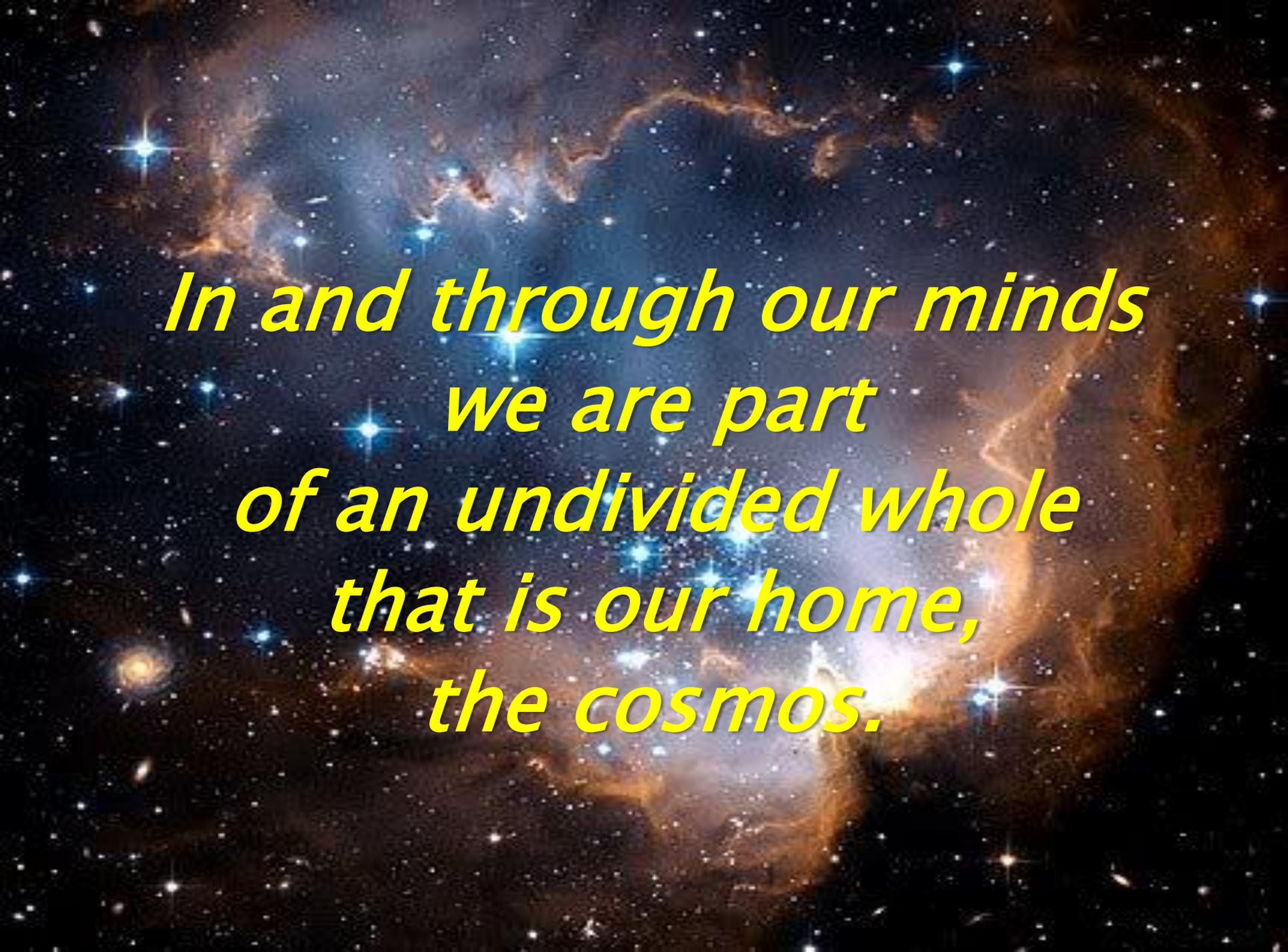
**If consciousness is part of cosmos, then mind
may be an emergent process.**



**Mind is the realm
where synthesizing activity occurs.**

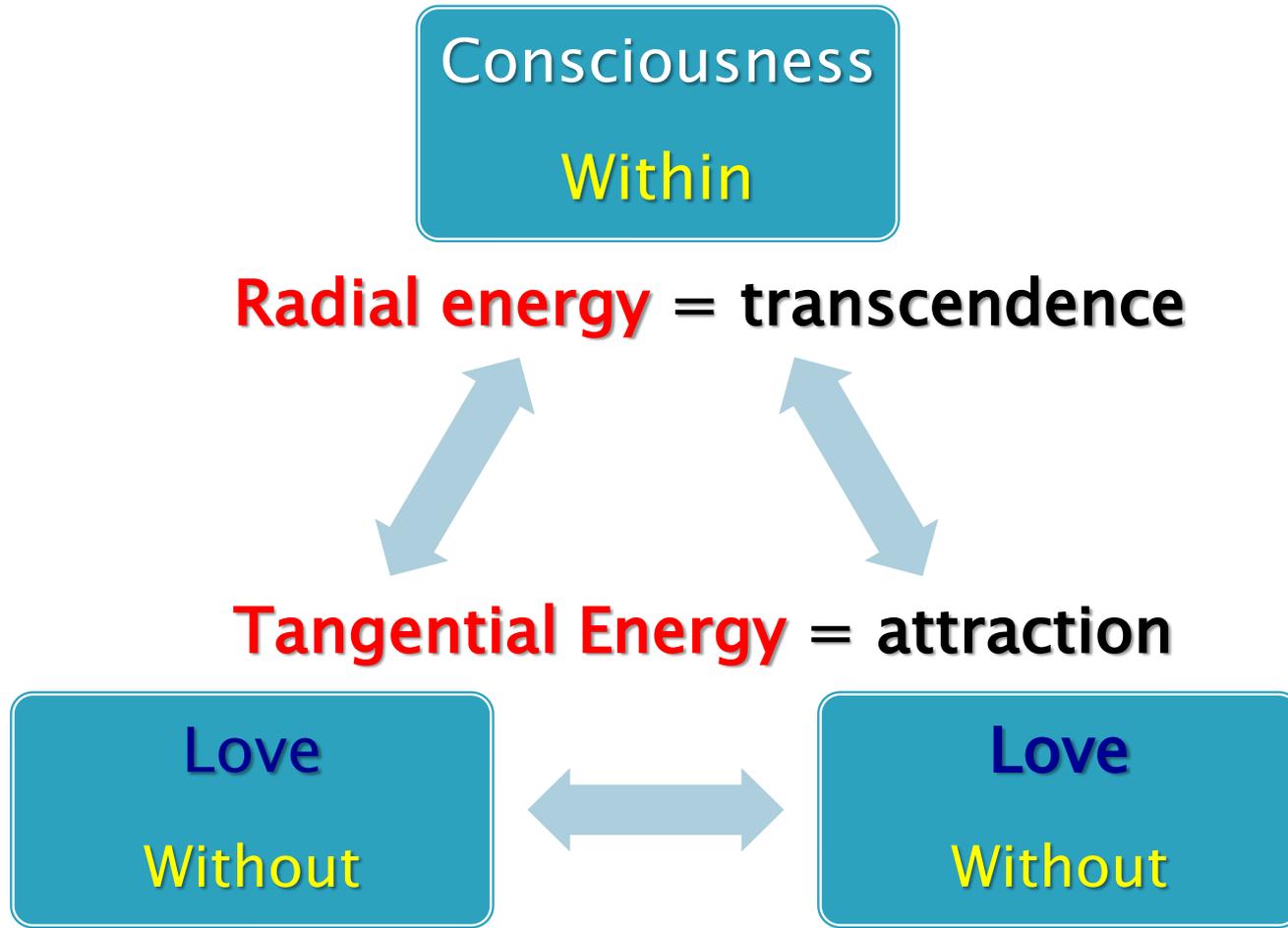


***What accounts for
the human mind
is active in the universe.***



*In and through our minds
we are part
of an undivided whole
that is our home,
the cosmos.*

Teilhard's Two Energies



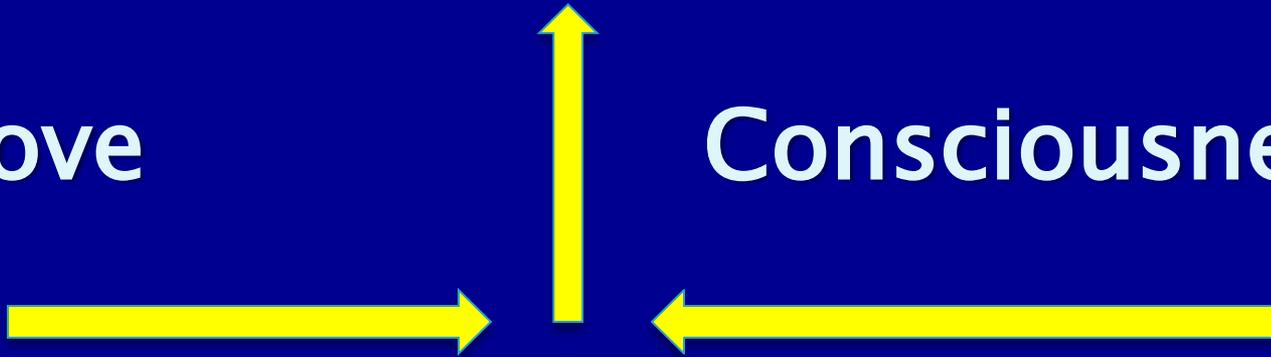
Teilhard's Phenomenology of Love

Tangential Energy

Radial Energy

Love

Consciousness



*The energy of attraction is
the energy of transcendence*

Teilhard's Philosophy of Love

- ▶ **Unitive Reality: Love is the power of attraction**
- ▶ **Attraction is prior to Being; Being flows from union**
- ▶ *Union is always towards more being.*

Love as a Cosmological Force

Physical reality:

Attraction
Union
Emergence

“The force of love–energy is present from the Big Bang onwards, though indistinguishable from molecular forces.”

Teilhard's Philosophy of Love

- ▶ **Being is first a “we” before it can become in “I.”**
- ▶ **Cosmic life is intrinsically communal.**
- ▶ **The universe is thoroughly relational and in the framework of love.**



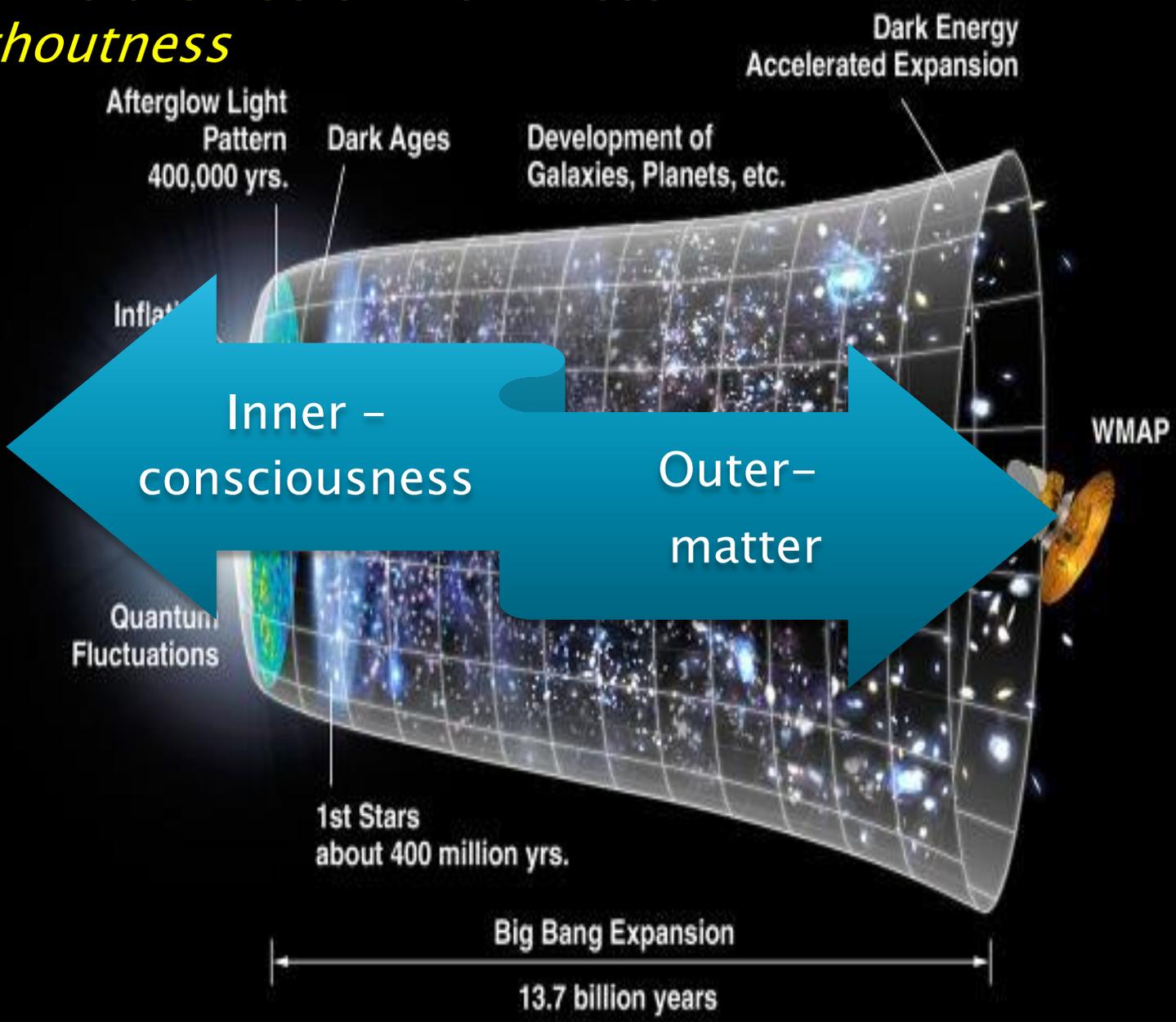
*Love is the most universal,
the most tremendous and
the most mysterious of the
cosmic forces. . . .*

Toward more consciousness

*“The physical structure
of the universe
is love.”*

*Teilhard de Chardin
Human Energy*

Evolution is the rise of withinness and withoutness



- ▶ Consciousness = “consciousness of. . .”
- ▶ If consciousness is the “inside” of matter and religion is a function of consciousness then it is possible to say with Teilhard that:

***Religious experience is part
of the inside story of the universe***

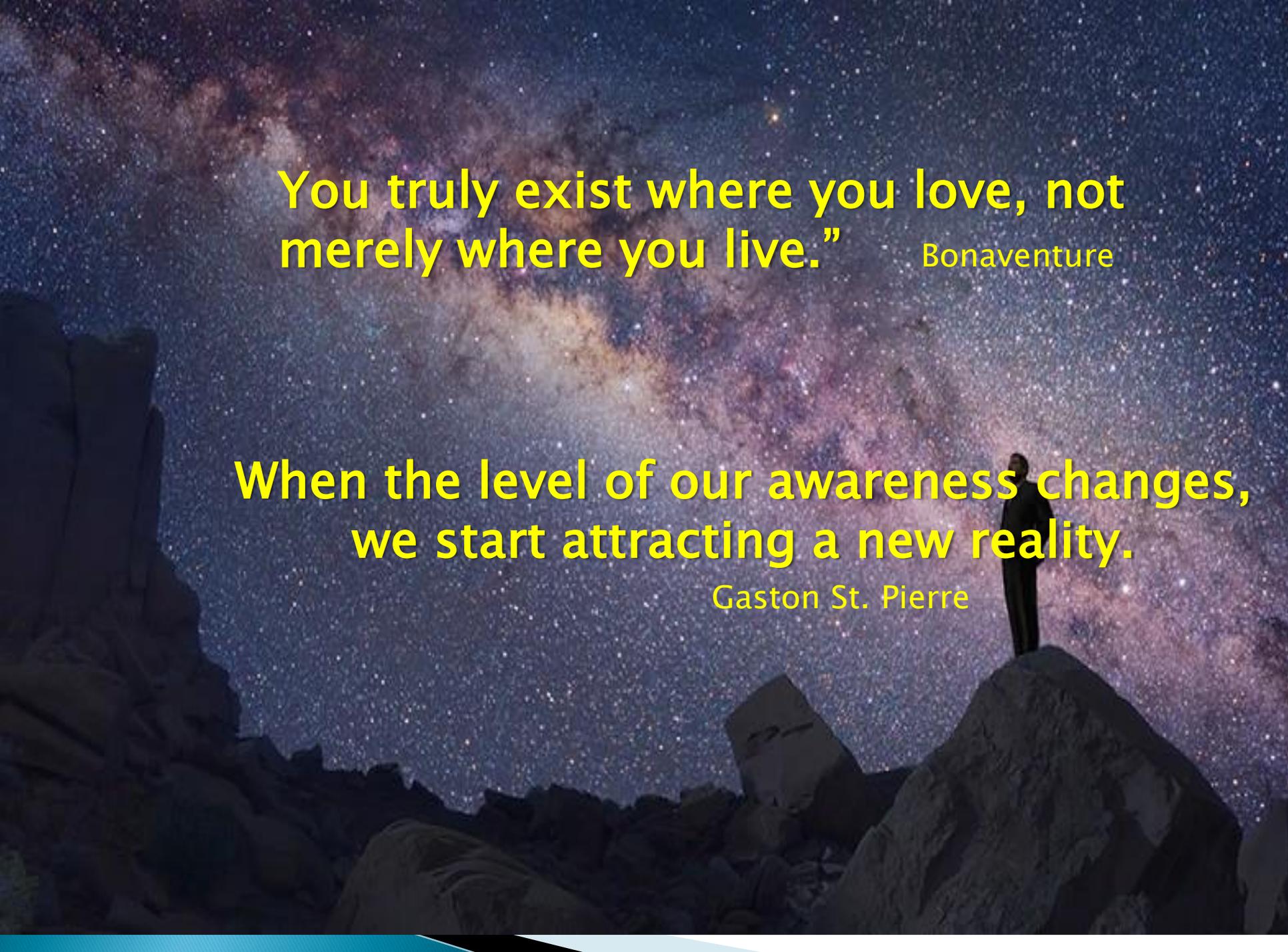
- ▶ ***“Religion is biologically the necessary counterpart to the release of the earth’s spiritual energy...”
Religion has a biological function.***

Religion & Evolution

“Religion and evolution should neither be confused nor divorced. They are destined to form one single continuous organism, in which their respective lives prolong, are dependent on, and complete one another..”



“...people are looking for a religion of humankind and of the earth which gives meaning to human achievements a religion that will kindle cosmic and human evolution and a deep sense of commitment to the earth.”

A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The person stands on a dark, rocky peak. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the sky with vibrant colors of purple, pink, and blue. The foreground shows dark, jagged rock formations.

You truly exist where you love, not merely where you live.” Bonaventure

**When the level of our awareness changes,
we start attracting a new reality.**
Gaston St. Pierre

Questions for Reflection

- ▶ **What is new for you?**
- ▶ **What challenges you?**
- ▶ **What do you fear?**