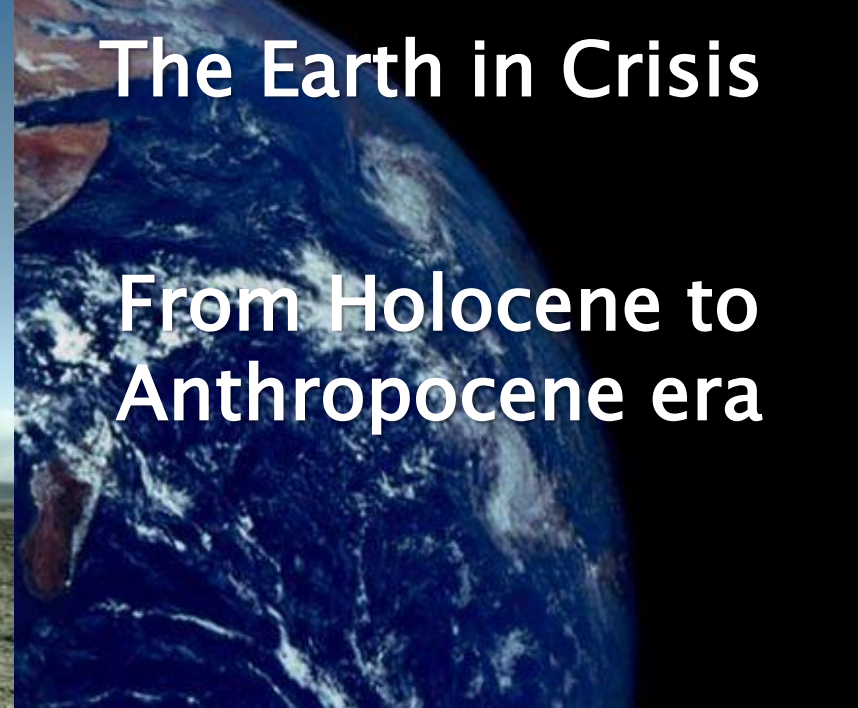


# Consciousness & Christogenesis: Mind, Matter & Emerging Wholeness

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

May 5, 2017





# The Earth in Crisis

From Holocene to  
Anthropocene era



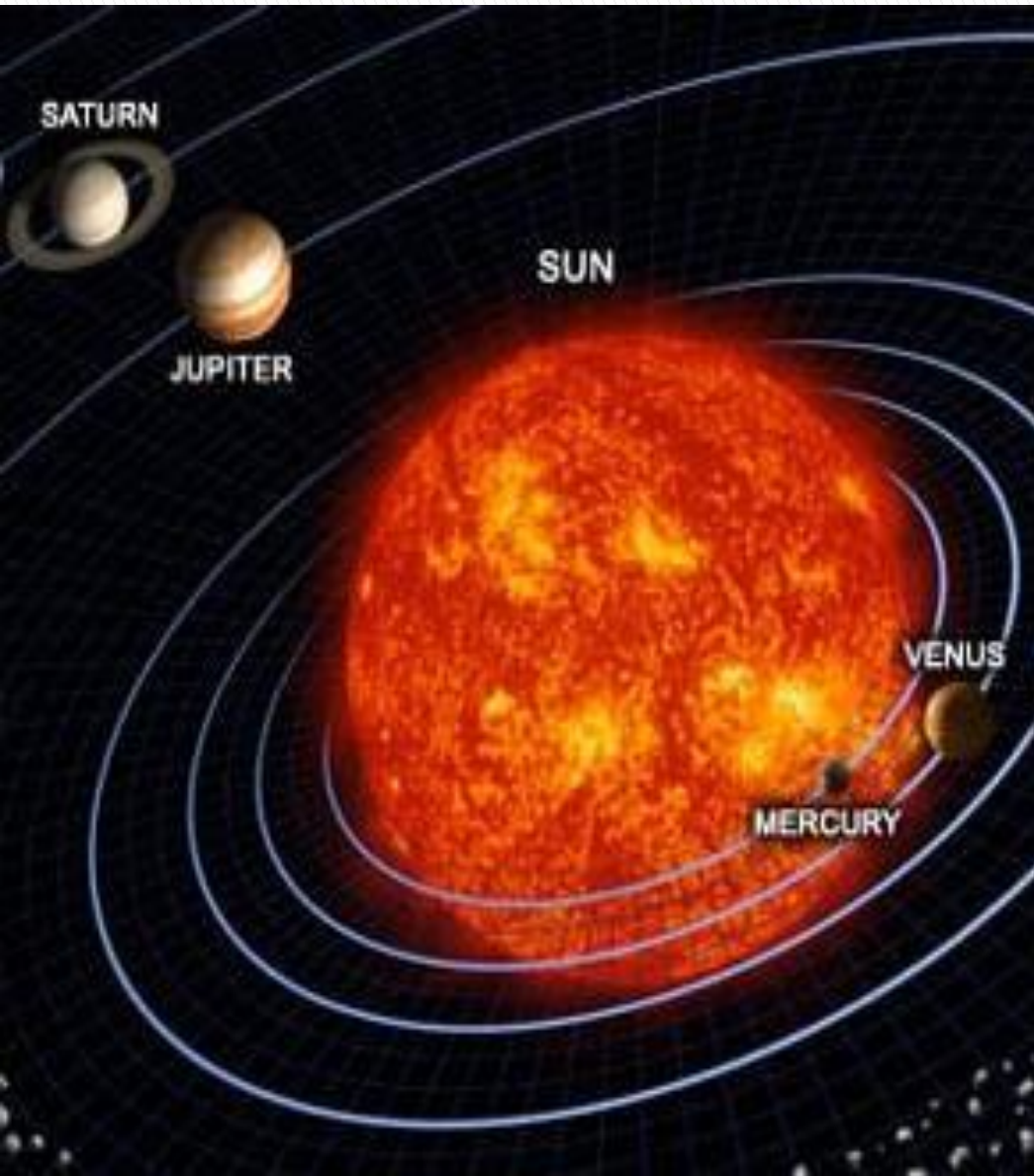


# The Space of Transcendence: The Middle Ages



- ▶ 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.

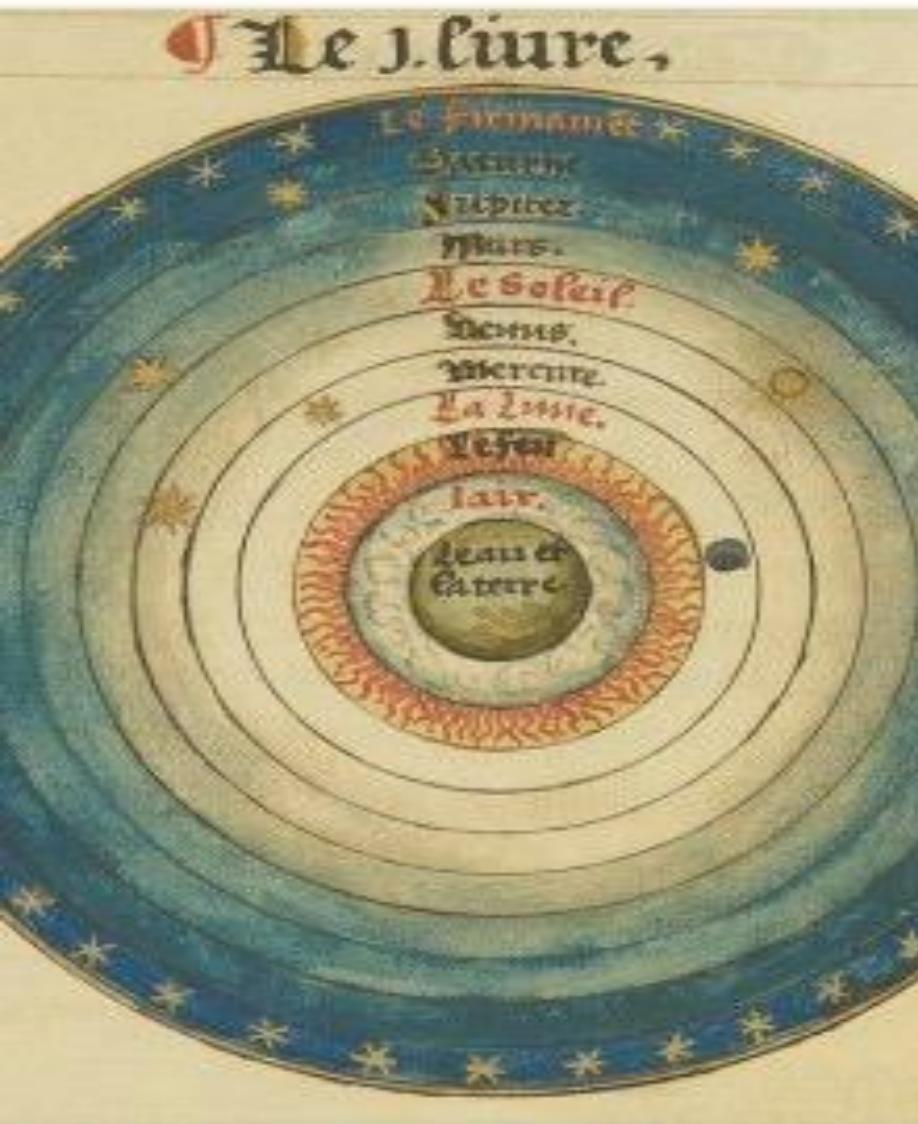
# Rise of Modern Science



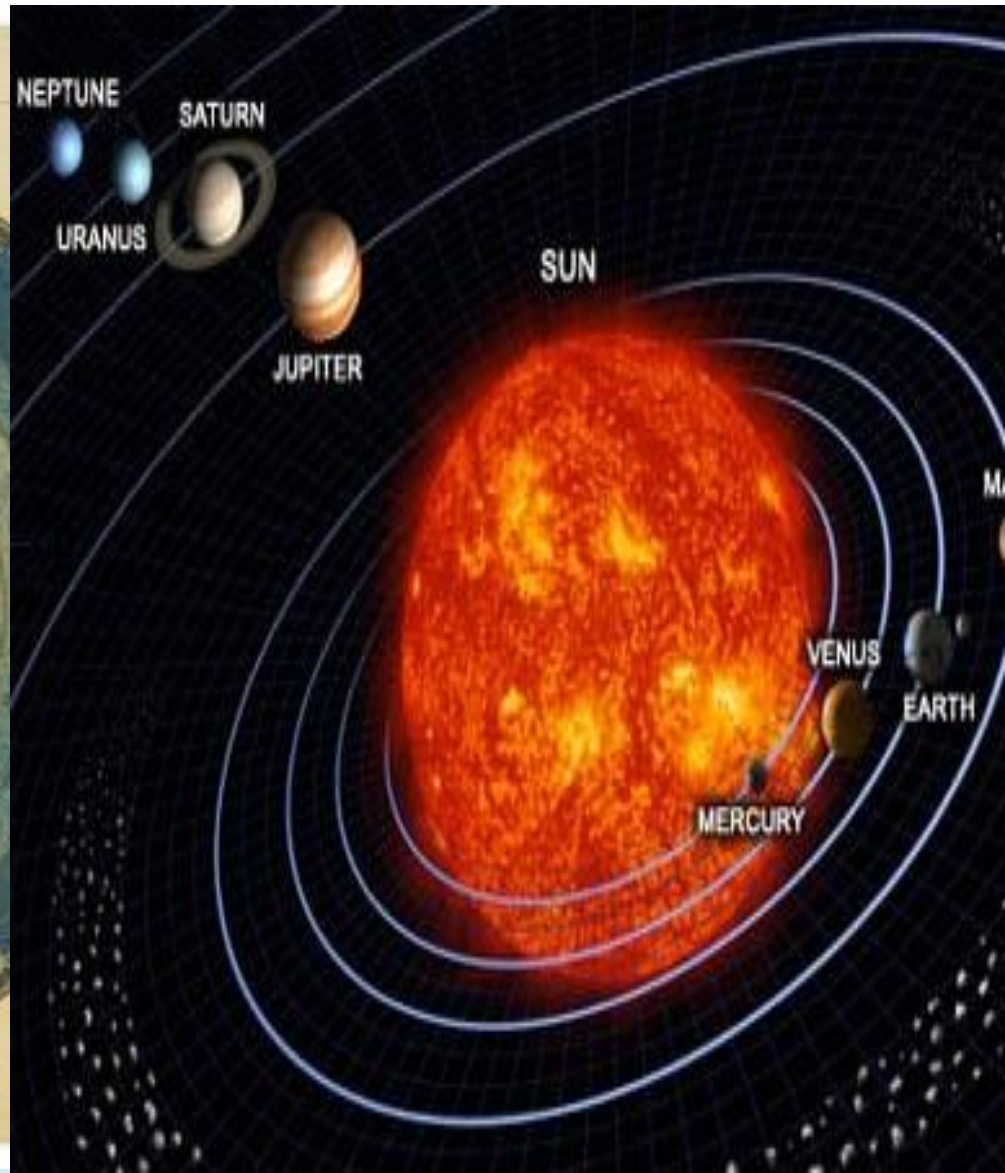
- ▶ Modern science brought with it the conquering of space
- ▶ God was pushed out of the cosmos as an “unnecessary hypothesis.”



# Religion

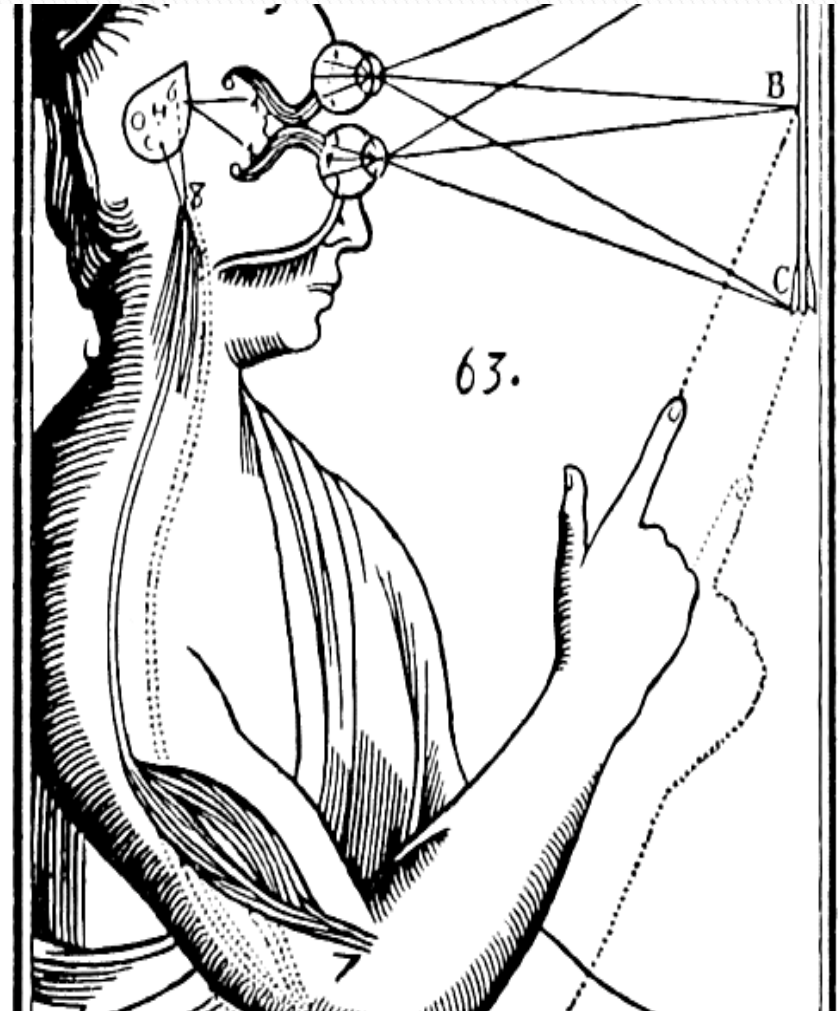


# Science



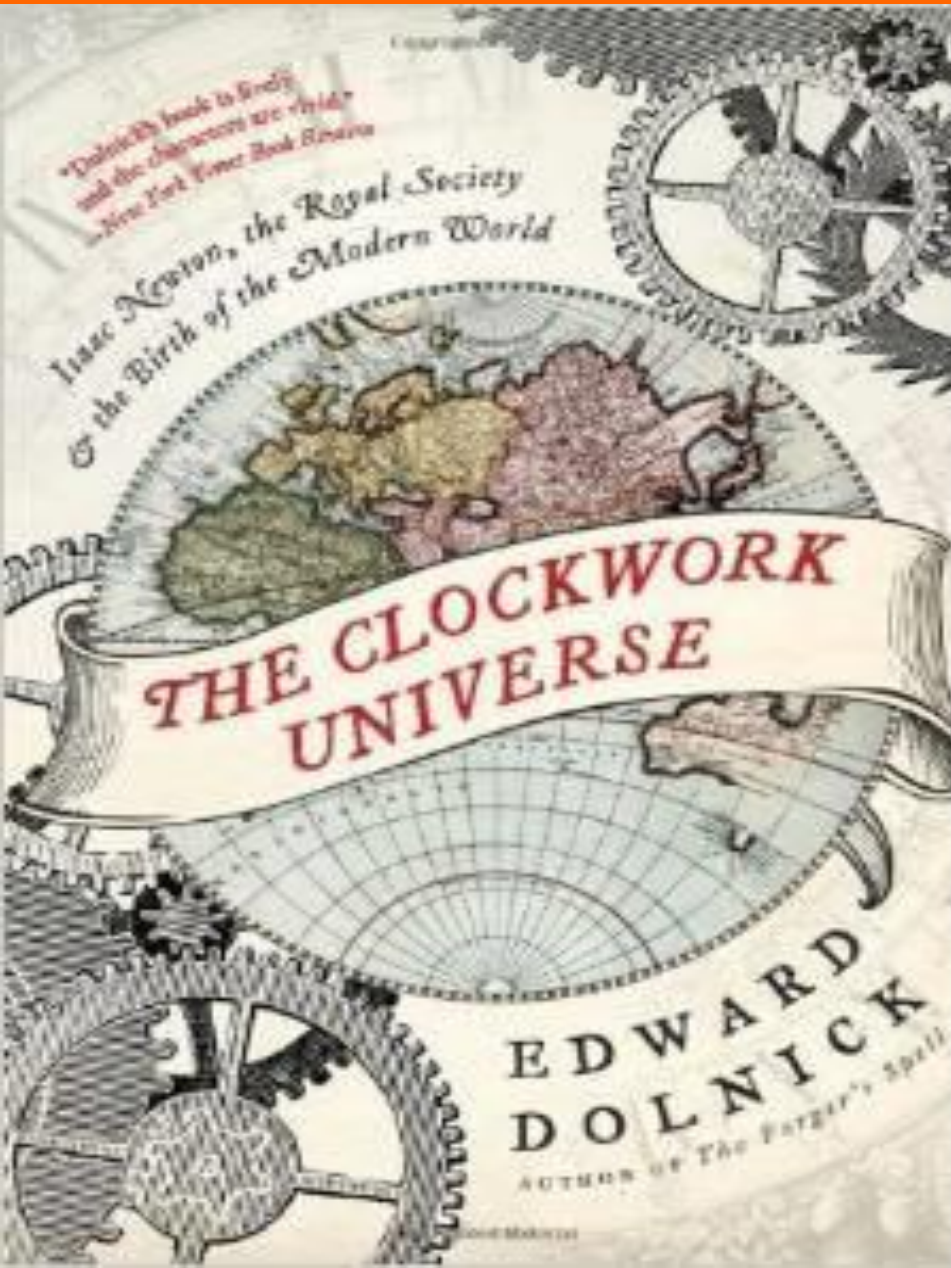
# Descartes Error

- ▶ **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 Uber Mensch

**“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?

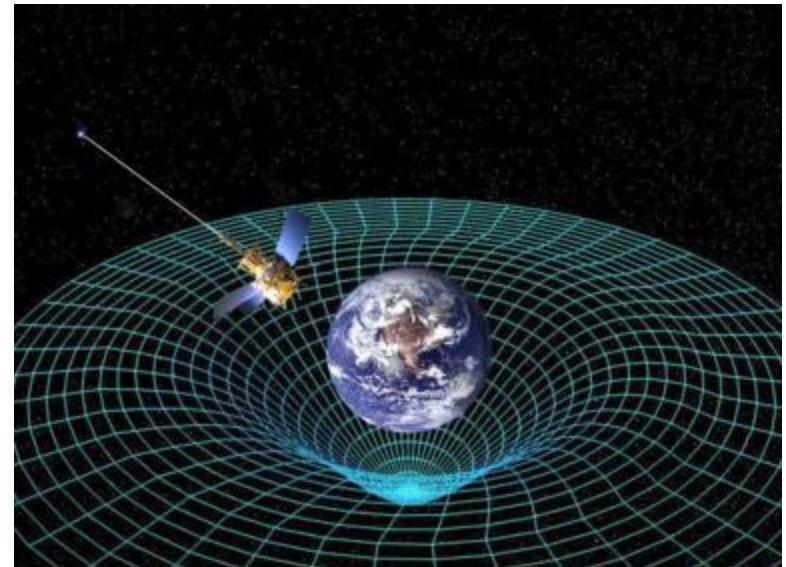


Uwe

# 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**

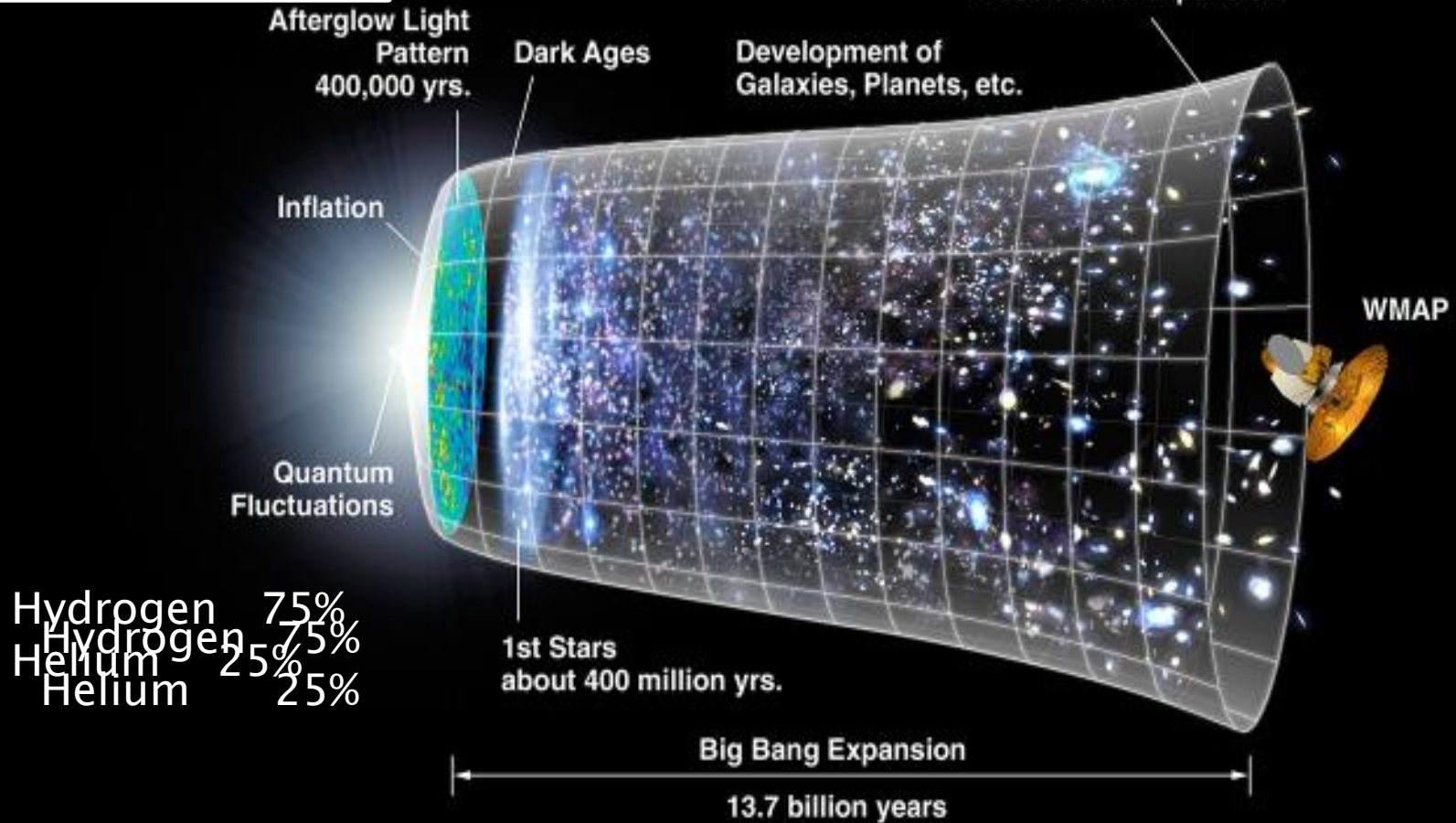




# The Hot Big Bang Cosmos

13.8 billion  
years

1 billion yrs



Cosmic microwave background

# The Expanding Universe

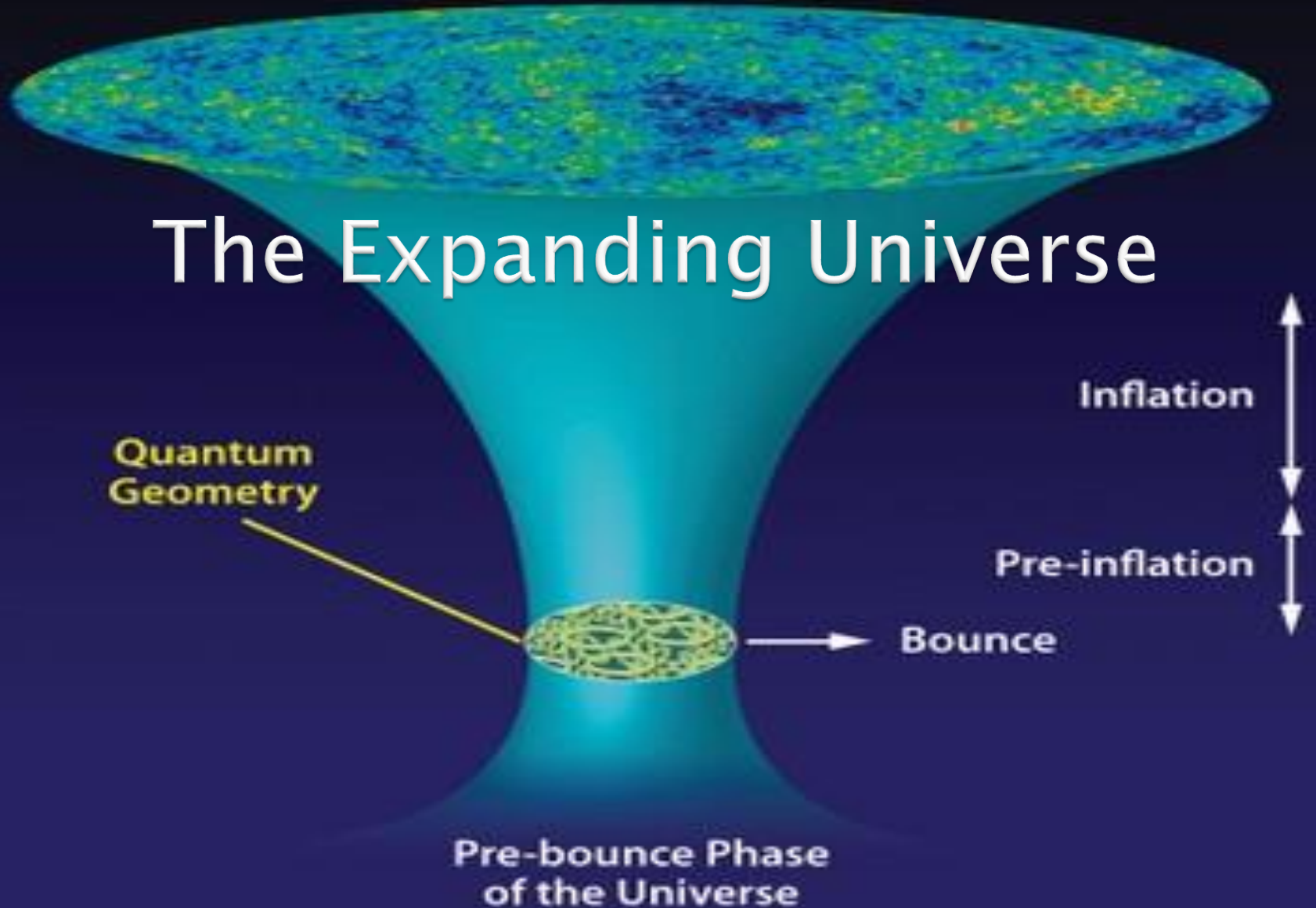
Quantum  
Geometry

Inflation

Pre-inflation

Bounce

Pre-bounce Phase  
of the Universe





# THE LOCKHORNS

by Bunny Hoest  
& John Reiner

3-15

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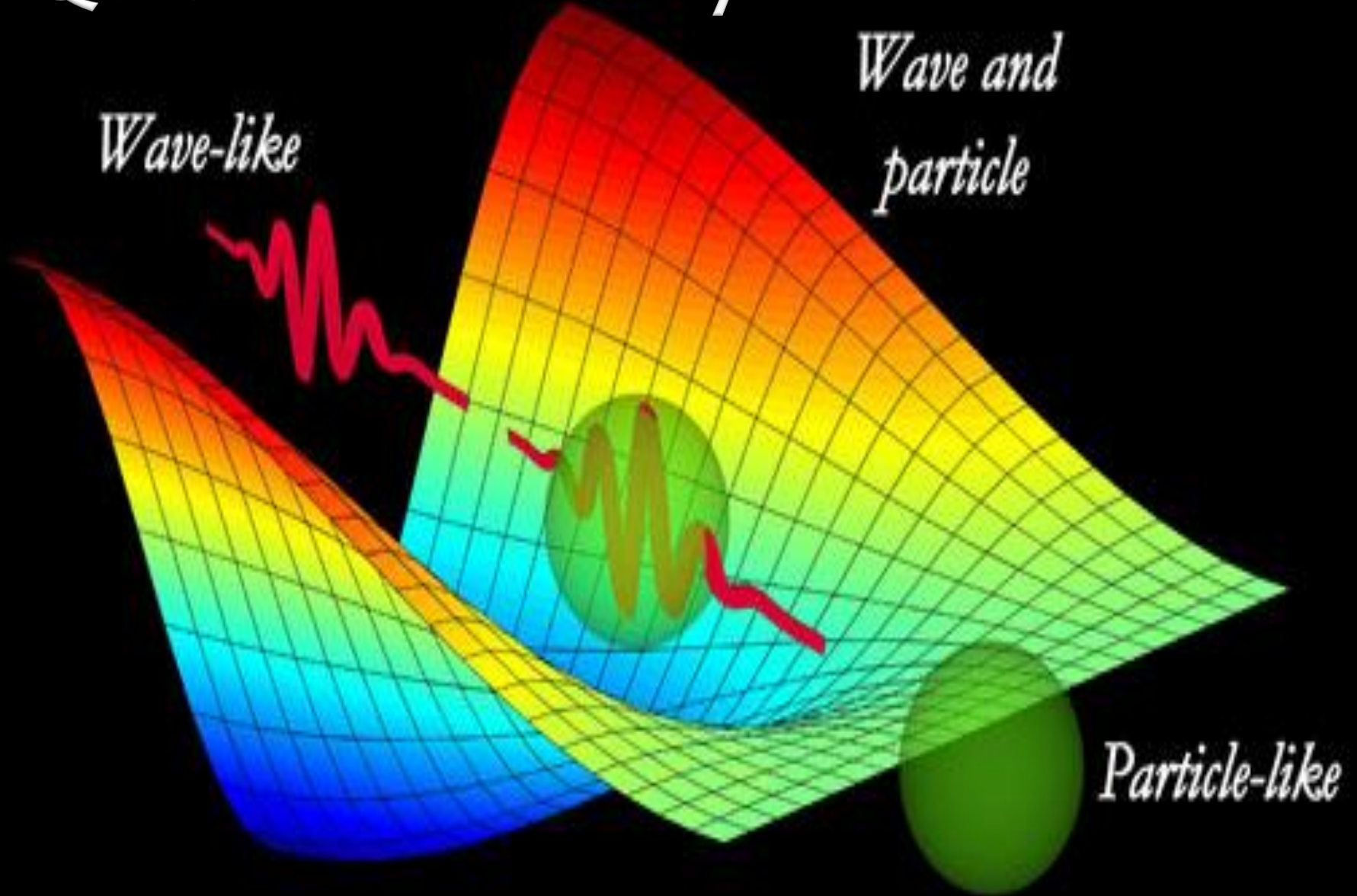
HOEST &  
REINER

"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”





*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**



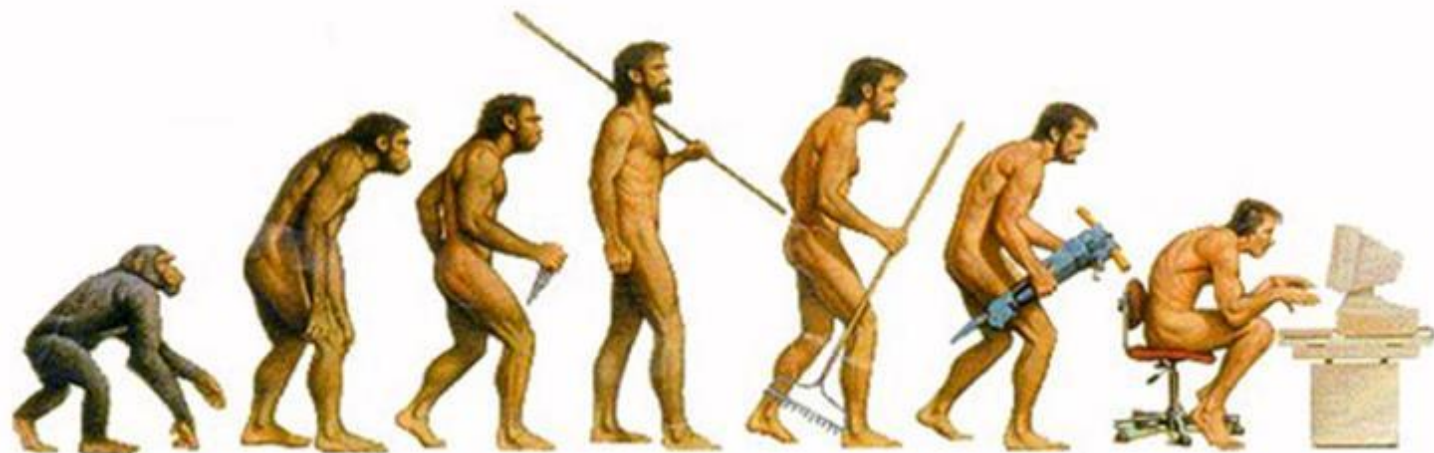
*Evolution is  
not  
background  
to the human  
story:*

*it is the  
human story.*

# What does it mean to live "in evolution?"

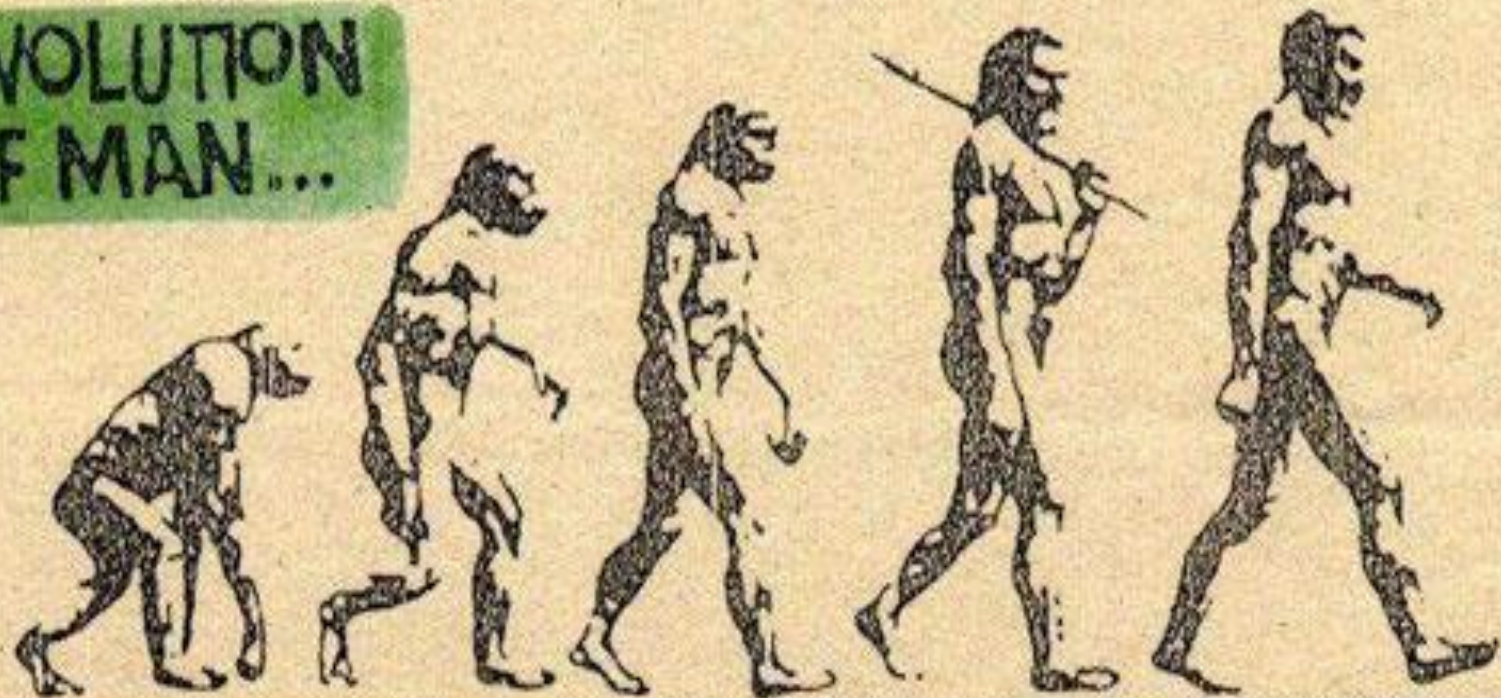
- ▶ We are unfinished
  - ▶ We are being created and are creating
  - ▶ Life emerges toward newness/future
  - ▶ An irreversibility of time
  - ▶ Life evolves by creative power
- 



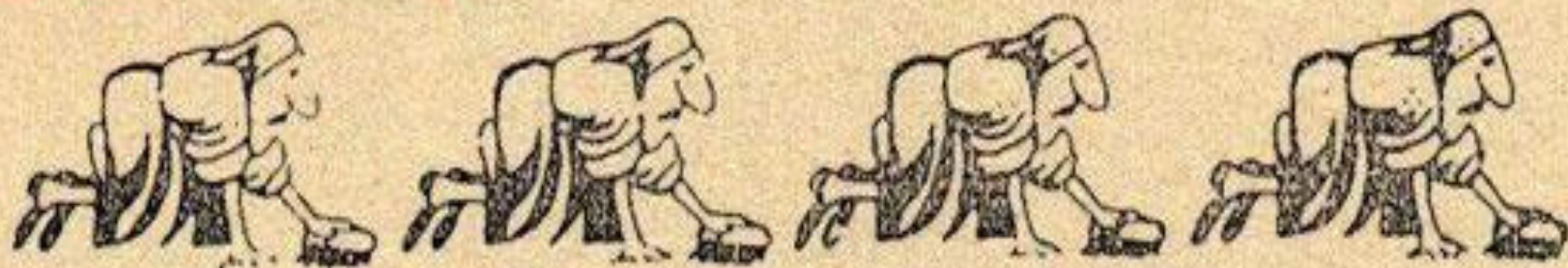




# EVOLUTION OF MAN...



and woman.



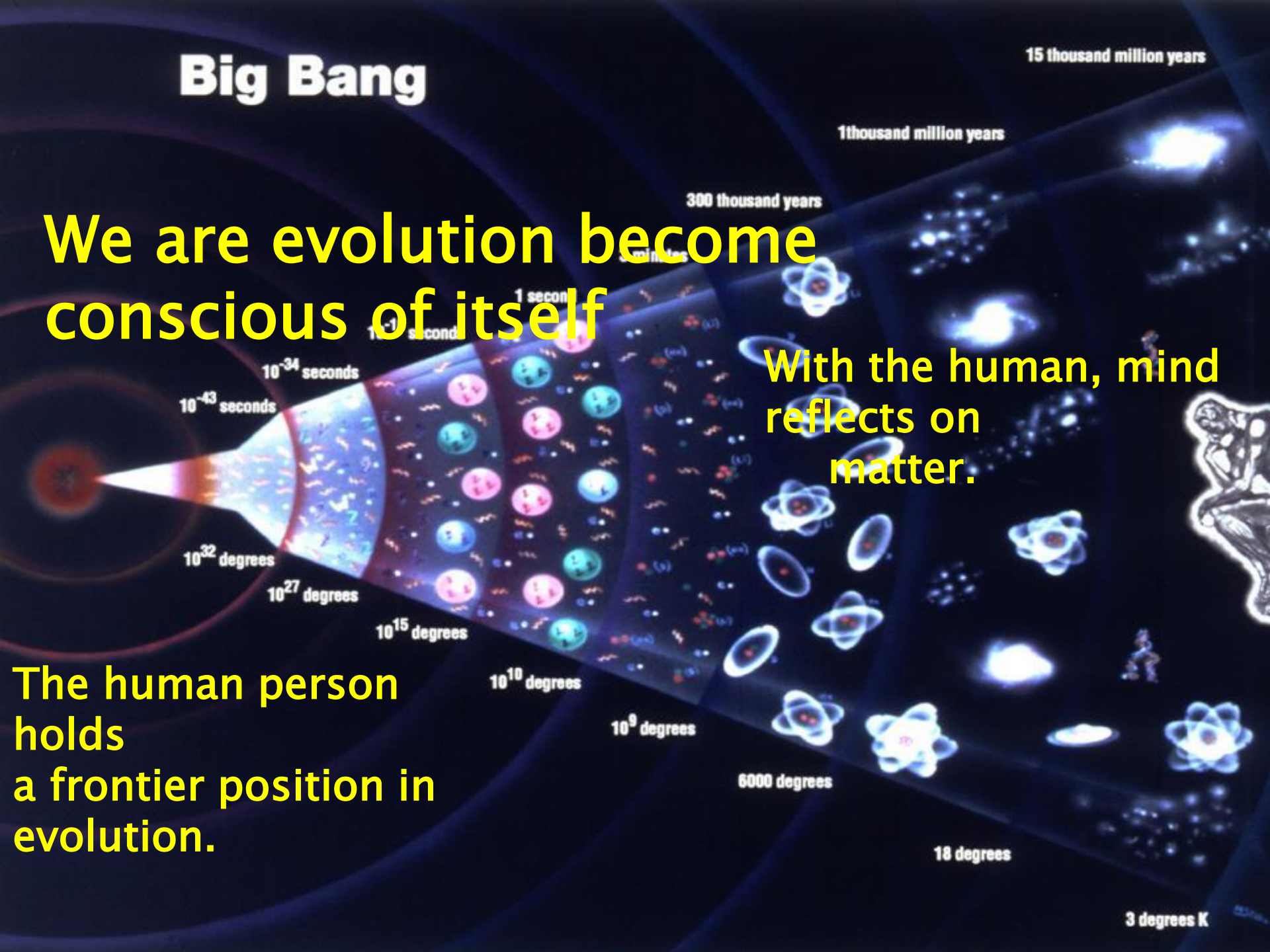


# Big Bang

We are evolution become  
conscious of itself

With the human, mind  
reflects on  
matter.

The human person  
holds  
a frontier position in  
evolution.



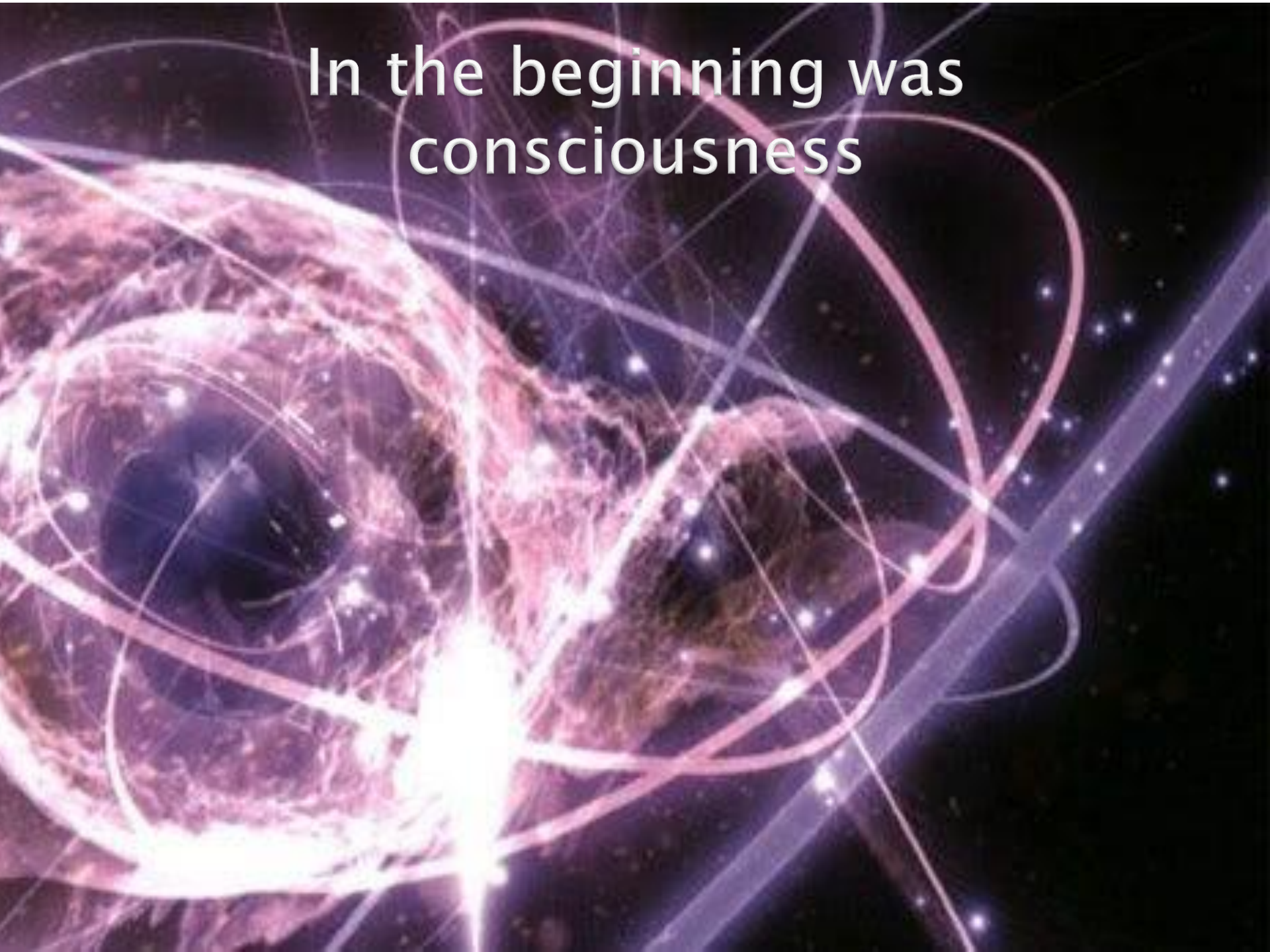


The background of the image is a dark night sky. A large, bright spiral galaxy with a yellowish-white core and orange-brown arms is the central focus. Numerous stars are visible throughout the sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of trees and mountains are visible against the starry background.

***“EVOLUTION IS THE  
RISE OF  
CONSCIOUSNESS”***

**Teilhard de Chardin**

In the beginning was  
consciousness





The background of the image is a dark blue field filled with intricate, glowing blue energy patterns. These patterns consist of numerous thin, swirling lines and larger, more defined loops that create a sense of dynamic movement and complexity. A bright, multi-pointed star-like glow is positioned in the center of the image, from which some of the energy lines appear to emanate or converge. The overall effect is one of a vibrant, ethereal, and somewhat chaotic energy field.

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

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

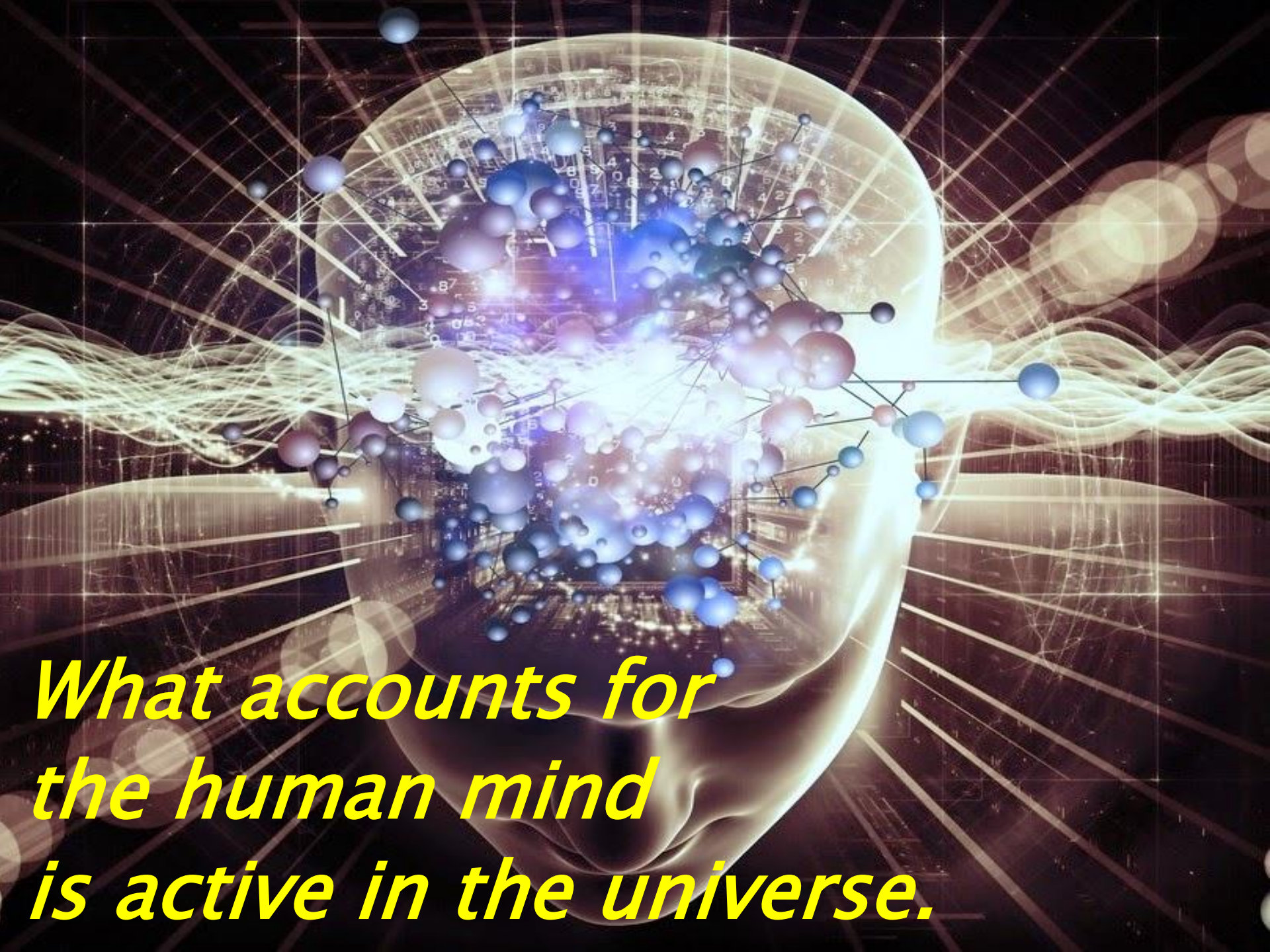


**If consciousness is part of cosmos, then mind  
may be an emergent process.**




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





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

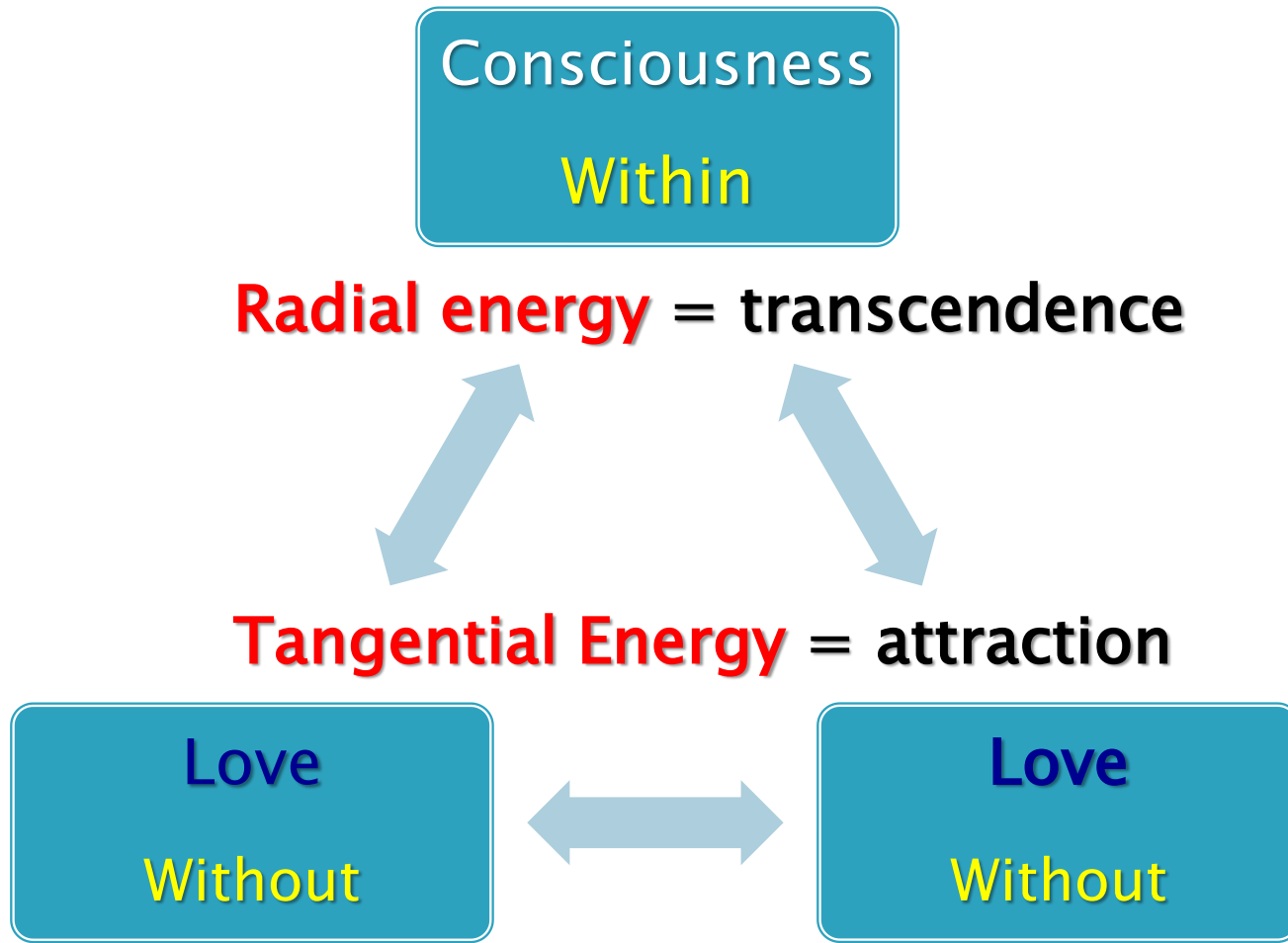




*In and through our minds  
we are part  
of an undivided whole  
that is our home,  
the cosmos.*



# Teilhard's Two Energies



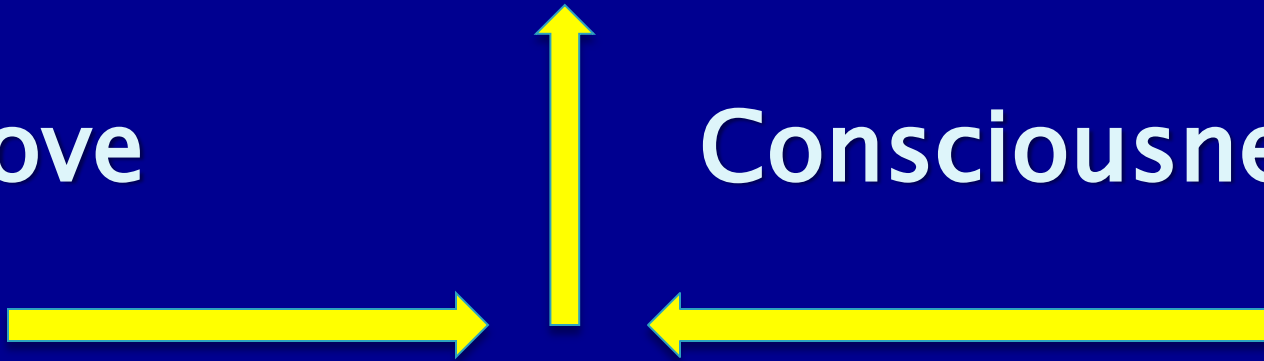
# Teilhard's Phenomenology of Love

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

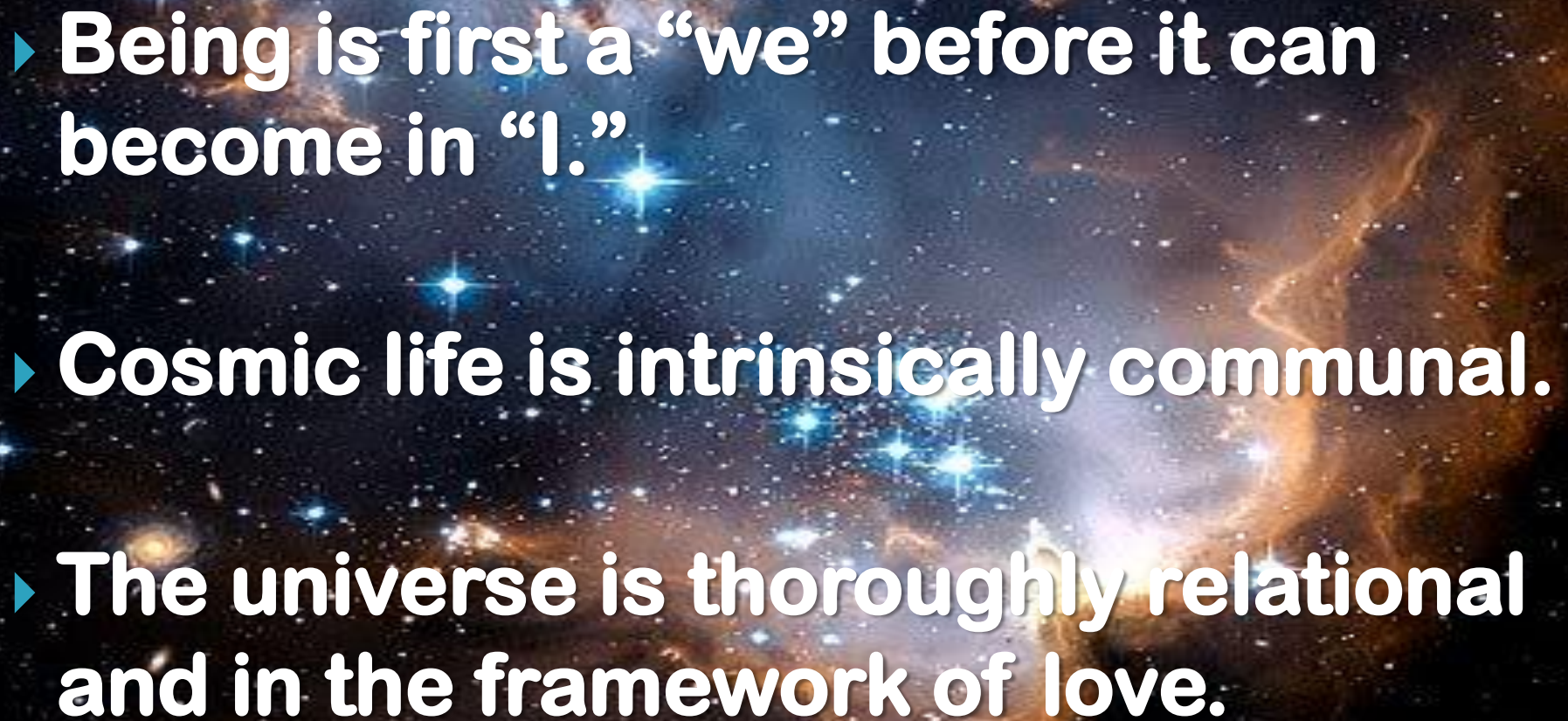
Physical reality:


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. . .*



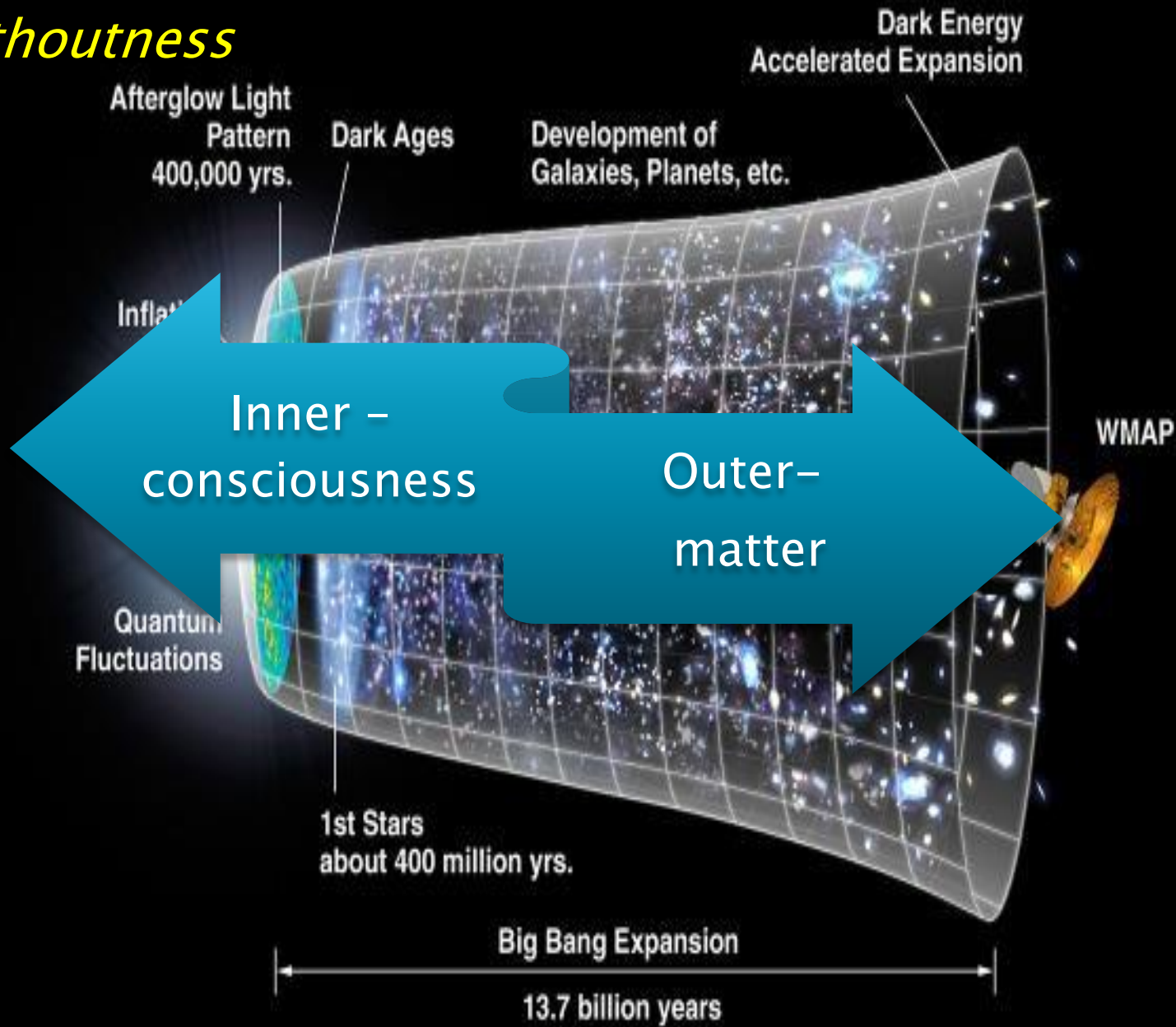
*Toward more consciousness*

*“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 in a dark suit stands on a dark, jagged rock formation in the foreground. The background is a vast, dark night sky filled with stars and the glowing, colorful bands of the Milky Way galaxy. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**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?**