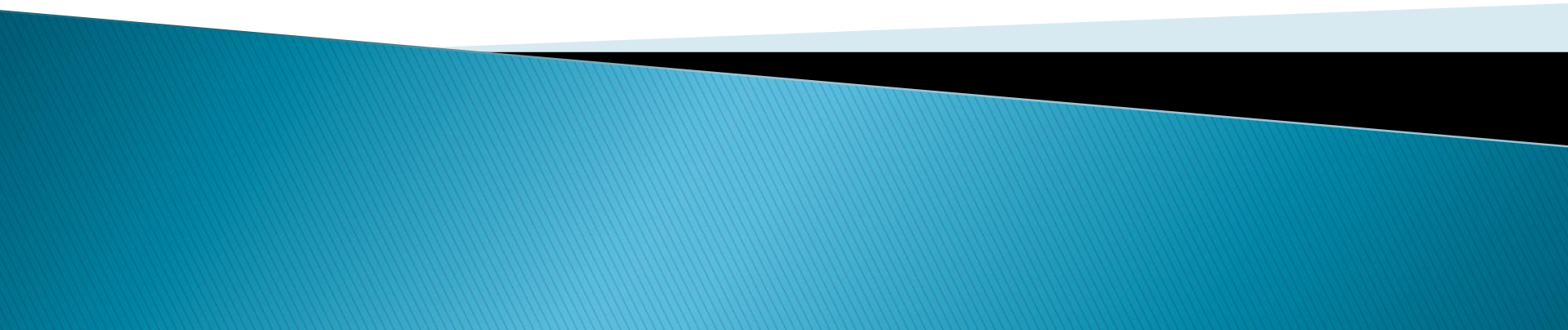
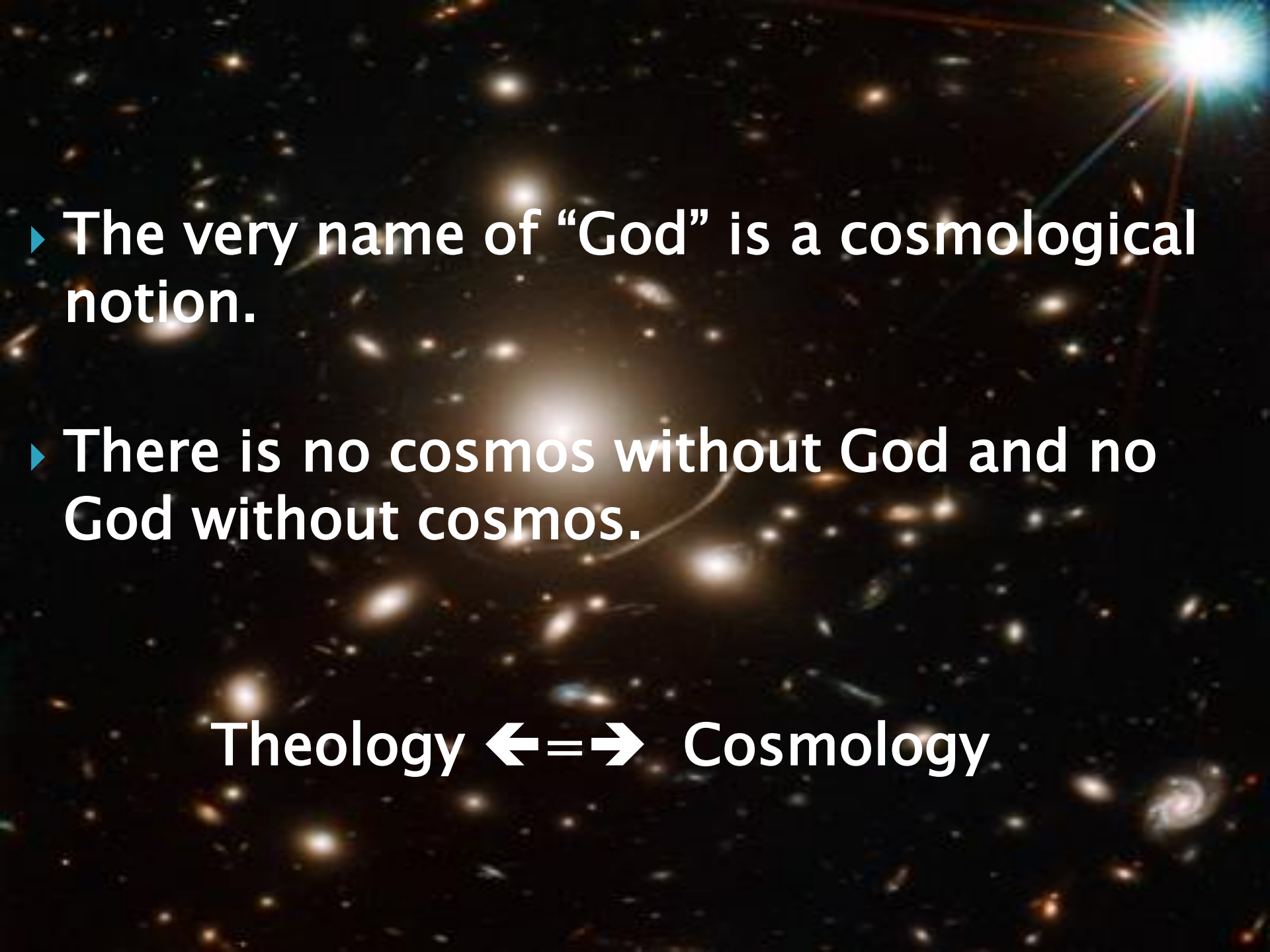


# Consciousness & Christogenesis: Mind, Matter & Emerging Wholeness

Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
May 6, 2017



- 
- ▶ The very name of “God” is a cosmological notion.
  - ▶ There is no cosmos without God and no God without cosmos.

Theology  $\leftrightarrow$  Cosmology

# Towards a Theological Metaphysics



***“Who Will  
Give  
Evolution  
Its Own  
God?”***

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin  
*Christianity and Evolution*

# Toward a Renewed Christianity

**“The human world of today has not grown cold but it is ardently searching for a God proportionate to the newly discovered immensities of a Universe whose aspect exceeds the present compass of our power of worship.”**

**People are not ‘a-religious’ but against the narrowness of institutional religion.**



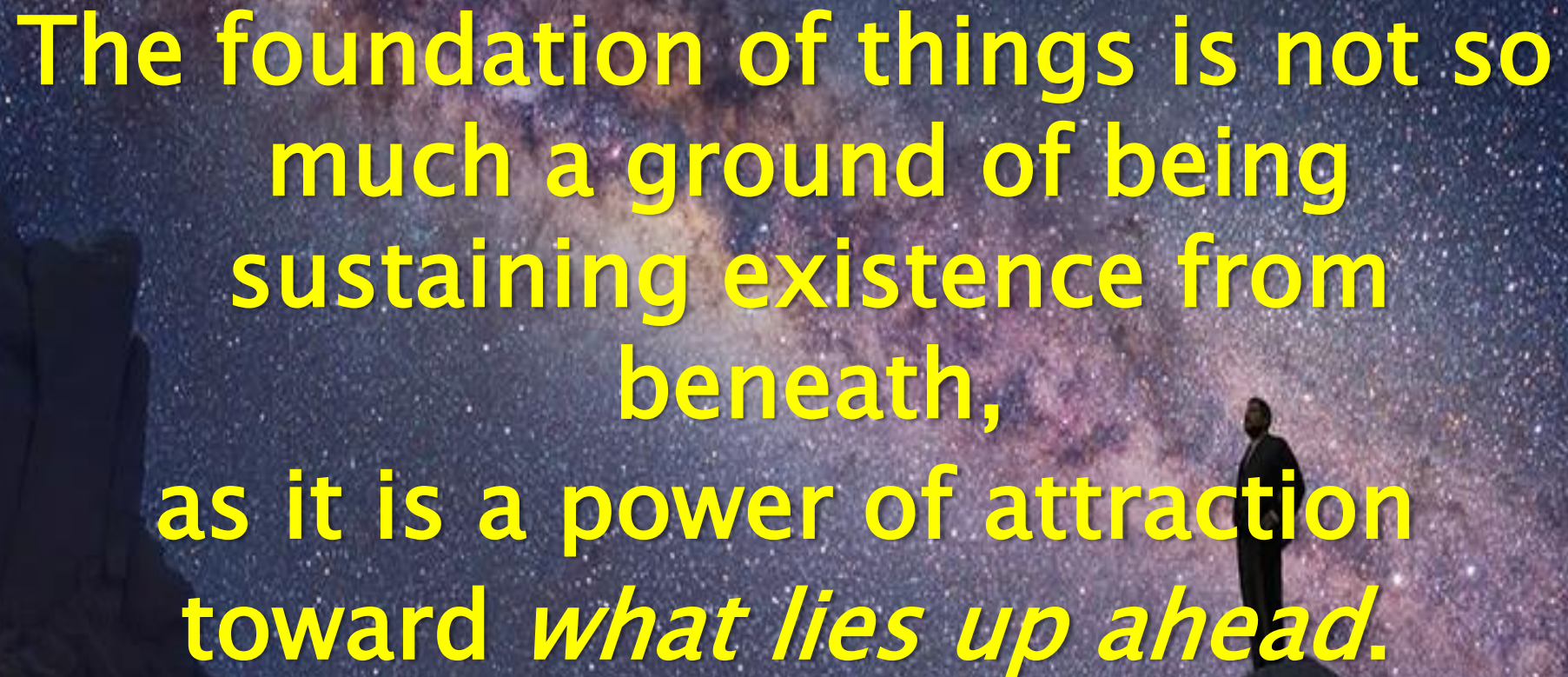
TOWARD MORE CONSCIOUSNESS

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

*Teilhard de Chardin  
Human Energy*

# *Hyperphysics*

The foundation of things is not so much a ground of being sustaining existence from beneath, as it is a power of attraction toward *what lies up ahead*.

A person in a dark suit stands on a dark, jagged rock formation in the foreground. The background is a vast, starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible, creating a sense of looking up at the universe.

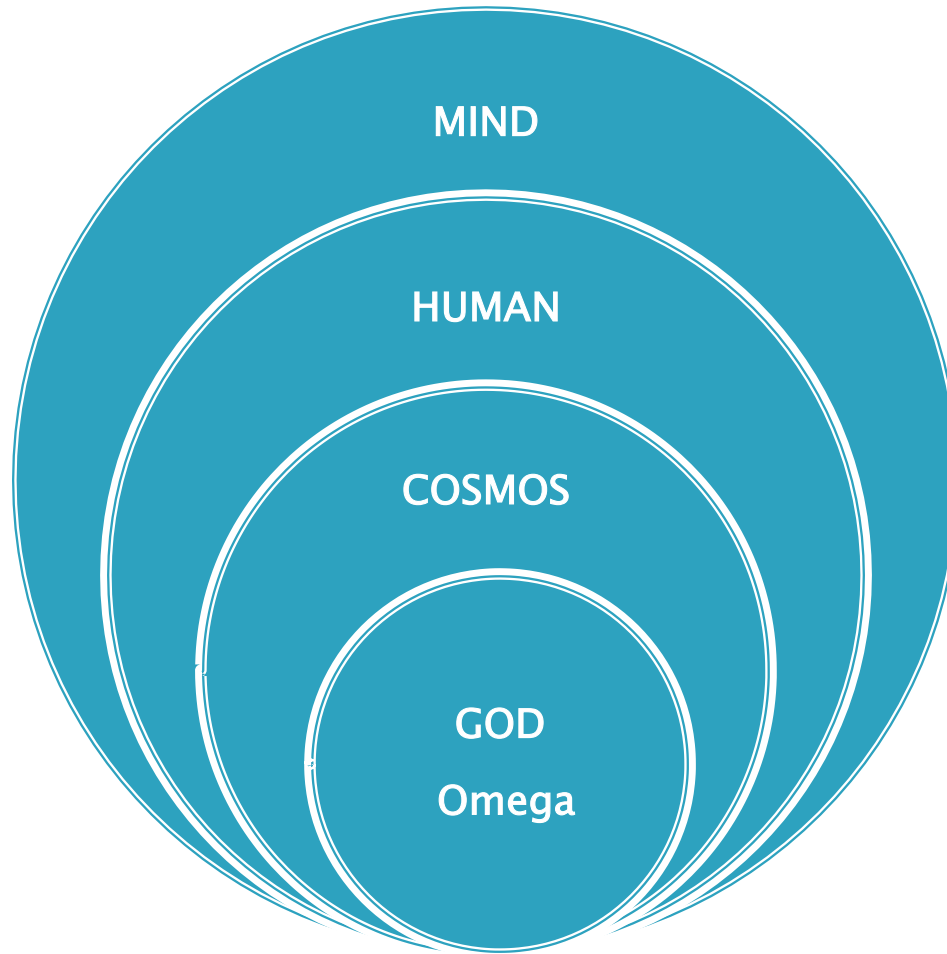


# *Hyperphysics*

*The principle of life in an evolving  
universe is **future**,  
openness of life to more life  
the infinite possibilities of life for  
life.*



# Teilhard de Chardin: GOD-OMEGA



# “Le point vierge”

**“At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our mind or the brutalities of our own will.**

**This little point of nothingness in us, as our poverty, is the pure glory of God in us. . .**

Thomas Merton



The background is a deep space image featuring a vibrant nebula with orange, yellow, and blue hues, set against a black field of distant stars. A large, thick, blue circular arrow with a slight 3D effect is centered on the image, pointing in a clockwise direction. The word "OMEGA" is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font at the top and bottom of the circle.

OMEGA

*“The universe is organically  
resting on the future as its sole  
support.”*

OMEGA



# Classical



# Process



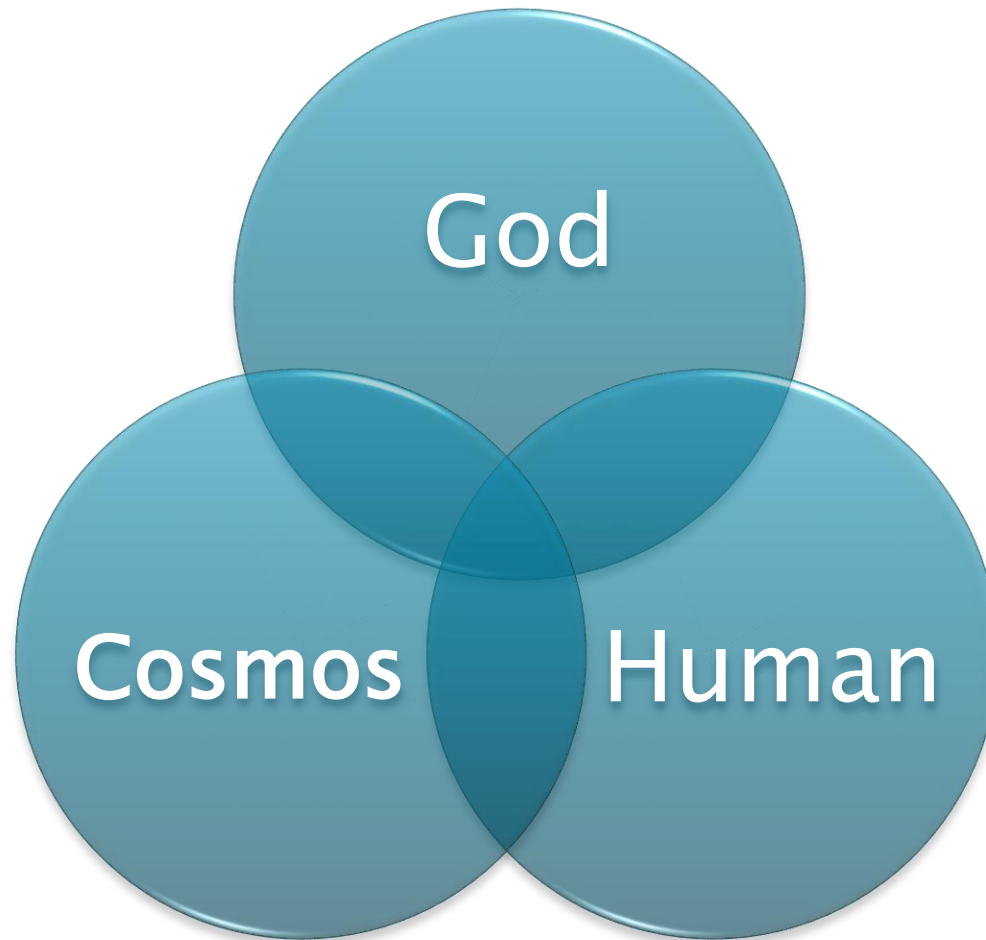
# Cosmotheandris

**The world is not God and God is not the  
world,**

**yet God is the unlimited depth of love  
of all that is;**

**a love that overflows into new life.**

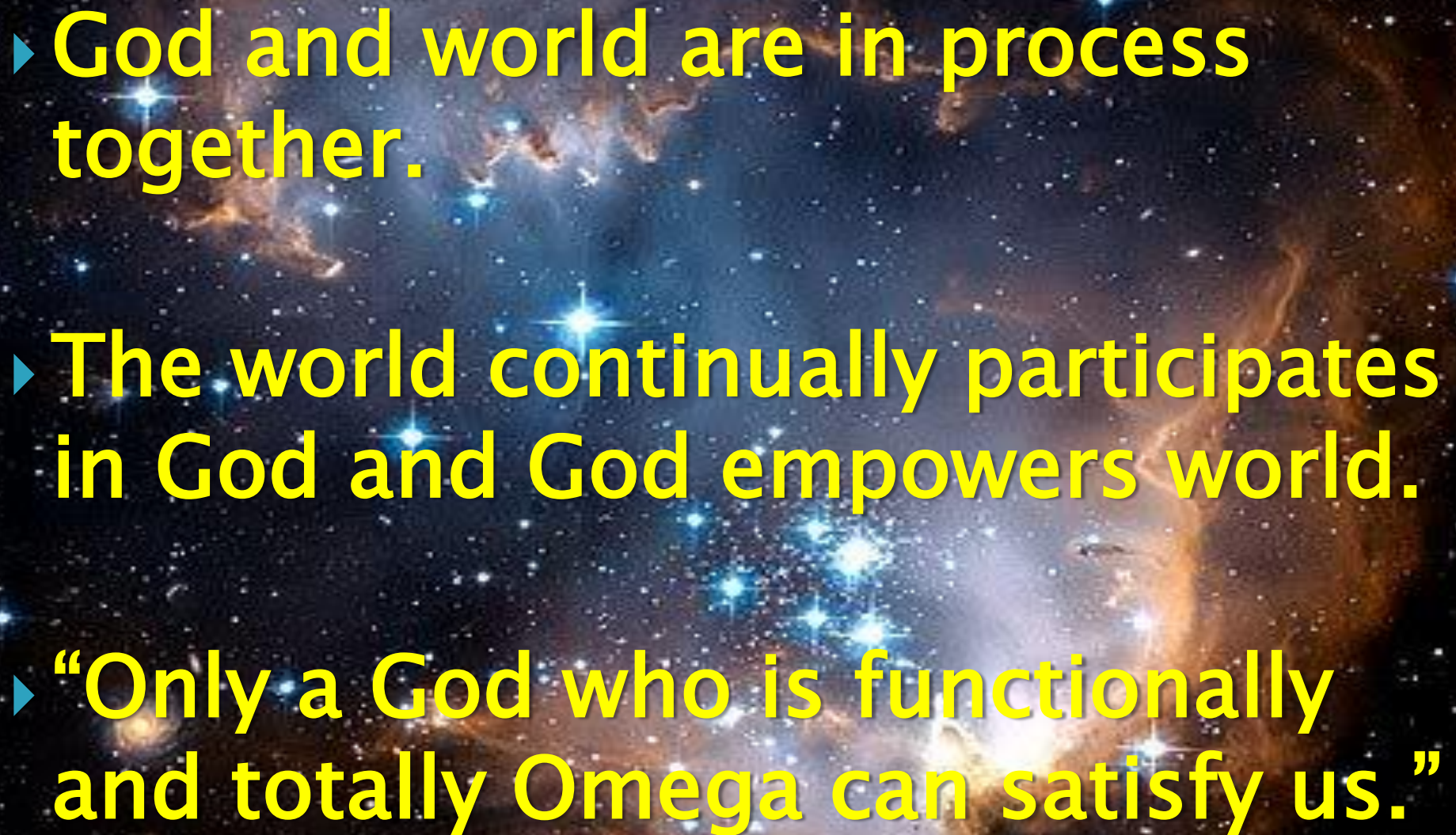
# Cosmotheandris



“God’s fate is in and with the world”

Karl Rahner



- 
- ▶ God and world are in process together.
  - ▶ The world continually participates in God and God empowers world.
  - ▶ “Only a God who is functionally and totally Omega can satisfy us.”



# LOVE

*A Dynamic Universe reflects*

*A Dynamic God*

*Trinity*

# The Name “God”

*Outward moving*  
*Other – centered*  
*Personal gift*  
*Vulnerable love*  
*Hidden*  
*Humble*

# Trinitization

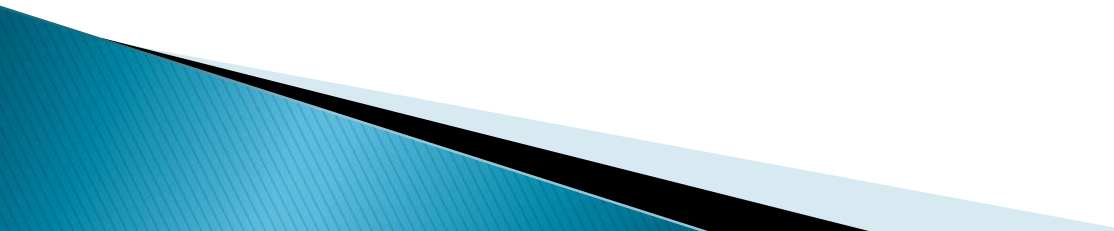
**Panikkar = Trinity is the ultimate triadic structure of reality.**

**Breaks symmetry by its threefoldness and projects agapic love outward, calling new forms of being into existence.**

**Maximum unity**

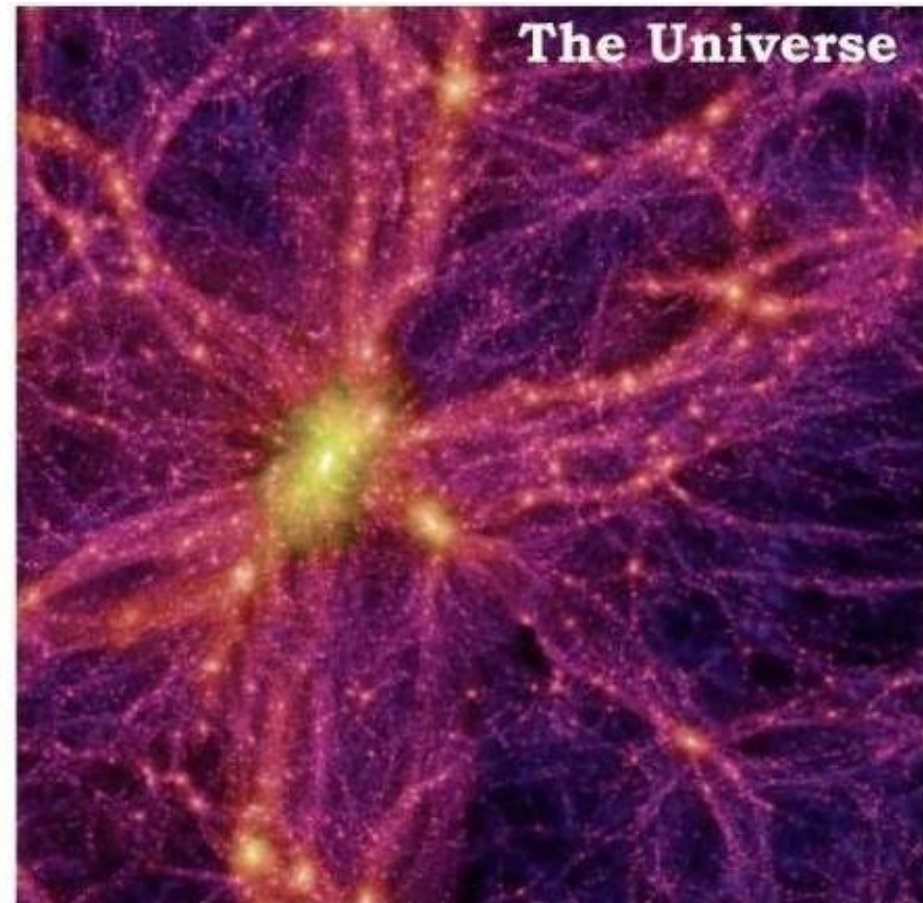
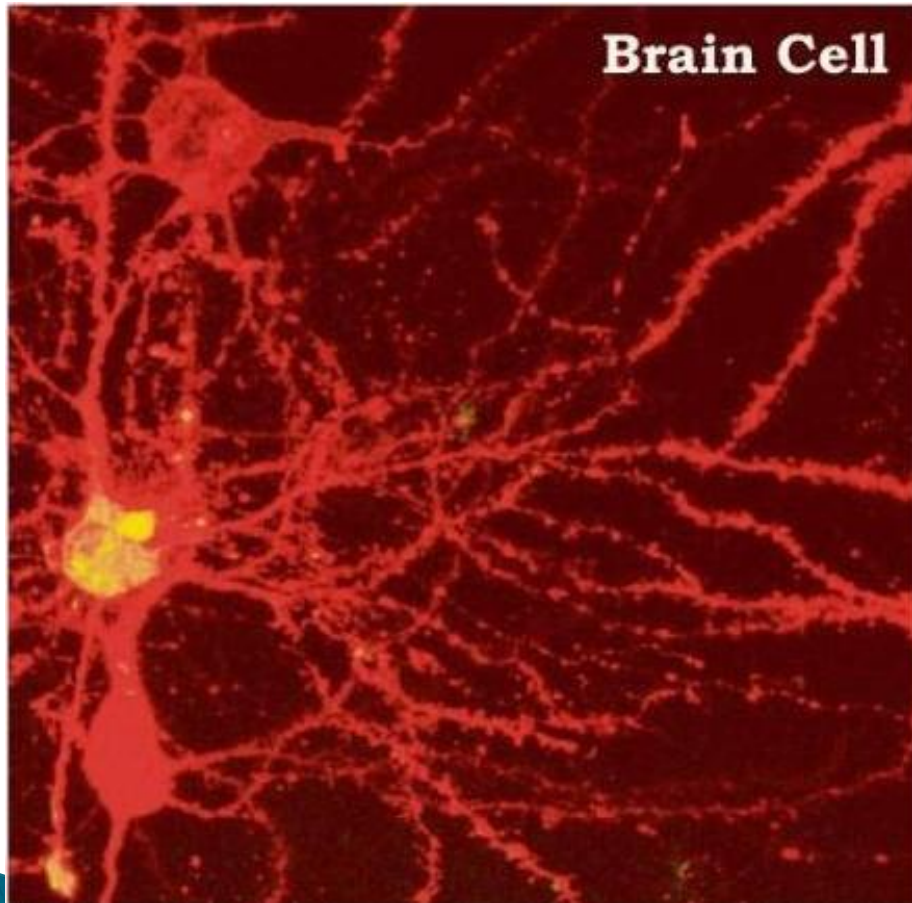
**Maximum differentiation**

**Reconciliation ==> Creative expression**

- ▶ **“In the beginning is relationship” (M. Buber)**
  - ▶ **Everything is because of relationships of interdependence.**
  - ▶ **Individuality emerges in community and the community is the interactions of beings.**
  - ▶ **To be is to be in relationship; to love**
- 



# A relational God empowers a relational universe





# *God: Within and Ahead*

*Theology has thought of God  
too much from the past:*


*Must now think of God from  
the future*

*a God who does new things.*

*“God is the newest thing there is,  
the youngest thing there is.  
God is the beginning and  
if we are united to God  
we become new again.”*

Meister Eckhart

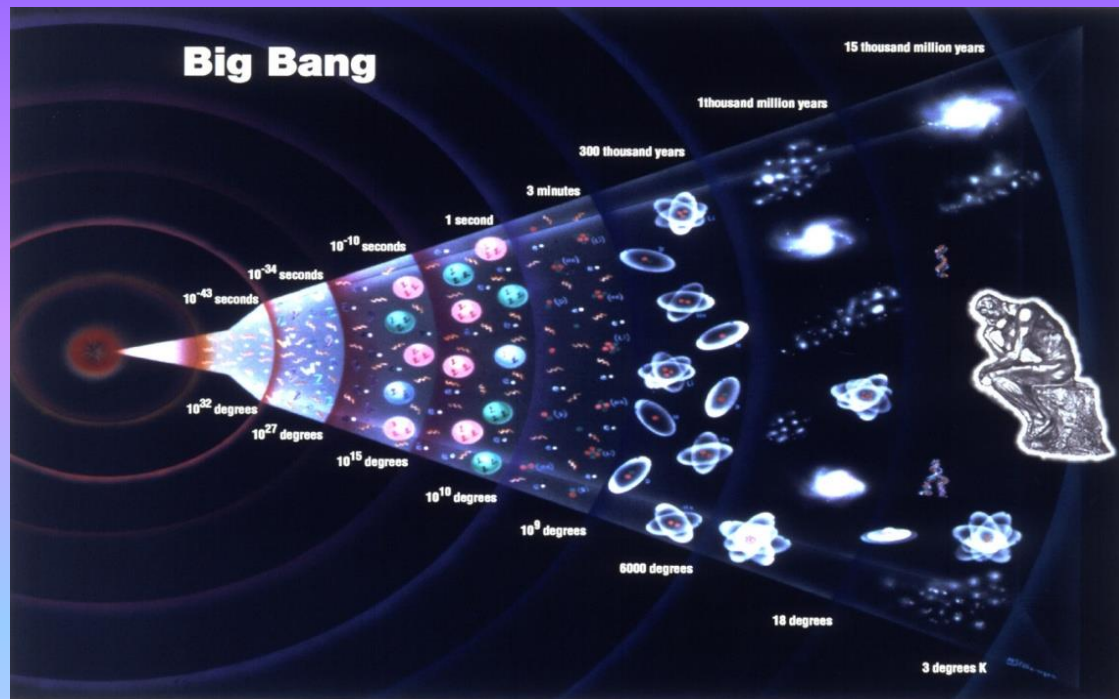




*“The Spirit of God has filled  
the universe with  
possibilities and therefore,  
from the very heart of  
things, something new can  
always emerge”* [LS 80]

# *CHRIST IN EVOLUTION*

*What is the meaning of Jesus the Christ in a universe that is still coming to be?*



**Second Axial Period Theology**

# What is the Reason for Christ?

## *Anthropological*

Sin

Fall

Need for Redemption

**Original Sin**

## *Theological*

Christ is first in  
God's intention to  
Love

Christ is the motif  
of creation

**Original Love**



God Omega

***THE WORD***

***BECAME***

***EVOLUTION***

# Incarnation

- ▶ The ‘self’ of God is in the ‘self-emptying’ of God; God becoming “element” and thus drawing all things through love into fullness of being.
- ▶ God is not found through opposition to matter (anti-matter) or independent of matter (extra-matter) but through matter (trans-matter).”
  - ▶ We take hold of God in the finite.

# Original Love



*Christ is  
First  
in God's intention  
to love.*



Big Bang

# CHRISTOGENESIS

OMEGA

Creation

Redemption

Incarnation

$10^{-43}$  seconds  
 $10^{-34}$  seconds  
 $10^{-10}$  seconds  
 $10^{-32}$  degrees  
 $10^{27}$  degrees  
 $10^{15}$  degrees

1 second

3 minutes

300 thousand years

1 thousand million years

15 thousand million years

$10^9$  degrees

6000 degrees

18 degrees

3 degrees K



# A PERSONAL UNIVERSE

- ▶ God “speaks” the depths of the divine heart in the rich diversity of creation in and thru the Word.
- ▶ Each being is a “little word” of God.
- ▶ Deep incarnation



# Deep Incarnation

- ▶ Relation between Christ and world is not accidental rather intrinsic connection –
- ▶ This deeper structure of cosmos demands a personal center w/out which evolution could not function to the end.
- ▶ Christ is unifying principle in universe since in him everything is held together; he is energizing principle since all motion originates from final object



# Cosmic Personalization

- ▶ Christ is not ordered to us but we to Christ.
- ▶ The whole creation is made for Christ
- ▶ Christ does not save us *from* the world.
- ▶ Christ is the reason *for* the world.

# The Third Nature of Christ

- ▶ Christ is related organically not simply juridically to the whole cosmos
- ▶ Christ in his third nature is the prime mover of the evolving universe – the ‘evolver’
- ▶ Cosmic nature of Christ
- ▶ Christ the redeemer is Christ the evolver: cosmogenesis is Christogenesis

Evolution

Towards greater complexity, unity and wholeness



Big Bang



Universe



Life

13.7 Billion Years



Universe  
conscious  
of itself

The Christ Event

Universe Conscious of God within



Formation of the Cosmic Personhood



The Omega Point  
Full Consciousness  
with God

Second Coming

Creation

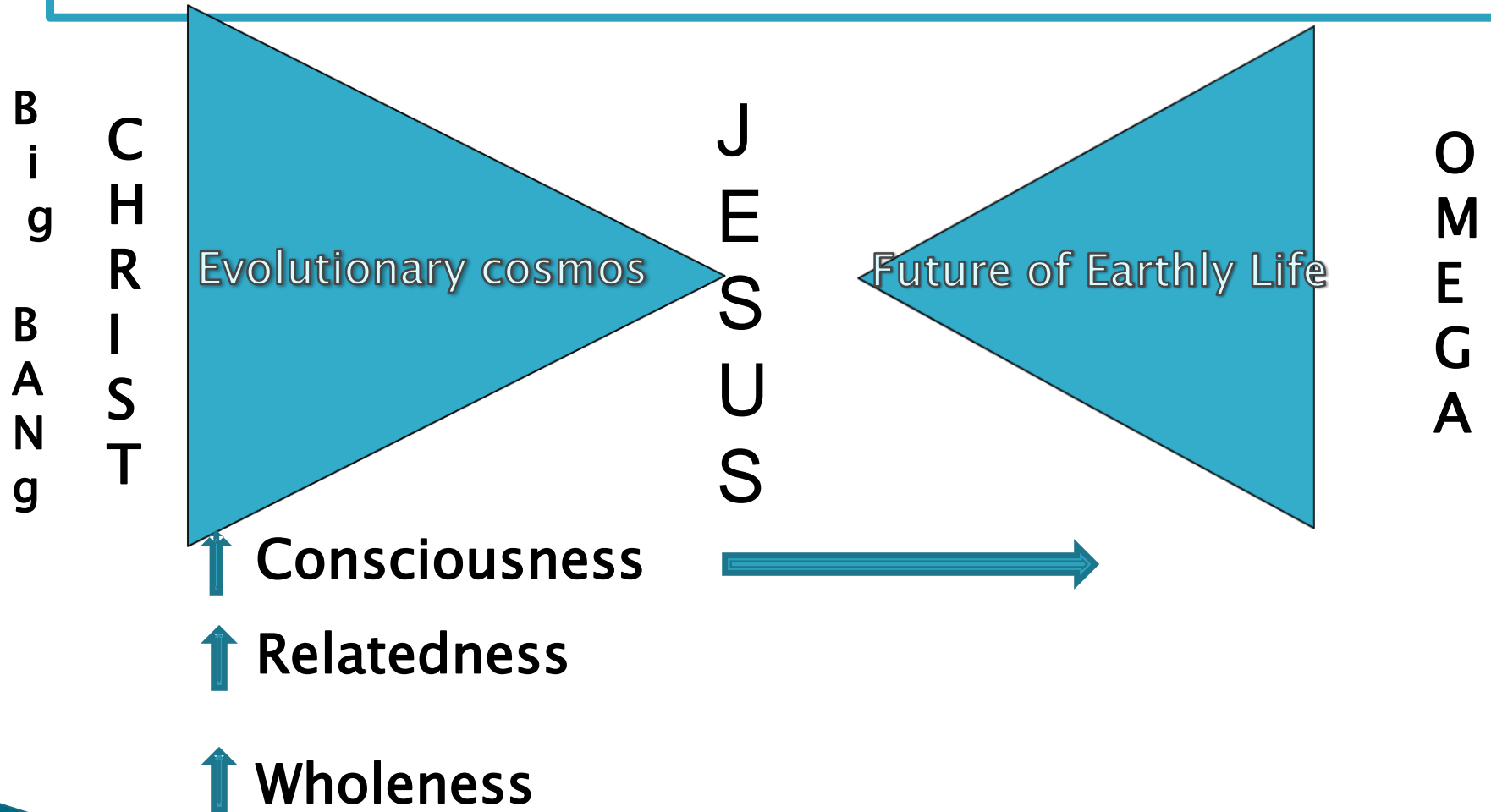
God drawing the universe to greater Consciousness through love

Christogenesis - The Process towards Cosmic Wholeness



*Jesus Christ is not  
the great exception  
to the universe  
but the climax  
of a long development  
whereby the world  
becomes aware of itself  
and comes into the direct presence  
of God.*

# The Evolution of Jesus



# Christ and Consciousness

- With Jesus emerges a new structure of existence; a new consciousness.
- In Jesus we find the Hebraic ethically responsible individual and the intense experience of God's immediacy.
- Faith in God liberates individual to accept the full implications of one's freedom and responsibility.



# Jesus, the Christ

## A new “centration” in the universe

- ▶ Jesus enters the evolutionary trajectory bringing all *newness* in himself, bringing the needed transformation.
- ▶ the event of Christ brings a *new directionality into evolution*, at its culmination in the human person.
- ▶ A *power of newness* comes into the human person, into the heart and mind: a new *creativity* that is divine and human at once.

# Jesus, the Whole Maker

***“I came so that you may have life and have it more abundantly” (Jn 10:10).***

Salvation: to heal and make whole  
***A HEALTHY LIFE FOR A HEALTHY COSMOS***

# Jesus, the Wholemaker

***“Jesus saw there was no separation between himself and any other person. . . .He saw all human beings (and indeed the whole created universe) as part of himself.”***

**Jim Marion**



# Jesus: The New Person

- ▶ Jesus as Cyborg – hybridized with divinity
- ▶ Jesus as Mutation – pure altruism beyond biological necessity
- ▶ Jesus as Strange Attractor
- ▶ Jesus as Person– spondic energy
- ▶ Jesus as new structure of existence

# Transcendent Personhood

- ▶ Living out of a center of spondic energy
- ▶ “I am! May you Be!”
- ▶ The “I” is God’s creative activity

**The life of Jesus reveals  
the inner depth of nature  
to be open to God,  
open to hybridization,  
to becoming something new.**



***“Whoever believes in me  
will also do the works that I do;  
and greater works than these will s/he do,  
because I am going to the Father.”***

**Jn 14:12**

# Resurrection

*The resurrection of Jesus Christ speaks of  
a new future for the whole cosmos,  
“the invasion of the present  
by the power of  
what is yet to come.”*

*New unity with God and cosmos*

# Resurrection

- Breakthrough to a new level of individuated *consciousness*. . . a new basis from which to understand human destiny.
- Emergence of a new sense of selfhood.
- New sense of what it means to belong to cosmos.

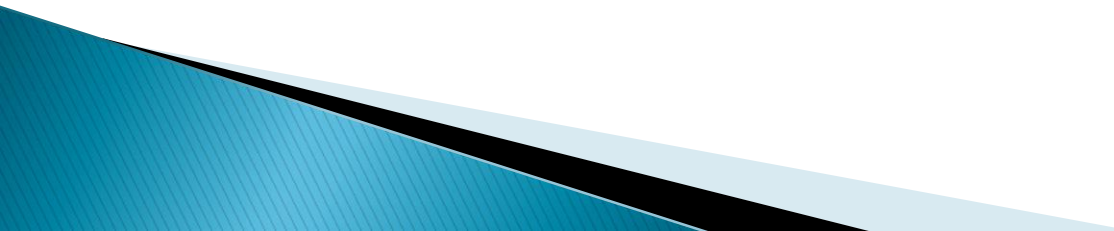


# Quantum Resurrection

- ▶ Belief in the resurrection of Jesus undergirds the fact that *life creates the universe*, not the other way round.
- ▶ Space and time are not absolute; rather they are “tools of our mind” to help organize our world.
- ▶ Death and immortality exist in a world without spatial or linear boundaries.
- ▶ Every act of physical death is an act of new life in the universe. The resurrection of Jesus speaks to us of new life.

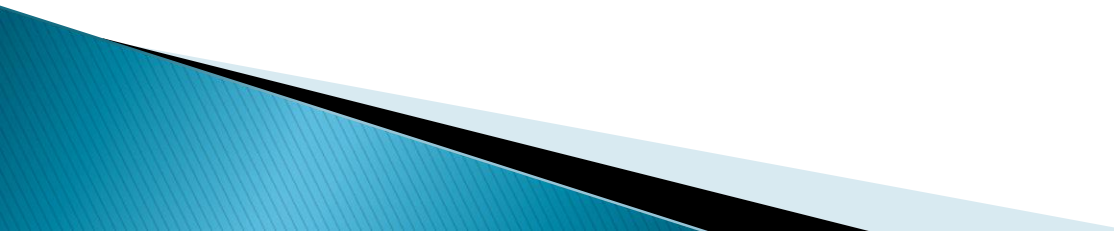
# Resurrection of Jesus


- ▶ Jesus lives on in heart of the universe in a new relatedness; his death was not the end but the beginning of new life in God.
- ▶ Resurrection means that we too will live on to the extent that we live now
- ▶ The magnitude of our relatedness is the breadth of our lives, and the degree to which we live on in the evolution of life.

- ▶ While I am alive that other is “me” – my many selves that I am becoming; after I am dead, that other is you because my own self is woven into yours.
  - ▶ Thus I am always investing my future in another.
- 



# Resurrection: Christic Consciousness

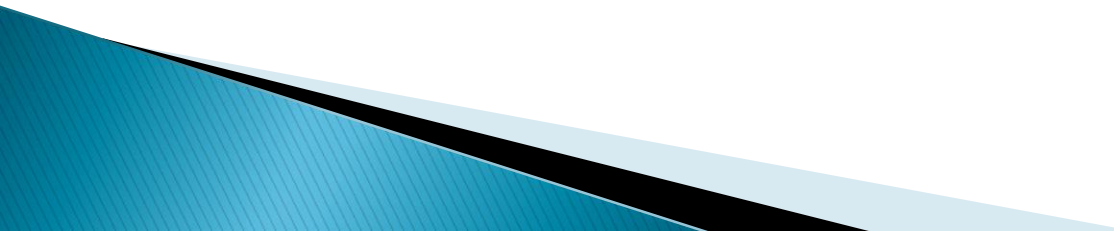
- ▶ Resurrection expresses the core of revelation: to be alive is to be constantly in the process of becoming a new creation, open to and resting on the future.
  - ▶ The experience/consciousness of Jesus Christ as alive and active in the world
  - ▶ Basis of a new structure of existence
- 

The background of the slide is a vibrant cosmic scene. It features a large, swirling nebula in shades of purple, pink, and blue, set against a dark space filled with numerous stars of varying brightness. The overall effect is one of vastness and celestial beauty.

*“We cannot be saved  
except  
through the universe  
and  
as a continuation  
of  
the universe.”*

*Teilhard de Chardin*

# Reflection

- ▶ What challenges you?
  - ▶ What do you fear?
  - ▶ What do you find hopeful?
- 

# Created CoCreators

Biological evolution has not ended with us.

We are part of an ongoing cosmic process that demands our commitment to it.

*“New wine must be put into  
new wineskins”*



# God's Life is Our Life

- ▶ We affect God's own relational life.
- ▶ God is inviting us to build our selves, one another, and the whole earth for eternity.
- ▶ What happens in time to and through us does not disappear into a past but is *preserved in God*.
- ▶ We *make a difference to the eternal God*.

# Christogenesis

- ▶ A Christogenic universe calls us to recognize that connectedness is a basic reality of our existence.

*We are wholes within wholes.*

- ▶ All we do affects all the other wholes of which we are apart and all the other parts that make us whole.

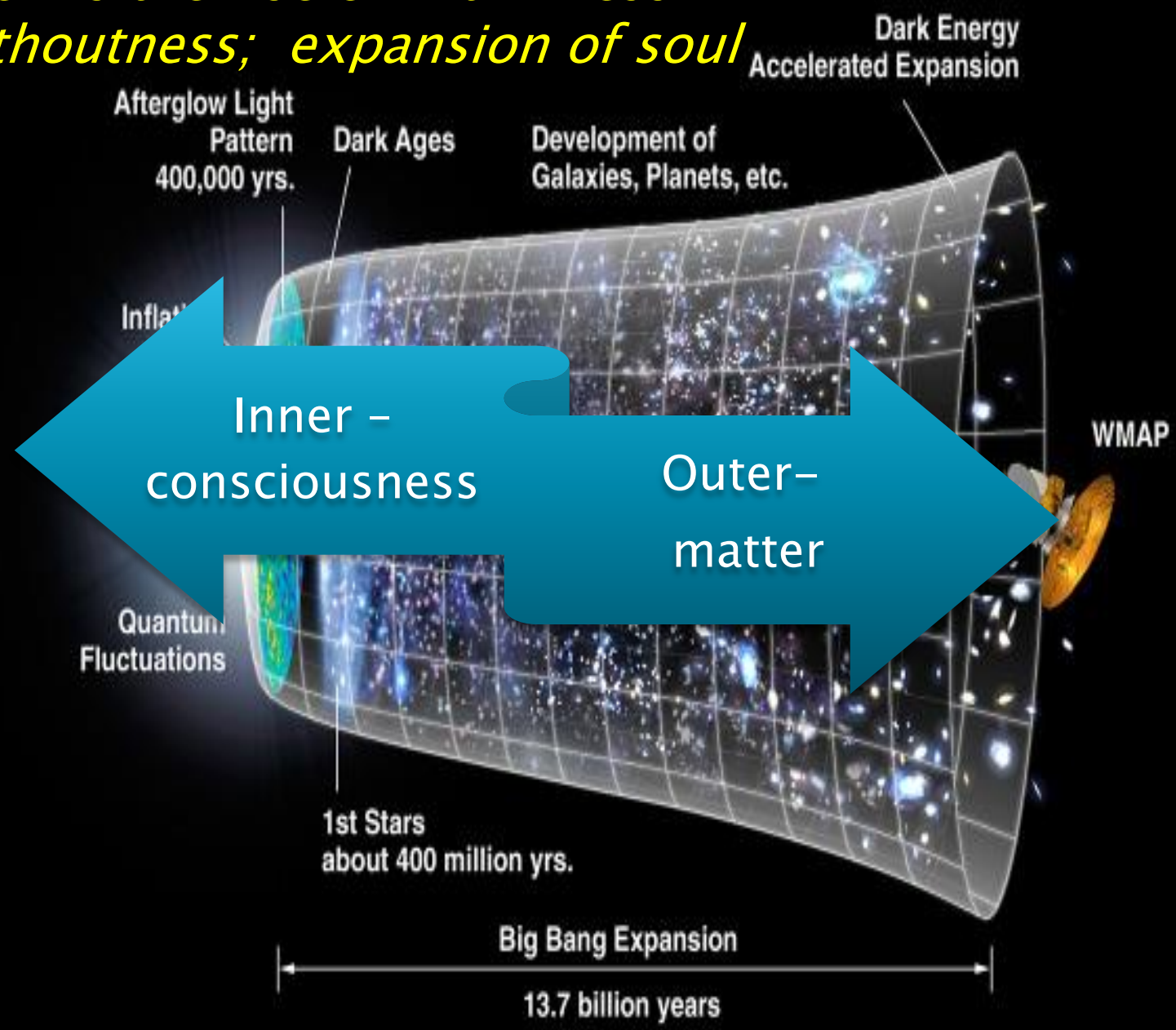


The background is a deep blue with a complex, abstract pattern of glowing, translucent blue lines and curves. A central, bright, multi-colored (pink, orange, yellow) fractal-like pattern radiates outwards, creating a sense of depth and energy. The overall effect is ethereal and futuristic.

***We are wired  
to be active players  
in evolution.***

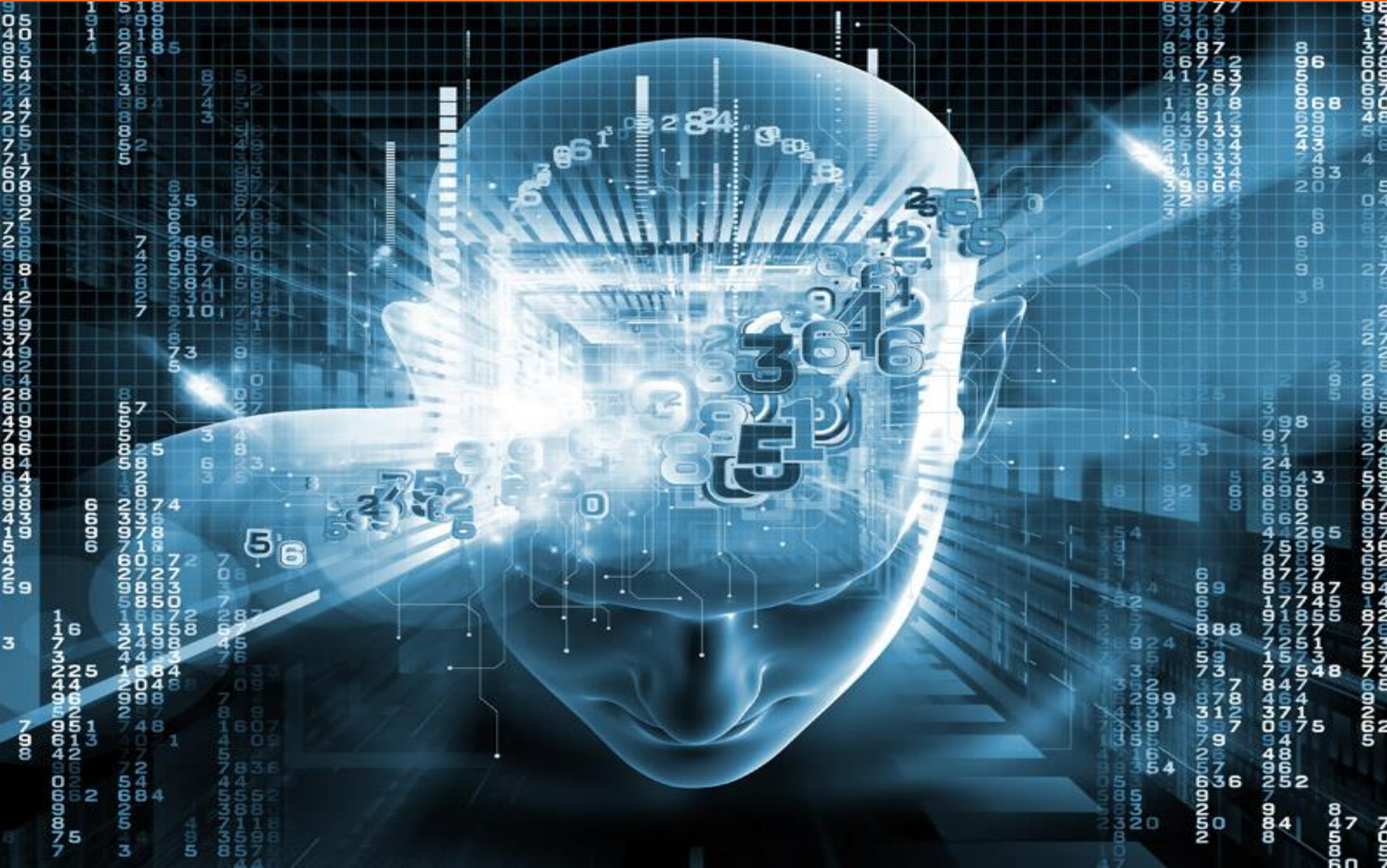
***The human person is a cooperator  
with God in the transformation  
of the universe.***

*Evolution is the rise of withinness  
and withoutness; expansion of soul*





# Are We Losing Our Minds?



# Loss of sacred space

- ▶ Modern science has systematically dismantled our western understandings of sacred space, leaving God, heaven, and the souls of the dead with no particular place to go.
- ▶ The understanding of and mastery over physical space, from astrophysics to genetics, has meant a loss of spiritual space in the physical world.

Margaret Wertheim

# The Age of Cyborgs

A cyborg is a human who has certain physiological processes aided or controlled by mechanical or electronic devices.

- ▶ a hybrid of biology and machine.

Frankenstein  
Space travel  
Bionic man





- ▶ A cyborg body is not bounded by the skin but includes all external pathways along which information can travel.
- ▶ Boundaries have meaning only for particular, locatable and embodied subjects.





# Cyborgs

What counts  
as human is  
not and  
should not be  
self-evident.

HUMAN

CYBORG



# Toward Posthumanity

**“In the posthuman, there are no essential differences, or absolute demarcations, between bodily existence and computer simulation, cybernetic mechanism and biological organism, robot technology and human goals.”**

# *Cyborg-ization*

- ▶ Not a “thing”
- ▶ An Iterative Process
  - Level 1: Use of machines
  - Level 2: Self-borne technology
  - Level 3: Bio-integrated technology
  - Level 4: Replication/transmission of technologic modification(s)
  - Level 5: Fusion of biology and technology (“*Naturoids*”)





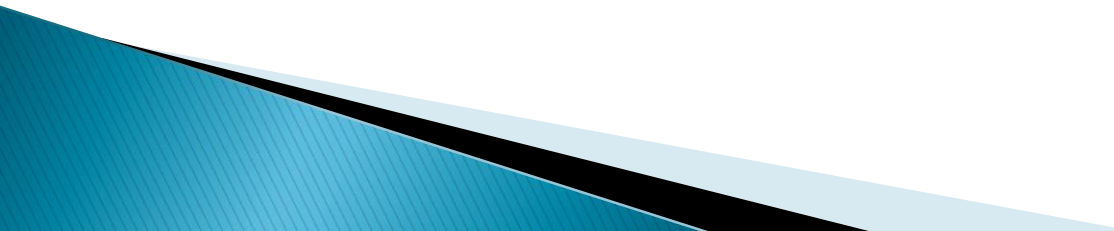
# The New Space of Transcendence

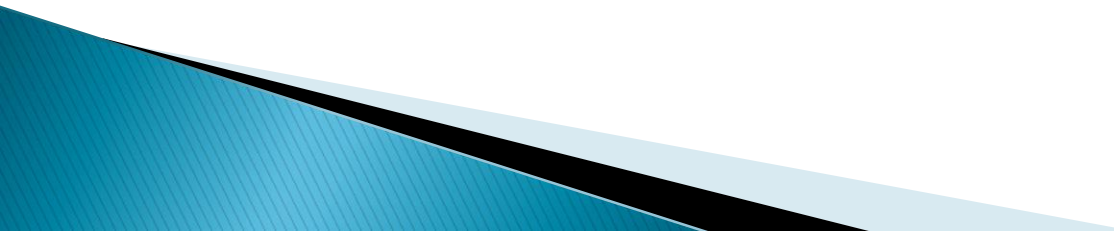




# *Alone Together: why we expect more from our technologies and less from one another*

- ▶ Technology “makes it easy to communicate when we wish and to disengage at will.”
- ▶ “Once we remove ourselves from the flow of physical, messy, untidy life — and both robotics and networked life do that — we become less willing to get out there and take a chance.”
- ▶ *‘And if you think I’m not the one, log off, log off, and we’ll be done.’*

- ▶ **Interpersonal emotions are being shaped by our relationships with technology**
  - ▶ **Constant computer use may lead to:**
    - **impatience**
    - **forgetfulness**
    - **impulsive behavior**
    - **narcissicism**
    - **oblivotron**
    - **loneliness is on the rise**
- 

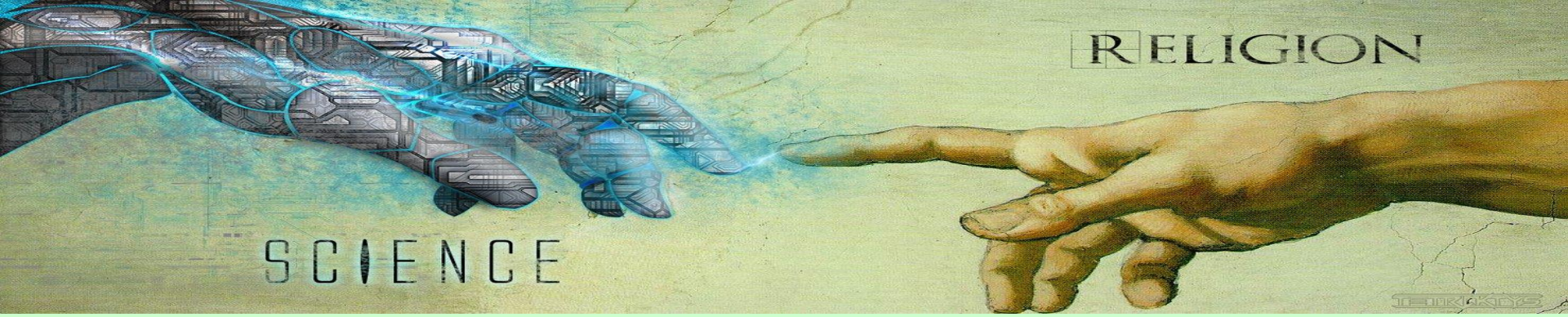
- ▶ **We respond to machines not as tools to use but as role models to emulate.**
  - ▶ **As people act upon this proclivity, the isolation and loneliness of modern life is being increased.**
- 

# Technology: Digital Dualism

**"We are in a process of making one another disappear by living more of our lives apart from other humans in the company of machines."**







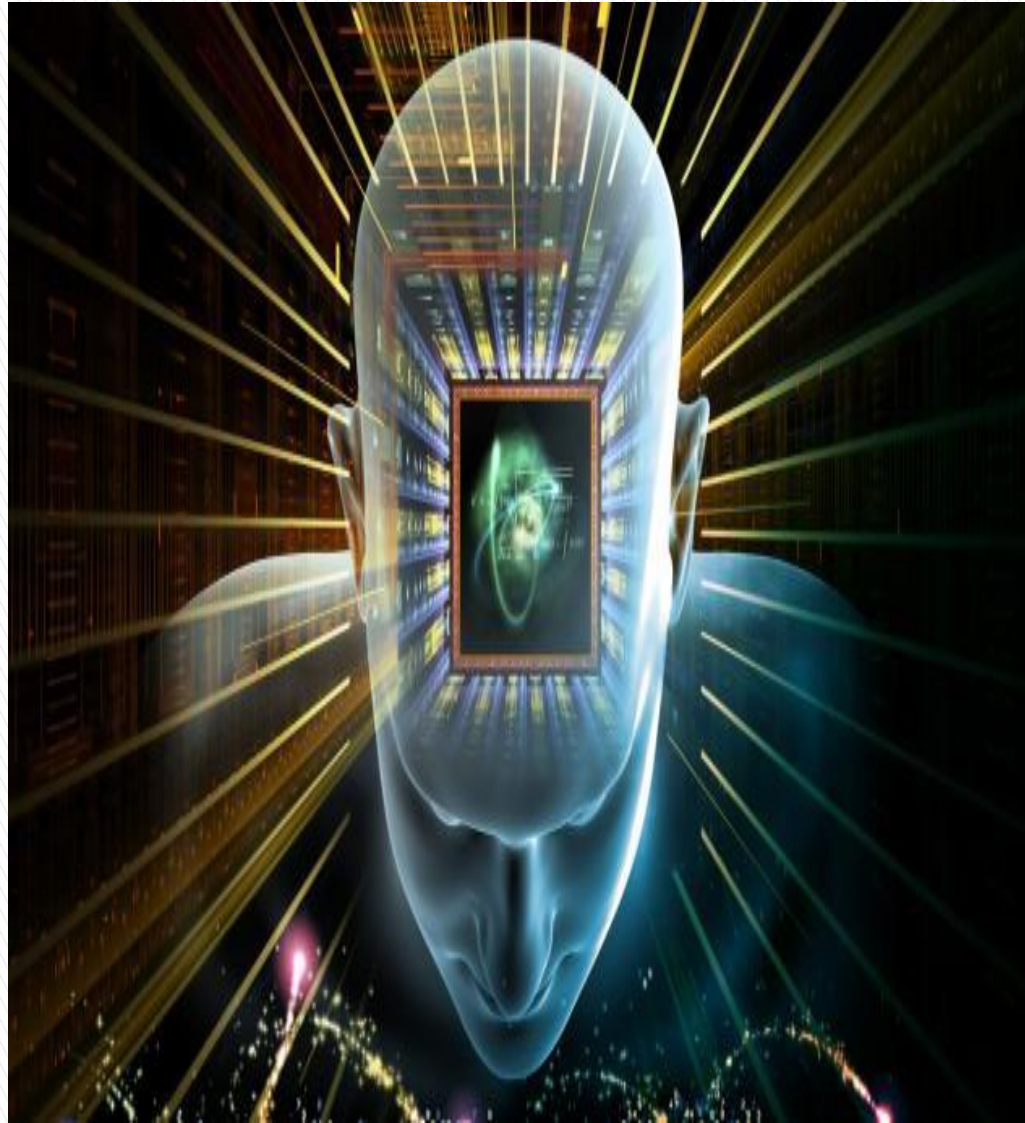
**Cyberspace now fills a  
psychological,  
religious void  
in modern life.**

# The Singularity

**Ray Kurzweil – Singularity  
2045**

**Hans Moravec –  
intelligent machines will  
provide humanity with  
personal immortality  
by mind transplant.**

**Rothblatt: Mindclones,  
Mindfiles, Mindware**



# Transhumanism


*Technology will fulfill  
what religion  
promises*

# CyberSalvation

- ▶ D. Crevier argues that A.I. is consistent with the Christian belief in resurrection and immortality. “Christ was resurrected in a new body, why not a machine?”
  - ▶ A. Jackelen – the development toward *techno sapiens* might well be regarded as a step toward the kingdom of God.
- “What else can we say when the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and the dead are at least virtually alive?”



# Cybernetic Heaven

- ▶ Through technology we will be able to overcome the limitations of the body, including suffering and death—and attain artificial eschatological paradise.
  - ▶ Over such a cyber world human beings can enjoy a god-like instant access.
  - ▶ Avatars; 2<sup>nd</sup> life
- 



Future  
Community?

# What is at Stake?

- ▶ **Cosmic dislocation:** Technology evokes mental wormholes, circumventing space–time coordinates. Our mental coordinates (maps) are disassociated from our physical surroundings.
- ▶ **Shallow Thinking:** Exporting the human self onto technology is giving rise to shallow thinking. Losing the depth dimension of interiority.
- ▶ **Religious transcendence:** Cosmo–religious transcendence is now supplanted by techno–transcendence. “Technology will fulfill what religion promises.”



# Teilhard de Chardin: the Noosphere

***We should consider inter-thinking humanity as a new type of organism whose destiny it is to realize new possibilities for evolving life on this planet.”***





# Big Bang

15 thousand million years

1 thousand million years

300 thousand years

3 minutes

1 second

$10^{-10}$  seconds

$10^{-34}$  seconds

$10^{-43}$  seconds

$10^{32}$  degrees

$10^{27}$  degrees

$10^{15}$  degrees

$10^{10}$  degrees

$10^9$  degrees

6000 degrees

18 degrees

3 degrees K

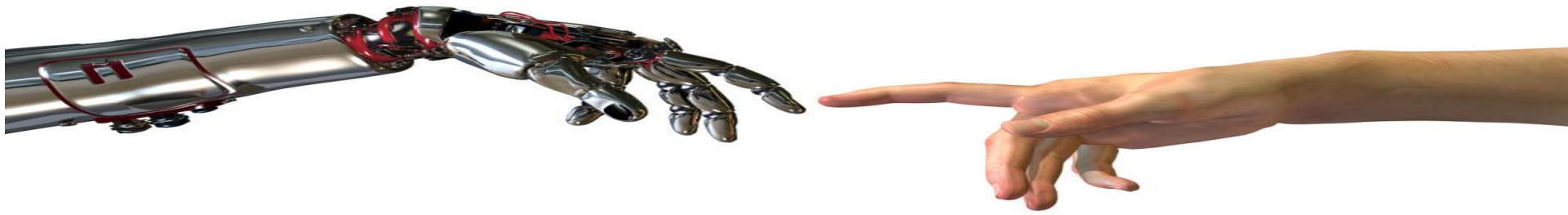
## Christogenesis

## Biogenesis

## Noogenesis

## Cosmogenesis

With the human,  
mind reflects on matter

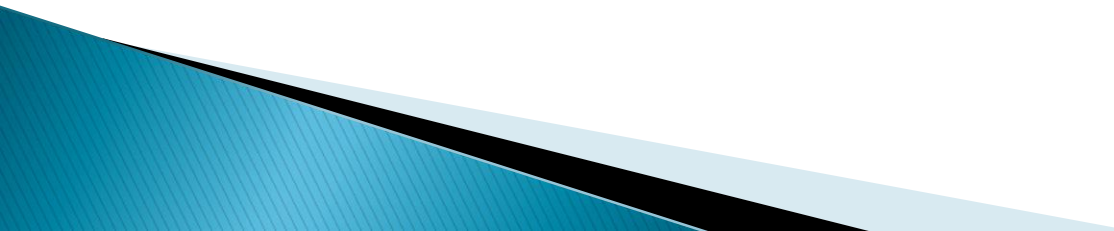


Teilhard saw the role of technology as one of convergence, that is, drawing hearts and minds together toward a collective mind – the noosphere.

- Integral to the noosphere is the *role of love* and “the rise of our inward horizon of a cosmic spiritual center...the rise of God.”

Teilhard did *not* anticipate *the perfection of being* through artificial means; rather, for him evolution is *progression toward more being*.

*“It is not well-being but a hunger for more-being which can alone preserve the thinking earth from the tedium of life.”*





# Ultrahumanism

*Teilhard saw that Ultrahumanism could be the next level of evolution on the level of noosphere-- expansion of community through greater unity.*





# Ultrahumanism

- ▶ Not perfection of being through artificial means; rather, evolution toward *more being*.
- ▶ *Materialism* can bring about *well being*
- *Spirituality* and an increase in psychic energy or consciousness brings about *more being*.

# Ultrahumanism

- ▶ **Not perfection** of being through artificial means but evolution toward *more being*.
- More justice
- More peace
- More forgiveness
- More mercy
- More compassion
- More kindness
- More love



# Planetization

**“We should consider inter-thinking humanity as a new type of organism whose destiny it is to realize new possibilities for evolving life on this planet.”**



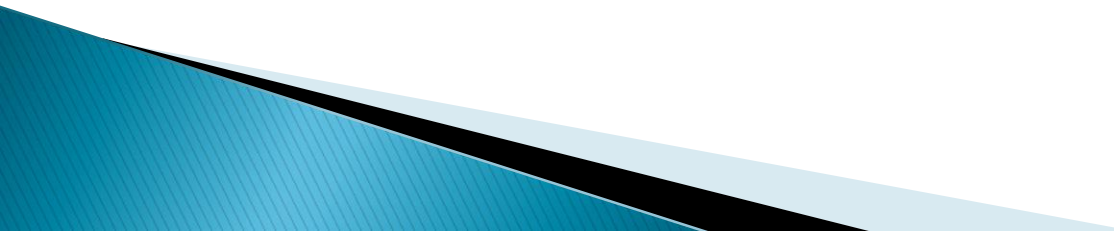


Technology extends the  
outreach of human activity  
but it depends on a broader  
use of human activity and  
*how humans will control  
psychic, spiritual energy  
needs and powers.*





# Reflection

- ▶ What challenges you?
  - ▶ What do you fear?
  - ▶ What do you find hopeful?
- 

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a field of yellow daisies. The flowers have bright yellow petals and dark brown centers. The background is a soft-focus mix of more yellow flowers and green foliage. Overlaid on the upper half of the image is a quote in a stylized blue font with a white outline.

***Where your mind is,  
there  
your treasure lies.***





*"I saw my Lord  
with the eye of my heart,  
and I said  
"Who are you?"  
and he said  
"Your Self."*

Mansur Al-Hallaj (d. 922 AD)





*Our minds  
create the world,  
not the other way  
around.*

# “The outer space within”

*“Through every being single space  
extends  
Outer space within. Through us the  
birds  
Fly silently. Oh, I who’d grow,  
I look outside and in me grows the  
tree.”*

Maria Rainer Rilke

# Evolution/Involution: Putting Mind Back into Matter

- ▶ **INFORMATION AGE and BRAIN FATIGUE**
- ▶ **DEVELOPING a “BUDDHA BRAIN”**
- ▶ **AWAKENING THE RIGHT BRAIN**  
**Higher Level of Consciousness**

**Think to Unify**

**Openness to Life**

# Christogenesis

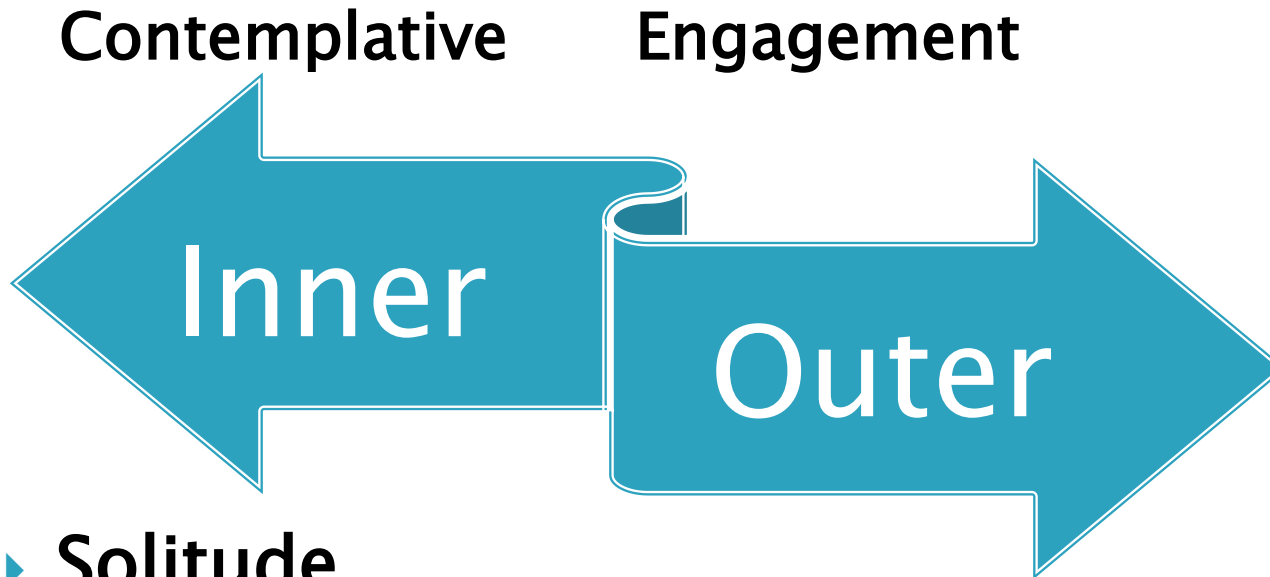
- ▶ A Christogenic universe calls us to recognize that connectedness is a basic reality of our existence.

*We are wholes within wholes.*

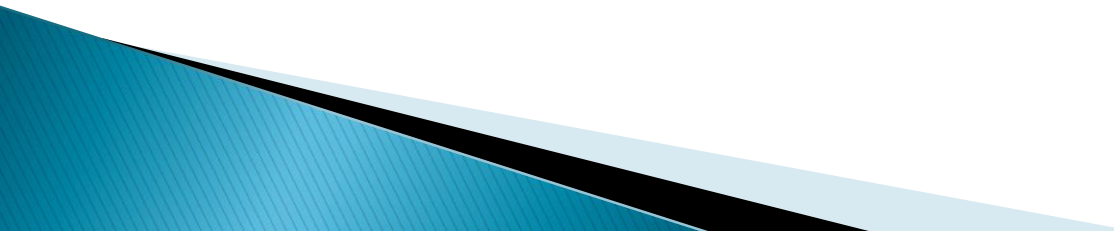
- ▶ All we do affects all the other wholes of which we are apart and all the other parts that make us whole.



# Involution – Evolution



- ▶ Solitude
- ▶ Cyberfasts
- ▶ Prayer/contemplation
- ▶ Harnessing the energies of love

- ▶ **Mind extended through body unifies space.**
  - ▶ **Higher levels of consciousness unify matter and spirit through an inner-outer flow of energy.**
  - ▶ **The brain needs 'downtime' for the mind to quiet itself and focus attention. Higher levels of consciousness unify space.**
- 



The mind is everything.  
What you think  
you become.

*Buddha*



***When inner reality is stronger  
than outer reality  
one can act from choice,  
creating one's own life.***



# Toward Personhood

*Holy Mystery of divine love at the heart of life impels nature to transcend toward holy Oneness.*

*From lower consciousness to higher consciousness*

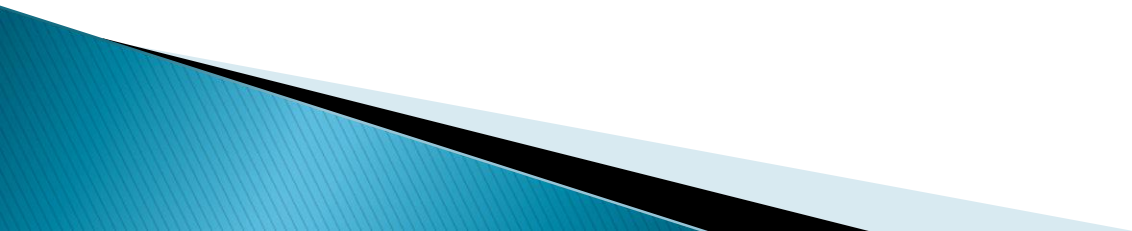


# The Unfinished Self

*The “I” is God’s creative activity.  
It is not something in the past or  
something that is over and done with.*

*It is God’s acting, God’s loving,  
in the present moment –*

*The “I” is the “Now” of  
God’s creative love.*

- ▶ **We evolve to never stop evolving**
  - ▶ **Life ceaselessly begins anew because God is ever newness in love.**
  - ▶ **“Creativity may be seen as the real interior meaning of the act of faith.” [B. Bruteau]**
- 

***“If we really accept creation as ever new,  
and if we ourselves are active participants  
in this ever new creating,  
then we are always  
facing the future.”***

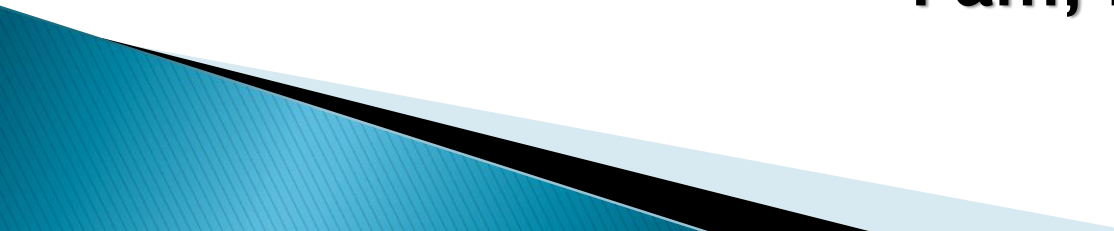
Beatrice Bruteau



# Forgiveness:

## The act of making a new future

- ▶ To engage the present moment as a creative act requires a *consciousness* of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- ▶ If we relate only to the past deeds of others, we will always be at least one step behind where they themselves presently are and thus we will never really be in relationship with *them*, only with their “remains.”

- ▶ **Our act of living must be addressed to the other living person just at the point where that person is on the act of creating the next moment of life.**
  - ▶ **This requires expanding space of our inner universe.**
  - ▶ **An inner freedom; a sponadic energy:  
“I am, may you be!”**
- 

*“Each of us  
moves things along  
in the direction of war  
every time we fail  
in love.”*

Etty Hillesum



*What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination,  
will affect everything.*

Pedro Arrupe, S.J.





**“LOVE BRINGS US TO  
THE THRESHOLD OF  
ANOTHER UNIVERSE.”**

**Teilhard de Chardin**

*Christ is rising up  
in and through us.*

**To become a New Creation means to enter by faith into the future of every person and into the very heart of creativity itself, into the future of God.**

# Christ, the Future

If I am asked: “Who do you say I am?”

***“You are the new and every renewing act of creation.***

***You are all of us, as we are united in You.***

***You are all of us as we live in one another.***

***You are all of us in the whole cosmos as we join in Your exuberant act of creation.***

***You are the Living One who improvises at the frontier of the future;***

***and it has not yet appeared  
what You shall be.”***