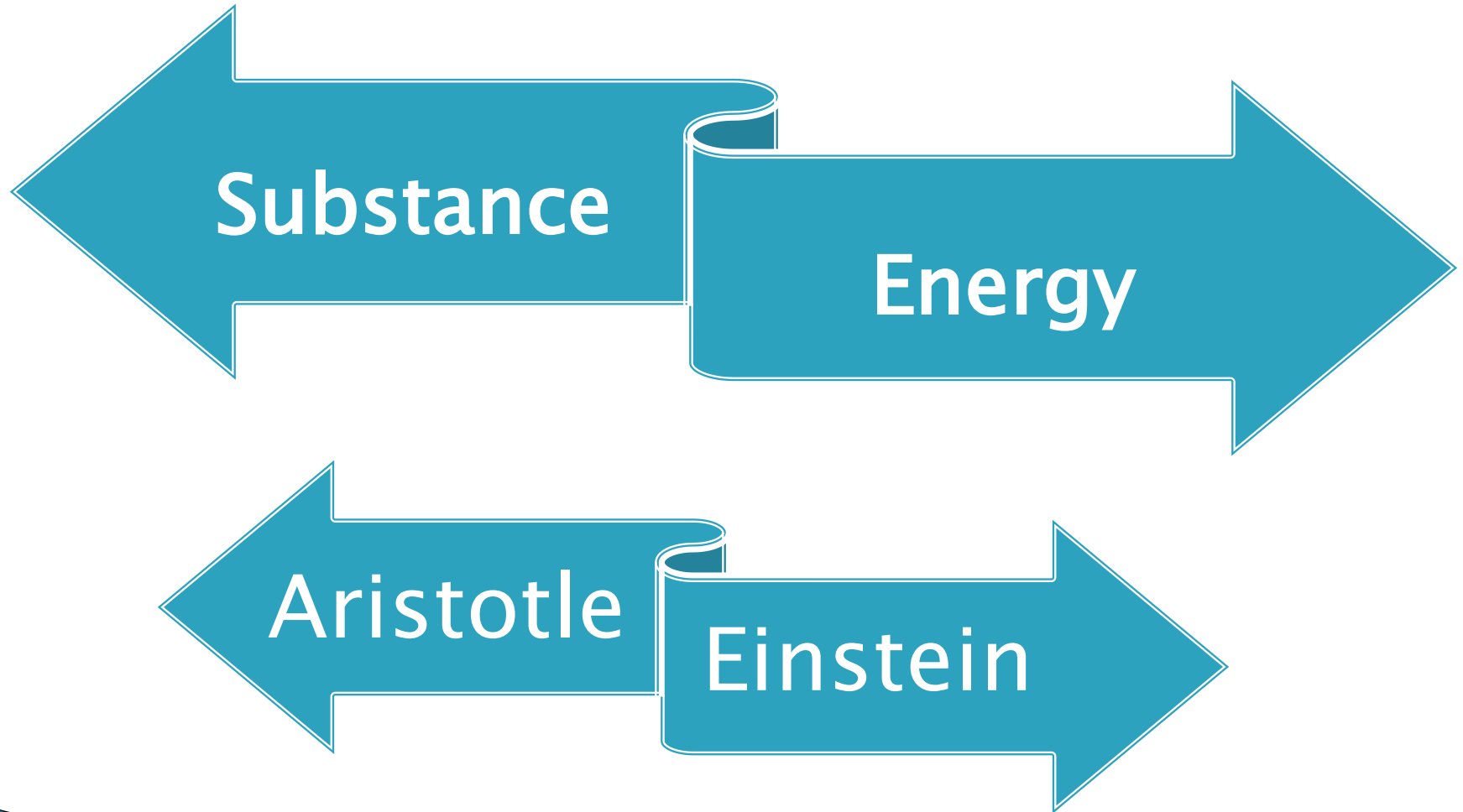


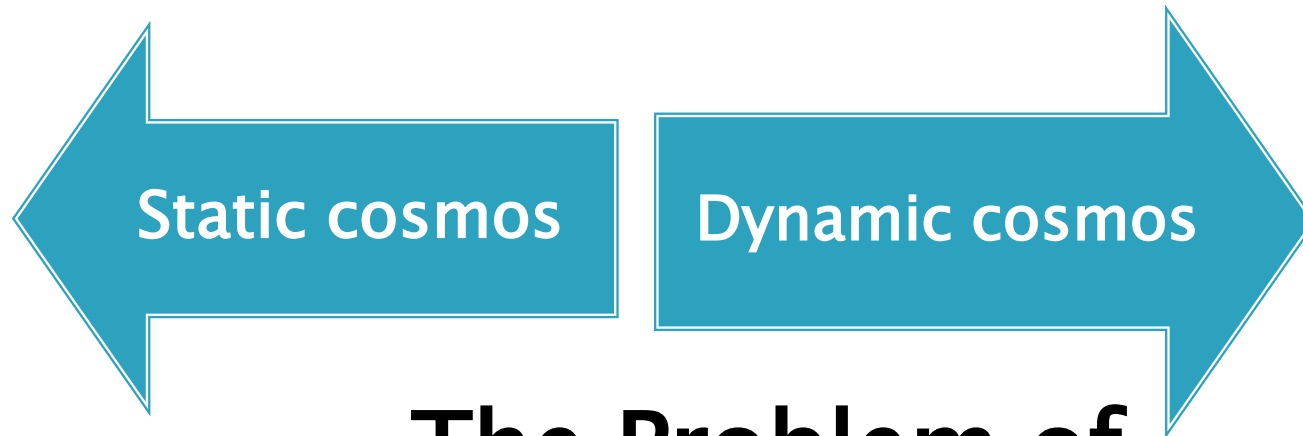
Love and the Physical Universe

by ILIA DELIO

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If God is “Being,” what is “Being?”






The Problem of the One and the Many

The Primacy of Energy

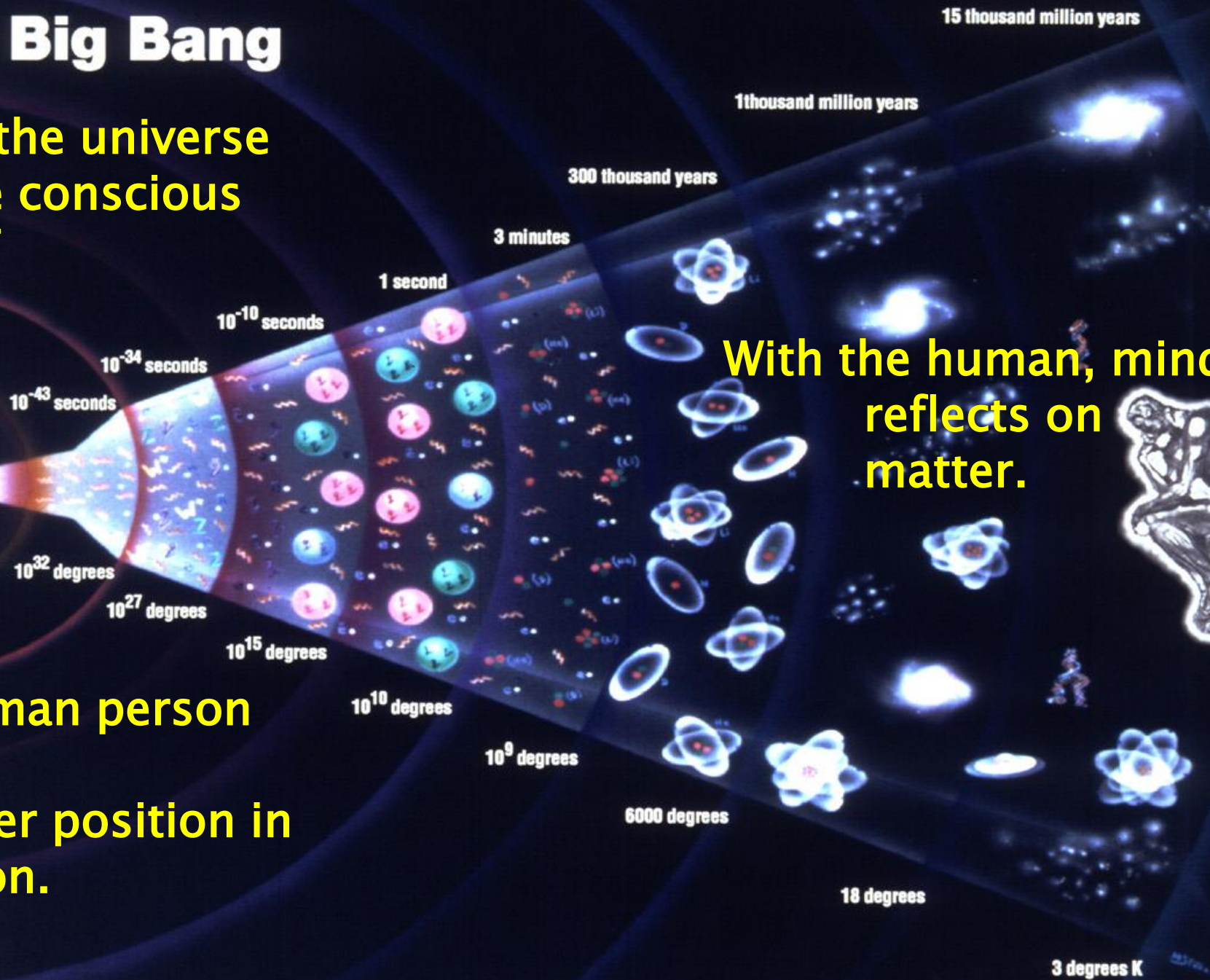
- Matter is not a thing in itself but a concentrated form of energy which has mass or weight.
- What is striking about the physical world of mass-energy is the inherent ***force of attraction*** within all dimensions of cosmic life.
- ***Attraction*** is a fundamental force that yields more than the sum of entities themselves.

- ▶ **Science's preoccupation with objectivity, clarity and reproduction of data has created a partial understanding of life.**
 - ▶ **Evolution shows greater wholeness, depth and relationality.**
 - ▶ **Nature is endowed with mysterious forces of attraction which science alone cannot explain, forces which give rise to integral wholes.**
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Big Bang

We are the universe
become conscious
of itself

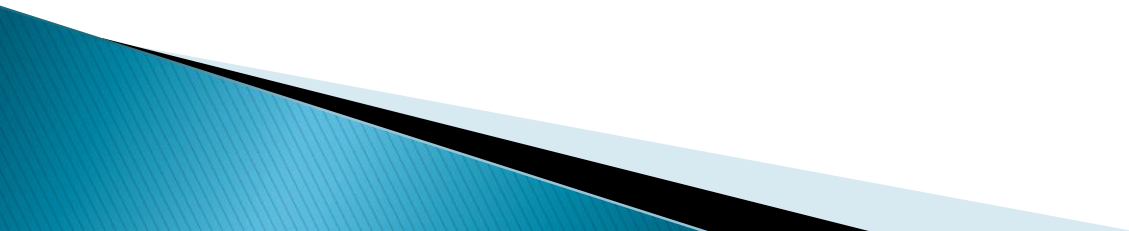
The human person
holds
a frontier position in
evolution.



With the human, mind
reflects on
matter.

A Working Hypothesis

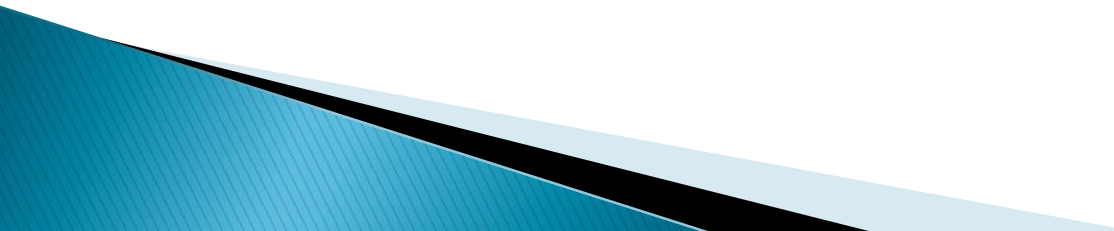
If the human person recapitulates the principles of evolution, then what we know on the human level underlies the principles of nature itself.



Teilhard's Love-Energy

“Can we entertain the hypothesis that love is rooted in the fundamental nature of reality, including the reality we call nature?”

“If there was no internal propensity to unite, even at a rudimentary level--indeed in the molecule itself—it would be physically impossible for love to appear higher up, in a hominized form.”



Types of Love

- ▶ **EROS = desire**
- ▶ **AGAPE = self-gift**
- ▶ **PHILIA = friendship**

- ▶ **“Nothing is itself taken alone. Things are because of interrelations or interactions.”**
- ▶ **“But even among the molecules love was the building power that worked against entropy, and under its attraction the elements groped their way towards union.”**

Teilhard de Chardin



- ▶ Gravity, electromagnetic interaction, and chemical attraction are fundamental forces of life whose mechanical details can now be described but whose very existence escapes the laws of mathematics.
- ▶ “We understand the details concerning the consequences of gravity’s attraction. We do not understand the attraction itself.”

Brian Swimme

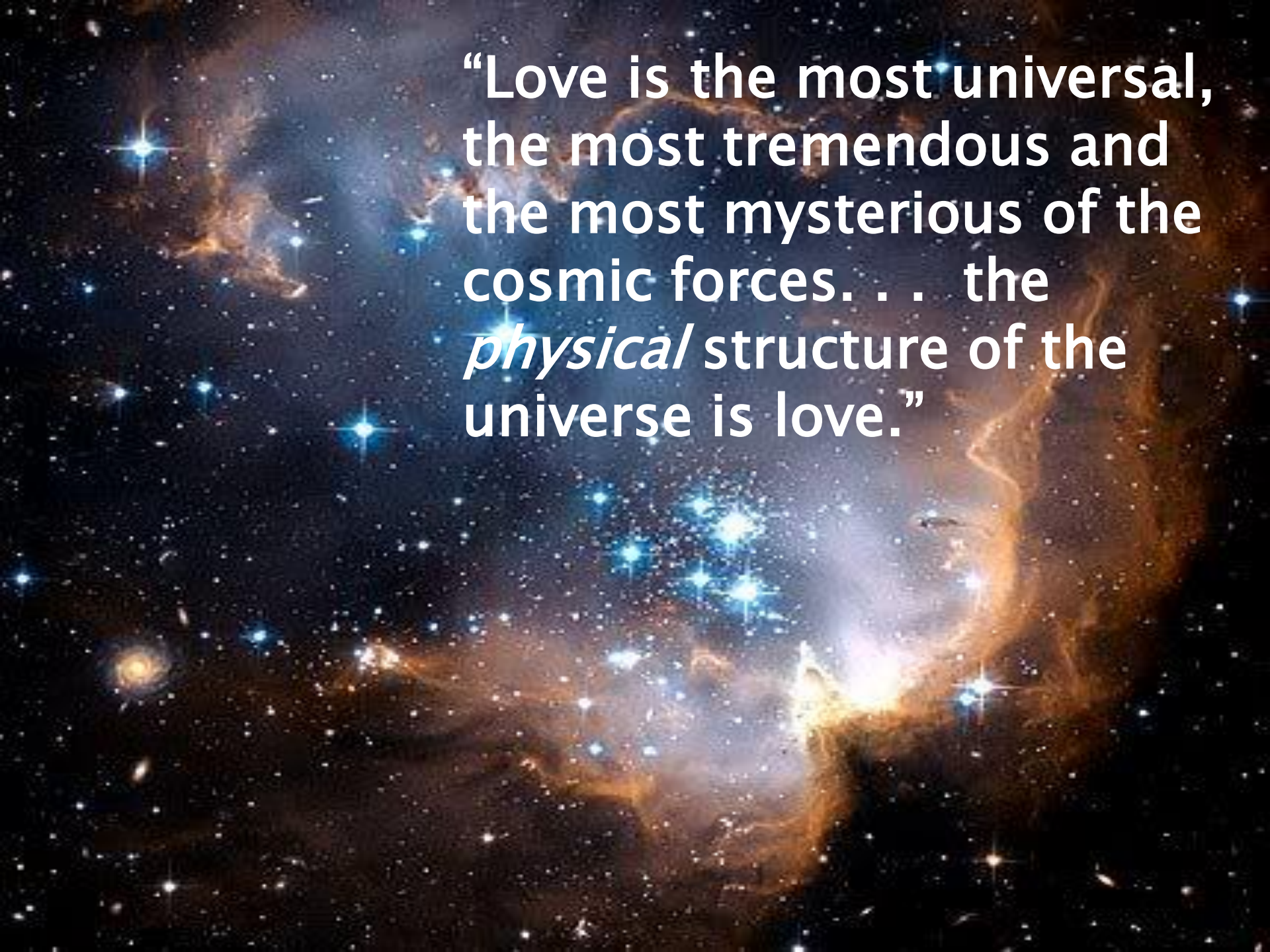


Love as a Cosmological Force

Physical reality:

Attraction
Union
Emergence

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



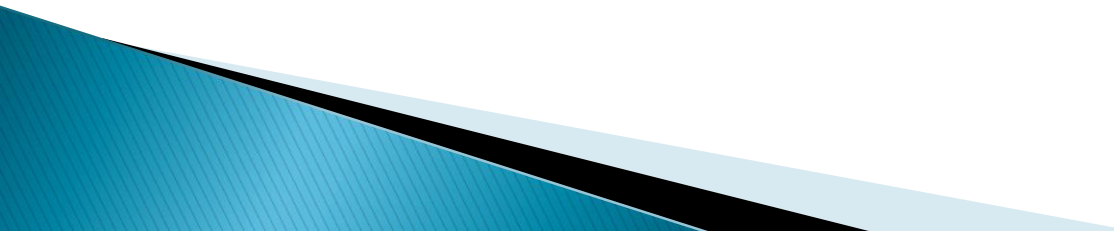
“Love is the most universal,
the most tremendous and
the most mysterious of the
cosmic forces. . . the
physical structure of the
universe is love.”

Teilhard's Philosophy of Love

- ▶ “being” is “love-energy”
- ▶ Love-energy is attractive
- ▶ Attractive being unites
- ▶ Union gives rise to more being
- ▶ Unitive being is emergent (new)
- ▶ Emergent being complexifies (more relatedness)

Principles of Love–Energy

- ▶ **“To be” is “to be with.”**
- ▶ **Reality is “being with another” in a way open to more union and more being.**
- ▶ **Since being is existence towards another, being is relational and exists for the sake of giving. “Interbeing”**
- ▶ **“I do not exist in order that I may possess; rather I exist in order that I may give of myself, for it is in giving that I am myself.”**

- ▶ **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.**
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- ▶ **love differentiates personality.**
“union differentiates”
- ▶ **It is not simply the promotion of well-being but the deepening of being itself.**
- ▶ **Love is not an epiphenomenon, something that human nature acquires;**

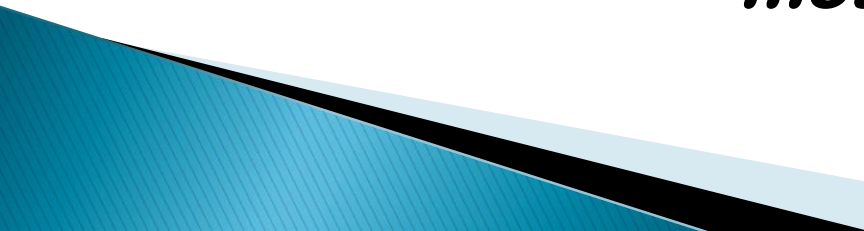
Love accompanies the rise of consciousness.



Teilhard uses the word

hyperphysics

the principle of life is toward *more being*,
not perfect being
as we find with
metaphysics.



Cosmic Personalization

- ▶ Evolution is the movement toward more being [wholeness] and consciousness.
- ▶ This center to center process of development is both personal and universal.
- ▶ It is not *something* but *someone* who is forming in evolution.

Cosmic Personalization

**“True unity does not fuse the elements it
brings together
rather by mutual fertilization
it renews them; union differentiates.”**

Cosmic personalization” suggests that the cosmos is oriented toward

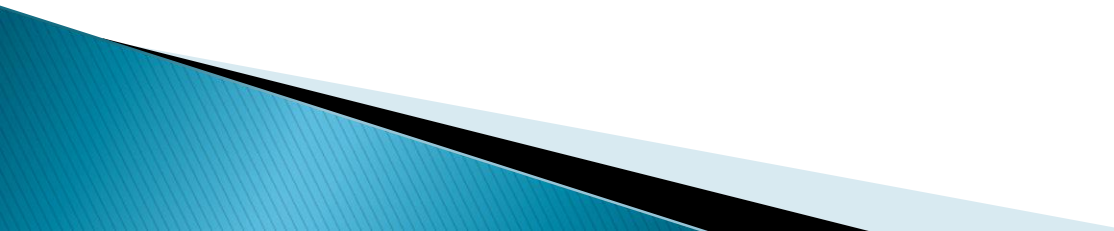
- integral wholeness**
- complexification**
- consciousness**

There is something going on in evolution that is more than blind, mechanical processes of nature.



“All around us at every moment does love not accomplish that magic act, reputed to be so contradictory of “personalizing” as it totalizes?

And if it does this on a daily basis on a reduced scale, why could it not someday repeat it in the dimensions of the Earth?”



Omega

- ▶ As life becomes more complex and conscious, it becomes more integrally whole.
- ▶ Teilhard called this unitive principle undergirding wholeness, Omega.
- ▶ Omega is the most intensely personal center that makes beings personal and centered.
- ▶ As the principle of centration that is both within and ahead, Omega emerges from the organic totality of evolution.

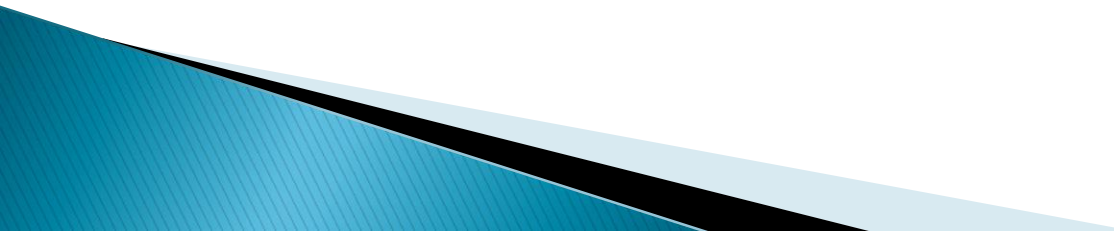
Omega

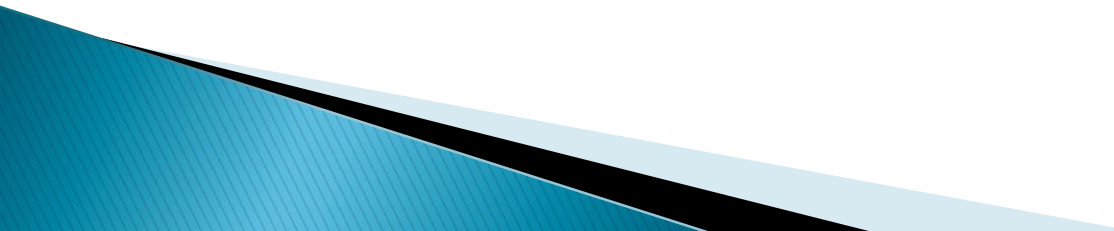
- ▶ **Principle of centeredness**
- ▶ **Ultimate divine energy**
- ▶ **Love = centrating energy at the heart of cosmic evolution.**

Cosmic Eros

- ▶ Teilhard saw a deep energy at the heart of cosmic life that is evident in the human person.
- ▶ Sexual energy is the energy of centricity and unification.
- ▶ The word *sex* has a Latin root, the verb *secare*, means (literally) “to cut off,” “to sever,” “to amputate,” “to disconnect from the whole.”

**A mechanized body is a dehumanized person
“whose only currency is abstractions divorced
from real life—the industrious, coolly rational,
economic, prosaic mind.”**

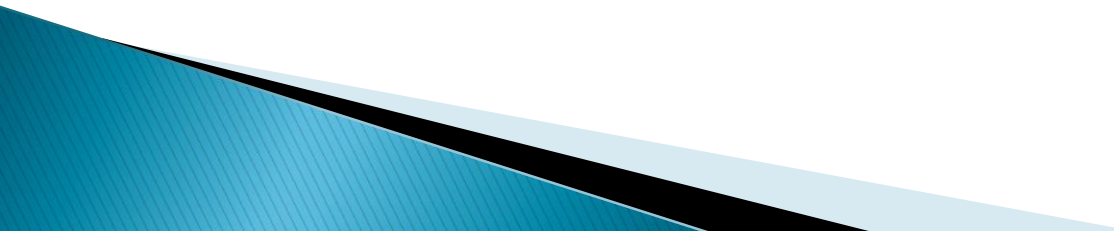


- ▶ **Modern culture's preoccupation with the physical body and the exploitation of the body as soulless matter reflects the deep human disconnect from self, neighbor, earth and God.**
 - ▶ **Teilhard indicated that mechanistic structures of relationship, mass collectivization or radical individualism, all thwart evolution and threaten to destroy personalization.**
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**“Any explanation of the world
(biological, philosophical or religious)
that does not succeed in finding an
essential place for sexuality in its
system ‘is virtually condemned.’”**

Teilhard de Chardin



- ▶ **Evolution continues through humanity only when there is consciousness of love as the integral wholeness of love which includes a healthy sexuality.**
 - ▶ **Awareness of our desires and attention to our deepest longings must orient us toward a unified heart and consciousness, for the forward movement of life and the fullness of life.**
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**“The day will come when,
after harnessing the winds, the tides and
gravitation,
we shall harness for God the energies of love.
And on that day,
for the second time in the history of the world,
man will have discovered fire.”**

Teilhard de Chardin
Essay on Chastity

