

On the Cosmos – Raja Arasa Ratnam

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- “To ponder is also to wonder. Tiny drops of moisture, each on its own blade of grass, winked at me early one morning. As the sun's rays changed direction, an invisible movement of ground-level air created a choreography – a dance of winking droplets. How aesthetically and spiritually satisfying that was! Indeed, the beauty of wondrous Nature has always transfixed my ever-roving mind. To wonder is therefore also to ponder.

A Seeker of Reality will commence with the question ‘What is it?’ In time, his search may lead to the next question ‘Why is it so?’ Is the next logical question then ‘Quo Vadis?; that is, ‘Whither goest thou?’ There surely has to be a destination for our journey through Earthly existence, through life after life. Is there also a destination for our universe, other possible universes, and

the Cosmos as a whole?

I recall most vividly that, at about age 8, I began to ask about the ‘what’ of human existence. I now realise that I must have lived many Earthly lives to have been in a position to raise such a question at such an early age. The learning from past lives is probably cumulative. Indeed, it has to be, for each individual soul to make gradual progress to that ultimate destination.

I remember being told then that the universe we know is without beginning or end. What a wondrous thought that was; for, every observable thing seems to have a finite life. That something so splendid, so complex, so confusing was seen as always here kept prodding my mind from time to time all through my adult life.

That was the voice of my parents, reflecting their Hindu belief. So, that was the ‘what.’ This offers the comforting vision of a durability of that which contains us. Human minds surviving precariously in a harsh world need such comfort. I was then too young to move on to the next question: how did that come about; that is, why is it so?

I then read about the prevailing ‘Stationary State’ theory relating to the structure of the Cosmos. So, modern cosmologists were agreeing with an ancient Hindu perspective of durability in the heavens. Then, however, came the ‘Big Bang’ theory. This presumably was needed to explain what the Hubble Telescope had shown; that all sighted cosmic objects were seemingly moving away from one another.

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Then came the ‘Big Crunch’ concept, seemingly in recognition that unending expansion did not make sense even in an infinity of space. I, however, wonder if a glimpse of Hindu cosmic speculations might also have been influential.

Then came the ‘Mini-Bang’ extension, presumably to explain the lack of accumulating empty spaces. The idea of a ‘Mini-Crunch’ had logically to follow.

We were now back to an enduring Cosmos, but with significant changes in structures. It is durability



but without stability – an interesting concept.

Did not some unknown Hindus postulate that the universe renews itself periodically? There are two strands in this belief. The first strand says that at the end of a 'day of Brahma,' Earth (and other worlds) are temporarily dissolved (another view is of a temporary suspension). A 'day' is equal to 4.32 billion human years. At the end of another 4.32 billion years, representing a 'night' of Brahma, regeneration commences. Dissolved, suspended, crunched?

Brahma is the Creator God. The other strand of this belief says that at the end of Brahma's life, equal to 311.04 trillion years, the whole Cosmos is dissolved. After a great cosmic rest period equivalent to the duration of Brahma's life, yet another creative cycle will commence, with another Brahma creating another Cosmos. What a quaint vista this is. What kind of mind conceived it?

It all sounds so simple. When and how did these concepts originate? Why? What was the trigger? These speculations promise long-term durability, but with vast changes in structures occurring in a sequenced path. What I was taught as a boy – that the universe is without a beginning or an end – seems to be quite correct. Continuity is assured, but with gaps in the creative and regenerative process. For some reason, the firefly's winks of light come to mind."

These paragraphs are extracts from Chapter 10 'On the Cosmos' from my book 'Musings at Death's Door,' available at \$US 2.99 from Amazon Kindle.

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