

You Are A Detective . . .

. . . whether you like it or not, since you live here!

All of us, standing on this planet, are faced with the same mystery. What is this place? How did I get here? Are there any clues?



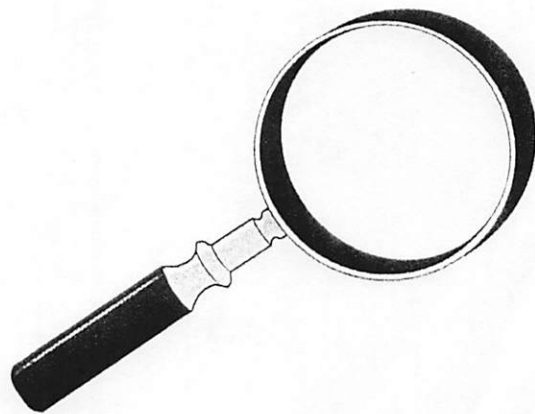
Where did the Universe come from? Is it just a "speck of dust in an endless sea?" Is our earth going to eventually burn up? What real significance does the we have *then*?

Where did *I* come from? Is there any meaning to life? Am *I* important or are my "feelings of significance" only a sad illusion? Are there any hints to help us answer?

Is there a reality *out there* or is this all in my head? Is this all just a dream? Should I just shrug my shoulders, forget the questions, and live my life in ignorance? Should I just stay in the dark and ignore the clues around me?

We all have the same clues given to us:

1. **There is the real Universe, with all its order and design, which we cannot ignore or deny**
2. **There is the personality and "mannishness of Man," that unique aspect called personality**



Based on your clues, you must come up with a solution, a World View, an explanation that gives adequate answers to the big questions we have asked since the beginning. What are the possible solutions? They are really very few. On your mark, get set, GO!

Matter
or
Energy
or
Motion

Eternal

"The Universe is all there ever was, is, or will be"
Carl Sagan in The Cosmos

In
The
Beginning . . .

Infinite
Personal

Eternal

God

"In the Beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth . . ."




Time
+
Matter
+
Chance

= the Universe
and Man

" . . . man now realizes he is an accident . . . a completely futile being."
Francis Bacon

. . . the
Universe
and
Man

God  Personal, Infinite,
Intelligent, Creative

Creates by an Act of His
Will

" . . . Because of Your Will they existed and were created."
Rev. 4:11



Mankind

A product of CHANCE,
a cosmic accident

" . . . Man is no different from a baboon or a grain of sand."
Supreme Court Justice
Oliver Wendell Holmes

What
is
Man?

Man made in the Image and
Likeness of the Existing God

Man is personal, verbalizing,
able to Love, Creative,
Infinitely Valuable

Genesis 1:26



No Absolutes; everything is
relative and arbitrary

Morals & Law based on
statistical averages; 51%
dominates; tyranny

Man is on an ocean with no shoreline or North
star

"What Does
Man
Live By?"
Alexandr
Solzhenitsyn

Absolutes on which to base
morals and Law F. A. Schaeffer

. . . the individual is significant
and important, eternally

God's character and revelation of truth provide
a North Star, a shoreline, for both individuals
and cultures.

Life and the Universe are ultimately meaningless and absurd

Man's feelings of importance is an illusion; a sick joke played out by chance, "dust in the wind"

No answers to explain existence Charles Ives

"A Finite Point is Absurd without an Infinite Reference Point"

Jean Paul Sarte

God the Infinite Reference Point of the Cosmos

Man's feelings of significance and importance are validated by God - the infinite reference point, the North Star.

God has spoken in Space and Time, giving answers to existence



Ultimate Heat Death for the Solar System

All things including man AND his memory will burn up with the solar system,

Death for the individual:
DECAY

Earth's and Man's condition is normal, "what is"

. . . the
Future

True Immortality the ultimate human desire, No Decay, Life after death

Man & his memory are eternal and significant, ripples forever

World and Man Abnormal, flawed, Restoration of Fallen World and Man

At Home in the Universe



Chaos Loneliness
Meaninglessness
Despair Silence
Fear
Alienation Angst
Purposelessness
Hedonism Desperation

What
Are the
Results?

Answers to Live
Consistently By

Confidence Peace
Knowledge
Meaning Immortality
Real Love
Order Joy