

It's About Cosmic Evolution

Commentaries and artwork

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unraveling the Mystery

Preface

The existential questions concerning the origin of life, our cosmic purpose, the nature of afterlife and the existence of a supreme being have been the subject of intense scrutiny since the early fireside conversations among our human ancestors on the African continent. These perennial questions are ripe topics for discourse in any era.

To address these fundamental questions, I wish to share what I have learned about the nature of human evolution as an undergraduate student majoring in Biology; and what I learned about the nature of the spirit as a doctoral student in Transpersonal Psychology. I will include some personal speculations, stemming from the time that I gazed at the stars while nestled in my sleeping bag as a child growing up in Montana, and a few personal encounters with nature and the spirit that I have experienced later in my lifetime.

I have chosen to blend basic factual data from scientific sources, my own interpretations gained from personal experience, and creative visual inspirations from some of my digital artwork. The juxtaposition of images and commentaries serve as a modern codec for deciphering and understanding the wisdom of twentieth century visionary thinkers.

While I don't pretend to have the answers to the deep questions of life; I do wish to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the origin of life and its conscious evolution in the hope of stimulating positive thought that might lead to a more loving world.

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Expanding from the Source

Chapter 1: The Earth is Born from Cosmic Dust

According to the Big Bang Theory, the cosmos came into existence along with time and space 12.7 billion years ago as pure expanding energy. As this phenomenon unfolded, space expanded and cooled permitting some of the energy of the universe to be transformed into protons, neutrons and electrons. These sub-atomic building blocks formed helium and hydrogen atoms, which were converted into more complex elements such as carbon, oxygen, and silicon by the heat and pressure in the suns of the galaxies. The universe became enriched over time through a continuous cycle of stellar birth, deaths, and rebirth.

It is remarkable that the series of events initiated by the Big Bang produced the very matter that has become our own human biology. Primal matter is, in fact, our original ancestor.



Resonating with Kachina

From thought to reflection to altered states of consciousness, humankind expanded inner explorations to a spiritual dimension. While it may have been profound to self-reflect, it became divine to self-reflect while expanding the mind without limits. Early primitive cultures developed creation myths, exotic rituals, elaborate adornments, and spiritual belief systems. From early cultural practices, efforts to experience the numinous (the god-like) and enter into trances included breath control, drumming, dancing, whirling, chanting, fasting, and meditating. As primitive societies grew, so did the elaborate means to celebrate and enter the spirit world.



Merging with the Spirit of Amanita

Mystics write convincingly of great reverie attained through spiritual experiences, and most religious teachings encourage their devotees to develop spiritual consciousness through prayer, meditation, chanting, devotion, rituals, moral purpose, and belief. But is there a way to sift through it all and find the essence? What is the nature of higher consciousness and what common spiritual understanding and experience are we seeking?

Many scholars use William James' Varieties of Religious Experience to define the elements of a mystical state of consciousness. Is this what we seek?

- A sense of unity
- Transcendence of time and space
- Intuitive knowledge, noetic understanding
- A sense of the sacred, awesomeness
- Deeply felt positive mood--love, purity, peace and joy
- The ineffable and paradoxical



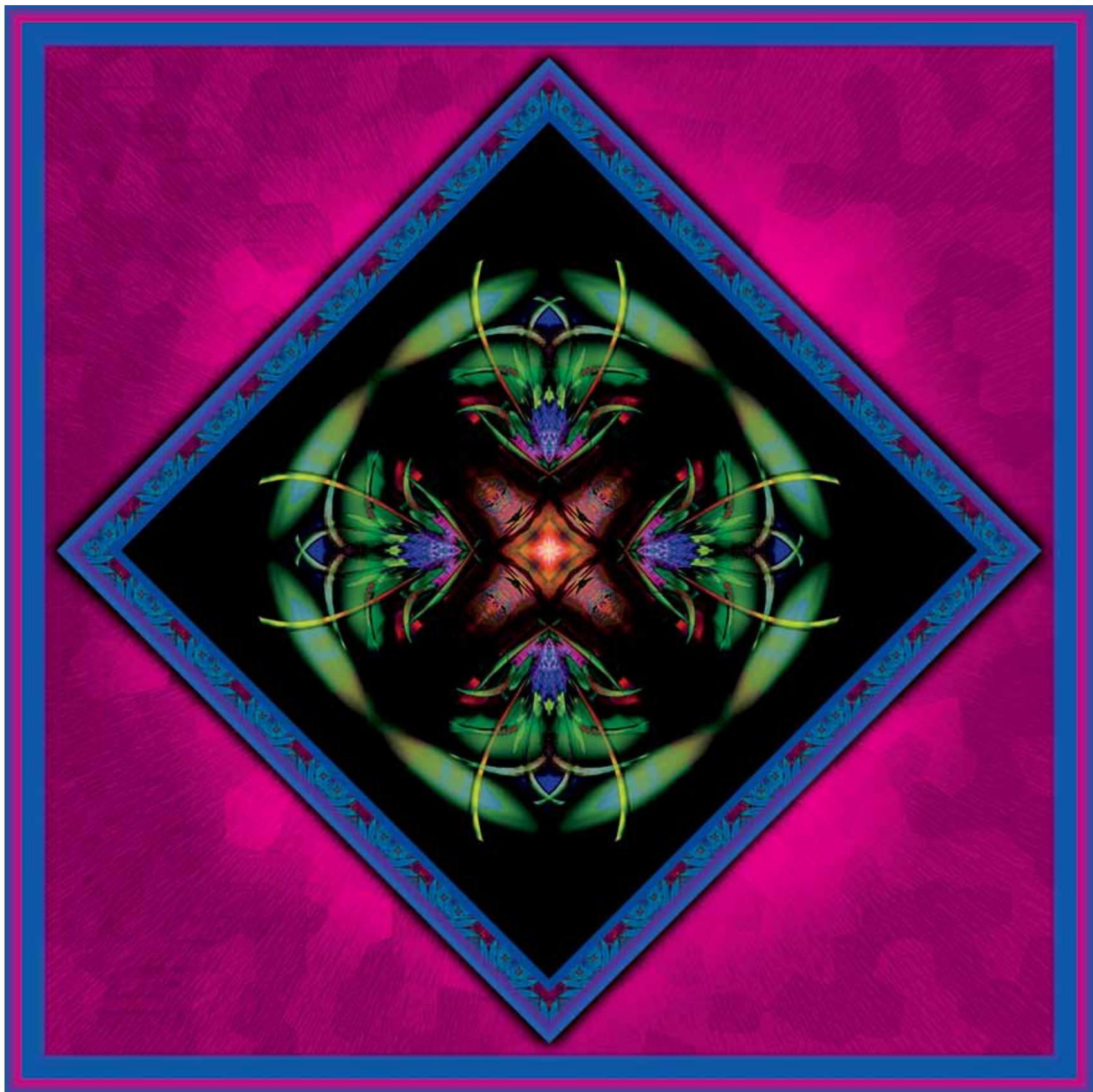
Pursuing the Cosmic Serpent

Chapter 3: A Personal Story of Realization

To summarize our remarkable journey:

The universe started off with an expansive burst of energy that was the source of matter, time, and space. Over time, collapsing clouds of cosmic dust gave rise to galaxies and stars, including the sun and the solar system. As the earth cooled, the crust, atmosphere, and oceans formed, creating an environment that contained the basic elements. Complex proteins gained the ability to replicate nucleic acids and thereby reproduce simple forms of life. Through a long and complex evolution, humankind developed from simpler forms of life and gained the capacity for thought and self-reflection. Since the dawn of humankind, the species has populated the earth, formed highly-ordered civilizations and sought ways to explore the farthest reaches of human nature.

Who wouldn't be left with a feeling of awe that such an amazing process could manifest in the present moment in our own existence?



Preparing the Yagé

Thinking and reflecting were the primary instruments in the rise of our species. We have noted how humanity has even used these tools to transcend ordinary consciousness. If we accept philosopher Julian Huxley's premise that "Man is nothing else than evolution becoming conscious of itself," and if we accept that awareness precedes action, then we might conclude that humankind now has the unique task of consciously participating in the next step of cosmic evolution.

Spiritual exploratoria (growth centers, ashrams, temples, monasteries, and churches) around the world have dedicated their work to raising consciousness. Could these institutions be part of the collective effort of mankind to evolve consciously?



Fulfilling Our Destiny