Theories attributing meaning to human life and promoting health

A Brodziak

Citation

A Brodziak. *Theories attributing meaning to human life and promoting health*. The Internet Journal of World Health and Societal Politics. 2007 Volume 5 Number 2.

Abstract

The carefully review of present - day cosmological theories reveals that probably people have to realize a very essential task on the cosmological plane. The author assumes that the dissemination of this idea could change the average believes related to the sense of human life and therefore influence the mean feeling and even health of the population. Such intention require to consider whether the occurrence of the self-awareness of people and fast and permanent drive to understand everything as well as progress in technology is random? The author presents considerations incorporating phenomena of life and consciousness in cosmological models of the Universe. It leads to the formulation of "Theory of necessity of people's participation in re-occurrence of sub - Universe". The development of rational basis for this theory is described. The arguments of possible influence of the theory on human psychological condition are presented.

PREMISE

Condition of people depends on their world picture. An important factor of the feeling and even health is the sense of life. The sense of life of a particular person depends from his conscious perceptiveness of his soundness and assignation. People feel important when they know and perceive their task, which is important for an essential, general process.

It happens that the carefully review of present - day cosmological theories reveals that probably people really have to realize a very essential task on the cosmological plane. It is not very known. We assume that convicting to this idea can influence the average feeling of the population. The average level of the positive believes determine social behaviors. Dissemination of these rising believes could influence even the level of "public health".

It can happen even if the inference has the character of philosophical speculation only and can not be based on scientific proves.

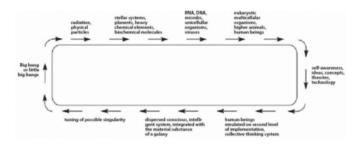
Our intention require to consider whether the occurrence of the self-awareness of people, just 13 billions years after so called Big Bang and fast and permanent drive to understand everything as well as progress in technology is random?

These considerations incorporating phenomena of life and consciousness in cosmological models of the Universe lead

to the "Theory of necessity of people's participation in reoccurrence of sub - Universe". This thesis, expressed in another words states: "People will create a new sub-Universe" or "People go to be the new Demiurge". The essential concept of this theory is illustrated intuitively by the following figure.:

Figure 1

Figure 1: Cycle of events probably necessary for re-occurrence of sub - Universe



This idea has been presented by me since many years, but unfortunately not in English language (2). Recently similar inference was developed also by James N. Gardner, who coined the hypothesis known as "Selfish Biocosm Hypothesis" (3). It seems that a long chain of links of inference led to this hypothesis.

INTRODUCTION

Scientists admire sophistication of molecular genetics

(DNA), biochemistry necessary for the energy uptake (i.e. chlorophyll), metabolism and embryo genesis. The nature of the phenomenon of life is not yet fully comprehend, however it seems that it occur exceptionally in our cosmological surroundings. The cognitive possibilities of human beings are astonishing and self-awareness or more general consciousness, seems especially an overriding phenomenon.

The Fermi paradox constitutes a convincing argument that life and consciousness are very rare phenomena on the cosmic scale. Religious revelations (theories) maintain usually that human beings are unique for all the Universe. Anyhow, the existence of life on the surface of our planet and conscious people is really exceptional.

Nevertheless the trial of the explanation of meaning of the occurrence of human race are missing or omitted.

Scientific theories don't discuss eventual tasks of human beings, which would be necessary for somebody or which would complete an important process.

Even the authors of religious concepts discuss only the assumed fate of people or their appropriate behavior but omit explanations of their necessity, their eventual tasks, shortly their meaning in the featured, proposed cosmogony or the particular cosmological world view.

Metaphysics and ontology don't indicate the meaning of the existence of human being either. For instance Plato's and Aristotle's metaphysics as well as Epicure's and stoicism concepts don't precise tasks or roles of people in the World. Later Cartesian or Kant's metaphysical systems , as well as idealistic theories like bishop Berkeley's ideas appeal to God's will and intentions therefore don't undertake proposals of the explanations why people are necessary.

It seems that the notion of space-time, especially the imagination of expanding space-time and elaboration of cyclic cosmological models as well as the progress of technology in the realm of virtual reality or simulated reality enabled unification of some very different fields of theoretical thinking, what was necessary to consider cosmological meaning of the human life.

Cinematographic, known accomplishments of virtual reality (e.g. first large scale special effects movies, imaging Spielberg's dinosaur) make intuitively comprehensible the notion of emulation of alive beings.

Frank Tipler proposed that people, living in the past could be

emulated in the huge, powerful, future information processing system(12). The possibility of the emulation of human beings on so called second level of implementation would be equivalent of the resurrection. By this way it is possible to consider basic religious ideas in a rational way. It is possible then to propose a kind of integration of reasoning leading to the theory indicating the possible meaning for the existence in "another, emulated world".

From other hand, the cyclic cosmological model leads to an important conclusion, that the former version of the Universe could be the creator of the next realization of the Universe or rather of creation of the sub - universe.

The authors of so called strong version of the Anthropic Principle pay attention that the Universe can be "tuned" in a way to enable the occurrence of biological life and conscious people. Moreover, the universe can be "fine tuned" to force it to arise in a particular shape and form with particular, desirable features.

In this essay about cosmological meaning of human life we propose the hypothesis that descendant of the inhabitants of the present Universe will participate in the tuning of the next version of the sub-universe. We develop this hypothesis and try to argue for this idea in next chapters of the paper in details. It is important that the concept, which is presented here determines the important and difficult tasks for living people and by this way explain the meaning of their life. This hypothesis assigns different kinds of life missions for various professions or people of various human mentalities and life styles.

This theory proposes also the conceptual solution for an old controversy related to the nature of the Creator of the Universe and in some sense neutralizes the vivid dispute between academic scientists and creationists, especially representing the idea of so called Intelligent Design.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE HYPOTHESIS ARISING FROM RECENT COSMOLOGICAL THEORIES

Lee Smolin proposed the theory of cosmological natural selection suggesting that fecund universes evolve in favor of the production of black holes(9). Alan Guth, the known author of so called inflationary cosmology, has explored the question of whether it is in principle possible to ignite inflation in a hypothetical laboratory, thereby creating a new universe (4). Louis Crane goes one step further and maintains that universes could be fine-tuned for life by intelligent beings themselves manufacturing new universes. Michio

Kaku also have speculated that a civilization at the top of the Kardashev scale might create fine-tuned universes in a continuation of the evolutionary drive to exist (5).

One of conclusions arising from the inflationary model of the Universe is the hypothesis of possible existence of multiple universes. According to Max Tegmark the existence of other universes is a direct implication of cosmological observations (10).

The most generalized version of the multiverse theory, was published recently by a known system scientist Ervin Laszlo, who coined the notion of Metaverse (6) Laszlo posits that the "quantum vacuum" is the fundamental energy and information-carrying field that informs not just the current universe, but all universes past and present. He believes that this kind of field can "explain why our universe is so improbably fine-tuned as to form galaxies and conscious life forms; and why evolution is an informed, not random, process"(7).

The presented theory posits however that people (intelligent inhabitans of past and present universes) are involved in the process of the mentioned "improbably fine-tuning". The occurrence of consciousness, a relatively new neuro - physiological phenomenon probably is not random. It seems that anybody of us is indispensable for the realization of an extremely important task.: We are indispensable to succeed to reproduce the new real world. The distant progeny of people will play the role of Plato's Demiurge.

James N. Gardner figured out similar conclusions (3). The theory presented here take into account however the opinion of Guy Murchi, who stated that "..death is a tool for change and progress..." Moreover, it pointed out Frank Tipler's concepts of emulation of alive beings on higher level of implementation, so we try to integrate here the James Gardner's

"Selfish Biocosm Hypothesis" with some religious concepts.

PEOPLE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EVOLVING UNIVERSE

In more details the actual phase of the development of the Universe, characterized by occurrence of the self-awareness of people should be understand in the context of the evolving Universe.

The contemporary cosmologists maintain that the Universe comes out from primary singularity, it means from a very dense bunch of matter or 'quantum foam'. The singularity existed above time. During the first cosmic era the primary physical particles appeared. The early Universe was composed from Hydrogen and Helium. More heavy elements occurred inside of the older stars. We know already that many stellar systems are characterized by the presence of planets.

At the surface of the planets (at last on our planet) so called biological life has emerged. Recently, after 13 billions year of the cosmic evolution the Homo sapiens sapiens appeared. Human beings are characterized by the self-awareness. It is almost improbably that the occurrence of biological life and consciousness was random. It is rather a cosmic necessity. The existence of a galaxy is probably the indispensable condition. It would be difficult to imagine a planetary stellar system with the biological life on the surface of the planet existing in the intergalactic cosmic void. If we will admit that the biological life is a cosmic necessity the quick formation of galaxies in the expanding universe should be comprehended as an important step in the creation of the elementary conditions for the occurrence of the biological life.

The appearance of human self-awareness is indispensable to take decisions about important acts related to the fate of human beings.

People are inquisitive and unconsciously motivated to increase the knowledge and technological abilities. It enables them to develop the communication and memorizing systems. They quickly transforms our planet in a kind of a huge global brain. It is only first step to much more far reaching goals. Just now people want to analyze, record and understand the genetic code. In fact they want to understand the code representation of everything.

IS EMULATION OF PEOPLE ON SECOND LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION NECESSARY?

It is known that Pierre Teilhard de Chardin anticipated the process of noogenesis, which moves from mind through spirit and converges to an ultimate goal, which he describes as the Omega Point (11). The concept of Omega Point Theory was bring together with modern physics and cosmology by Frank Tipler, one of author of so called Anthropic Principle(1,12). Frank Tipler is also the author of the book sub title: "The physics of immortality - Modern cosmology, God and the Resurrection of the Dead "(12). He presents in this book probably unique other similar trial to search for meaning of the human life. His vision of cosmological

development foresees that the descendants of people will build, in the far future, the huge macro - computer based on the matter of the collapsing universe. It will enable the emulation (reconstruction, in fact resurrection) of all people who lived before.

Frank Tipler's theory works only on the assumption that the time space of the Universe is closed and that it will collapse in the future. In 1998 (three years after the formulation of Tipler's theory in 1995) astronomers found strong arguments that our Universe is "open" and that the time space will expand endlessly(8).

So, our "Theory of necessity of people's participation in reoccurrence of sub - Universe" take into account, that probably our Universe will expand, adulterate and freeze endlessly. Probably people intuitively try to escape the disastrous fate of the civilization living in the attenuating and freezing Universe. The intelligent inhabitants of the present Universe have probably unconscious drive to understand everything and develop high technology, especially information processing technology. Probably it is the beginning of the mentioned drive to build the macrocomputer and to implement the essence, especially brains and human psyche on so called second level of implementation. The development of the global Internet, the urge to construct so called virtual reality or simulated reality and the main postulate of all religions about further existence in 'other world 'as well the recent vision of futurologists Vernor Vinge, Ray Kurzweil and many science fiction writers, like Greg Egan, Stephen Baxter, give us some insights and push us to prediction that really people will 'scan' themselves and emulate in the cyberspace. It seems that it is necessary to obtain a much faster and intense development of the thinking and cognition, as well dispersed conscious, intelligent system integrated with the material substance of galaxies.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF PEOPLE

Probably the ultimate goal of people is to do something with the sad vision of cooling, dilatating, infinitely expanded space-time of our Universe. Probably the descendant of us will try to utilize a massive black hole as a tool appropriate to begin the next offspring Universe. Mighty knowledge, technology and power is necessary however to program and tune the characteristics of the next Big (Little) Bang in such a manner that ensures the offspring Universe will also obey the Anthropic Principle (1, 3). It would cause the similar evolution of the offspring Universe, who should lead to the

occurrence of human beings, that will signify in fact the 'reincarnation' of the human species.

Thus, people and their descendants of the present Universe will want to master the ability to tune the next Big Bang: Therefore they need to decode genomic information and also the patterns for all reality, including the pattern of the physical and chemical characteristics of matter. The code representation of all objects should be determined. People, who know scientific endeavors will agree that in fact the trial of the understanding of everything has already began.

METAPHYSICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE THEORY

Many authors presented similar speculations on subjects of "fine-tuned universe", "ultimate fate of the universe", "strong (final) version of the Anthropic Principle", "Intelligent Design" and others. Hitherto, the authors of these speculations omit however the role of people in the fate of Universe.

It is astonishing because, from the another hand people are desperate by the lack of opinion or theories related to meaning of their existence. Furthermore the "Theory of necessity of people's participation in re - occurrence of sub -Universe" unawares indicates for the possibility to consider unification of religious and cosmological concepts. It is illustrated by fig. 2, which suggests the rational for emulation of people on so called second level of implementation, what means simply some kind of their resurrection. Frank Tipler's theory foresaw this possibility for the cosmological model of the closed Universe. Fig. 2 illustrates how the same concept is usefulness in compass of similar theory, but taking into account the cosmological model of the open Universe. The phases of the evolution of the Universe, mentioned on the upper part of the scheme are scientifically substantiated. The elements of the cycle mentioned on the lower part of the scheme are rather speculative. How future progeny of people will realize the tuning of next singularity probably will be yet long the matter of hypothetical speculations. Our "Theory of necessity of people's participation in re - occurrence of sub -Universe" - in some sense is opposite to the concept of "Intelligent Design". Here the sub - Universe is designed by the former Universe. Such idea conforms to the nature principle, that the object of "n" generation results usually from the action of the similar kind object of "n-1" generation, like the child ("n")being the result of the action of the mother("n-1"). It resolves old metaphysical problem,

that the "designer" cannot be simpler that his product. The theory implies also third possibility to the metaphysical and religious controversy. Instead of random occurrence or the creation by God the possibility exists that the Universe was created by conscious inhabitants of former, past version of the Universe, who played the role of Demiurge, conceived as in old Plato's metaphysics. It is easy to remark however that the presented theory doesn't touch the most difficult ontological problem "why we have something instead of nothing ". The hypothesis assume that subsequent sub - universes are tuned on the basis of pre - existing " reality ".

IMPORTANCE OF THE THEORY FOR PSYCHE OF PEOPLE AND SOCIAL CONDITION

The presented theory restores sense of the human life. Our argumentation begins from the trial of the answer for the question.: "What is the task of people and anticipated actions necessary for more general process or a superior entity?". The theory explains why the effort of people is necessary and by this reason valuable. Moreover it explains that the efforts of people will be rewarded by the possibility of re - occurrence.

The significance of the presented hypothesis relay on the fact that it is one of two or three known theories trying to explain the sense of human life by indication of the task and challenge for people, necessary for an essential process of the maintenance of the chain of life.

Another option of the possibility to influence the fate of our Universe by progeny of people was presented recently by Frank Tipler (13). He assumes that our descendant will be able to proceed annihilation of majority of baryons (heavy particles of the matter) by electroweak quantum tunneling mechanism (13). So, they could cause that the Universe will collapse in the near future. His recent theory should be considered in a separate paper. However it is a similar theory, which assume that people will perform a task important on the cosmic scale.

Any of three mentioned theories involving people to cosmological scale actions assume that people act according to unconscious drives implemented by their former creator. The remark that unconscious urge of people to get knowledge and technological abilities constitutes the challenge for psychologists.

Anyhow our theory emerged from the trial of the unification

of biological and cosmological notions, however has implications for the emotional condition of people. Contemporary people need well justified tasks which point out the important mission, creating ideological or metaphysical motivations of their endeavors. As one of the reviewers of Ervin Laszlo's mentioned book wrote .: 'Much of the chaos and social dislocation that we observe daily, is not something that is "just happening," but is a result of our own lack of coherence and vision'.

Thus, another challenge for psychologists or even more - for all people who influence human culture - is the necessity to explain to populace that anybody of us is acting according to unconscious drives. Any of three mentioned theories anticipate that such hidden drives should become soon conscious because it is necessary to the accelerations of the accomplishment of action which could save us.

References

1. Barrow J.D, Tipler F.J, The Anthropic Cosmological Principle,

Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1988

2. Brodziak A. [Considerations of cosmological meaning of human live -

a key topic for so called 'philosophical counseling '] Sztuka Leczenia 2002; 8, 119-126

3. Gardner J.N., Biocosm: the new scientific theory of evolution: intelligent life is the

architect of the universe, Makawao, Maui, Inner Ocean Publishing Inc.

distributed by Publishers Group West, 2003

4. Guth A., The Inflationary Universe: The Quest for a New Theory of Cosmic Origins,

New York, Perseus Book, 1998

5. Kaku M., Parallel words - a journey through creation, higher dimensions,

and the future of the cosmos, New York, Doubleday, 2004 6. Laszlo E, Science and the Akashic Field: An Integral Theory of Everything,

Rochester, Inner Traditions, 2004

7. Laszlo E., Science and the Reenchantment of the Cosmos: The Rise of the Integral

Vision of Reality, Rochester, Inner Traditions, 2006

8. Perlmutter S. and all. Discovery of a supernova explosion at half the age of the

universe, Nature; 1998; 391: 391 - 397

9. Smolin L., The life of the cosmos, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1997

10. Tegmark M., Parallel Universes, Scientific American, 2003; 5: 40-51

11. Teilhard de Chardin P. The Phenomenon of Man, New York, Harper and Row

Publishers, 1965

12. Tipler F.J., The Physics of Immortality - Modern Cosmology, God and the Resurrection of the Dead, New York: Anchor Books - Doubleday, 1994

13. Tipler F.J., The physics of Christianity, New York, Doubleday, 2007

Author Information

Andrzej Brodziak, M.D. Ph.D., Sc. D.

Senior Professor, Department of Internal Diseases, Faculty of Public Heath, Silesian Medical University