

Diego Velázquez, *The Coronation of the Virgin*. 1641-1644

**T**O BE AN EARTHLING is no small thing. That may be the greatest understatement of all the universe. We're earthlings because Jesus and Mary are the first earthlings. They are the very first because, as Bl. Pope Pius IX put it in his declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception (*Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854): "From the very beginning, and before time began, the eternal Father [...], by one and the same decree, had established the origin of Mary and the Incarnation of Divine Wisdom." In other words, in the order of being, they have joint primacy over all creation (including angels), and so they are the models, the original and perfect prototypes of Man and Woman—of us, Her earthling children! She stands at the right hand of Her Divine Son, Jesus Christ the King, reigning jointly with Him as Queen of the Universe (another "greatest" understatement). The late Marian theologian, Fr. Peter Damien Fehlner, of happy memory put it this way. "For the sake of her *qua Immaculate* Mother of God all the rest of creation was made."

Reading that paragraph, atheist Carl Sagan would have taken a dim view of it, preferring instead the view

from Jupiter. Back then, as a Voyager space-probe flew by the planet, it took some photos in Earth's direction. It was a while before NASA finally managed to identify tiny Earth, and Sagan employed this incident on an episode of his *Cosmos* series. The Voyager image filled the screen and a long drawn-out close-up began giving viewers the impression that they were traveling across that expanse of space back to Earth—wherever it was. For, as Carl's voice explained in the background, our planet was virtually indistinguishable from the many thousands of other insignificant particles along the way, reflected in the sun's haze. Worth a thousand words, the photo had its intended effect; Sagan's message was powerfully insidious. In short, he was opining we are mere earthlings who need to wake up, accept the facts, debunk God, and be done with all the age-old delusions of grandeur based on religious notions of a higher purpose. We should think of ourselves no more exalted than other forms of life with which the cosmos undoubtedly teems.

Sagan's atheist legacy perdures to this day, engendering doubt in God's existence and seriously endangering the salvation of so many souls, especially our impressionable

youth. Carl and company back up their brainwashing with objective empirical science: observation, measurement, quantification, experimentation. Our Blessed Mother and Queen of the Universe, exercising stewardship She jointly shares with Her divine Son, of course does not yield to any unscrupulous abuse of this useful science created to serve God (not be served), steps in to put a stop to the brainwashing. In fact, She has fought Hell-fire with fire, using the empirical science itself to hoist atheistic cosmology on its own petard. We'll try to explain in brief.

Atheists have jettisoned the Creator from cosmology. Left to figure out another beginning of the universe, they've posited a theory that only skirts the question: the Big Bang theory, whose basic tenet is an eternal cycle for the universe—putting off, at least, any question of origins. Let's quickly look at one cycle. After billions of years gravity finally collapses the universe back on itself to where all its matter is concentrated down to an infinitesimally tinier volume than a pin head. Finally, it explodes and an entirely new universe forms all over again over many billions of years. The force of gravity eventually overcomes the inertia of the expanding universe, which starts to again collapse in on itself before beginning anew with another explosion... *ad infinitum*; basic, bare bones, Big Bang theory of which there are now a few variations of the theme. For support it leans heavily on empirical science which is all about measurement, observation, experimentation of the physical world, supplying the data in which relationships and interrelationships between energy, space and times are discovered. The relationships are analyzed and expressed in numerical equations (hundreds by now which de-

scribe with uncanny precision physical phenomena in this universe under any circumstance.) That's why they are called "universal constants." Importantly, they are accepted by atheist and believer alike. A few examples will suffice. Note the number sizes:

1. Energy constants: a gravitational attraction constant  $G=6.67 \times 10^{-11}$ ; a "weak" force coupling constant  $g_w = 1.43 \times 10^{-62}$  [there's a "strong" force coupling constant too].
2. Individuating constants: Mass of a proton [at "rest" no less]  $m_p = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$  kg; or the charge of an electron  $m_e = 9.11 \times 10^{-31}$  kg)
3. Time constant: maximum possible velocity (speed of light)  $c = 186,000$  miles/sec.

If these values were ever so slightly altered, it would result in a universe of multiple black holes, for example, or maybe just one black hole. The combined effects of all these constants this universe needs in order to be anthropic (habitable to mankind), imposes constraints on it so narrow, that the range within which fluctuation of their values could be tolerated, without destroying its "user friendliness," is infinitesimally minute.

Put another way, the odds against such a universe with these constants, interrelating as they necessarily must for there to be a "user friendly" universe, all this taking place by chance in a big bang scenario, would be so exceedingly, exceedingly, exceedingly huge as to be virtually impossible!

The atheistic camp has tried to wriggle out of this cosmological quandary by proposing multiverses (multiple universes). Simply, it is this: When the big bang explosion takes place in each cycle, trillion upon trillion upon trillions of possible universes dovetail out in parallel at once. All chance universes occur, including ours, the only anthropic universe. However, only our universe can be verified to actually exist.

Seems to get kind of ridiculous after a while. No Carl, my friend, empirical science concludes incontestably: except by God, this universe is unrepeatable, He alone could have created it, and He has given us the ability to discover for ourselves. Likewise, those same universal constants have served to reveal to us that a planet such



as earth, so ideal for life-support, could well be as rare as is our anthropic universe.

Should it surprise us that all its power, its vastness, its magnificence is entirely at the service of our earthling God, His earthling Mother and we Her earthling children? Are we humble enough to recognize how precious we are to Him? How precious this turf, the birthplace of His Incarnate Son and His Mother Mary? Nor does earth just bask in the afterglow of these past events; Her holy legacy is perpetuated in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, confectioned by the priest at Holy Mass, perpetually assuring us of our “earthling” Brother-God’s

Real Presence. Can one not always safely presume that wherever you find the “earthling” Son, there will you also find His “earthling” Mother: both “in residence” on their own sacred turf till the end of time?

The vast universe was created to glorify the Incarnation on Earth.

“Earthling” Queen of Creation!

“Earthling” Queen of the Universe!

“Earthling” Queen-Mother for all eternity!



**Note:** Our next issue will be in September.  
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