

Examining the Cosmos

Session 13

Creation Day 7

Reference Document 20

MEDIOCRITY or ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE?

Our Earth is so much more than a mere grain of sand in the vast cosmos. The so called “Mediocrity Principle” developed which stated that man is not special in any way and resides in no place unique within the universe.

This false reasoning and understanding was an outgrowth of various thought patterns. Nicolaus Copernicus revived an ancient Greek idea that the sun was at the center of the universe. This led illogically to a worldview that perhaps we “Earthlings” were not so special after all. Then in more recent times it was discovered that not even the sun was central, but our solar system is off in a corner of one galaxy among billions of galaxies. This offered evidence, philosophically, that earth and its residents might not be special at all.

However as scientist continued to probe the universe; it appeared that it is designed for the sake of human life. The “Anthropic Principle” tells us that the universe has all the necessary and narrowly defined characteristics to make human life possible. The uniformity, homogeneity, and mass density of our universe all must be precisely as they are for human life to exist at the particular time on the particular planet call Earth.

All of this “just right” evidence points to humanity as the central theme of the entire cosmos.

Mark Ritter, a RTB scholar, refers to many just right conditions for life.

- Earth’s crust is just the right thickness,
- Our gravity is just enough to keep this thin layer of gases above us: 20% oxygen in our atmosphere is a necessity for humans,
- The thin invisible ozone layer keeps us alive by absorbing radiation from space, carbon dioxide in our atmosphere acts like a blanket and keeps us warm,
- The moon has slowed rotation of earth, kept us steady, not wobbling, given us tides and stabilized our orbit,
- Jupiter and Saturn are at the perfect distance to protect us from earthbound comets and asteroids from striking us.

- Our sun is the perfect age, mass, brightness and generation for life. For over 4 billion years the sun's luminosity has increased at the same rate the greenhouse gases were removed from our atmospheres. This balance enables Earth to maintain a life friendly, constant temperature.

The location of Earth within the Milky Way Galaxy allows life to exist; the perfect type of galaxy, the spiral galaxy. The more astronomers learn about the universe and the requirements for our existence, the more severe the limitations they find governing the structure and development of the universe to accommodate those requirements.

Copernicus was right! We are not at the center of anything, but that's part of what makes us special. We truly are unique and special