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A SECOND GENESIS

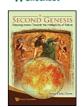
Stepping-Stones Towards the Intelligibility of Nature

by Julian Chela-Flores (The Abdus Salam ICTP, Italy & The Abdus Salam ICTP & Instituto de Estudios Avanzados, República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Table of Contents (104k)

Preface (46k)

Chapter 1: Introduction (55k)



A Second Genesis enquires why nature is intelligible. The fast growth of technology and deeper understanding of the humanities have provided significant clues. Answering the question why nature can be understood requires an introduction to the new science of astrobiology and the exploration of the Solar System. A careful discussion of a "second Genesis" is presented, namely our present awareness that life may have emerged on other worlds. Writing this volume has been motivated by the need to encourage a constructive dialogue between science and faith. Such an objective for a new book is timely, since science is inserted with well-defined frontiers in the context of human culture. Similarly, the frontiers of faith do not require religion to justify itself in scientific terms, avoiding current unnecessary controversies.

This book intends to engage readers interested in the position of humans in nature. It makes a serious effort to avoid demanding detailed knowledge of science, philosophy, or theology, but will require some careful reading and meditation.

Contents:

- An Integrated Study of Western Civilization
- From a First to a Second Genes
- Implications of a Second Genesis
- The Destiny of the Universe
- The Destiny of Life in the Universe
- · Towards the Intelligibility of Nature
- Towards the Intelligibility of Life
- Is Life Ubiquitous in the Universe? Testing the Universality of Biology
- The Emergence of Intelligence in the Universe
- Intelligibility in the Dialogue between Science and Religion
- The Ultimate Frontier of Science and the Humanities
- Can Nature be Intelligible?

Readership: General readers interested in the position of humans in nature; scientists; philosophers; theologians.

"The author has succeeded in engaging the reader in this fascinating discourse without being too technical ... I strongly recommend A Second Genesis to a readership interested generally in making sense of the recent breathtaking developments bearing on the evolution of the cosmos and the intelligibility of Nature. Personally, as a practicing theoretical physicist, I have found this book intelligible, fascinating and very thought-provoking. Strongly recommended to public libraries.

Professor N Kumar Raman Research Institute, India

"In summary, this book provides a very original approach to the question of the origins, evolution, distribution and destiny of Life in the Universe. It should lead to create exciting interdisciplinary exchanges between different branches of knowledge usually separated, such as observational and experimental sciences and philosophy or theology. It is expected to be a reference in the future, for scientists already working in or entering the field of exo/astrobiology, as well as for philosophers and theologians interested in the ways to solve the problem of life in the universe."

François Raulin RLISA, CNRS et Universités Paris 12 & 7

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