

A SECOND GENESIS

Stepping-Stones Towards the Intelligibility of Nature

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

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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 Genesis; 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?





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