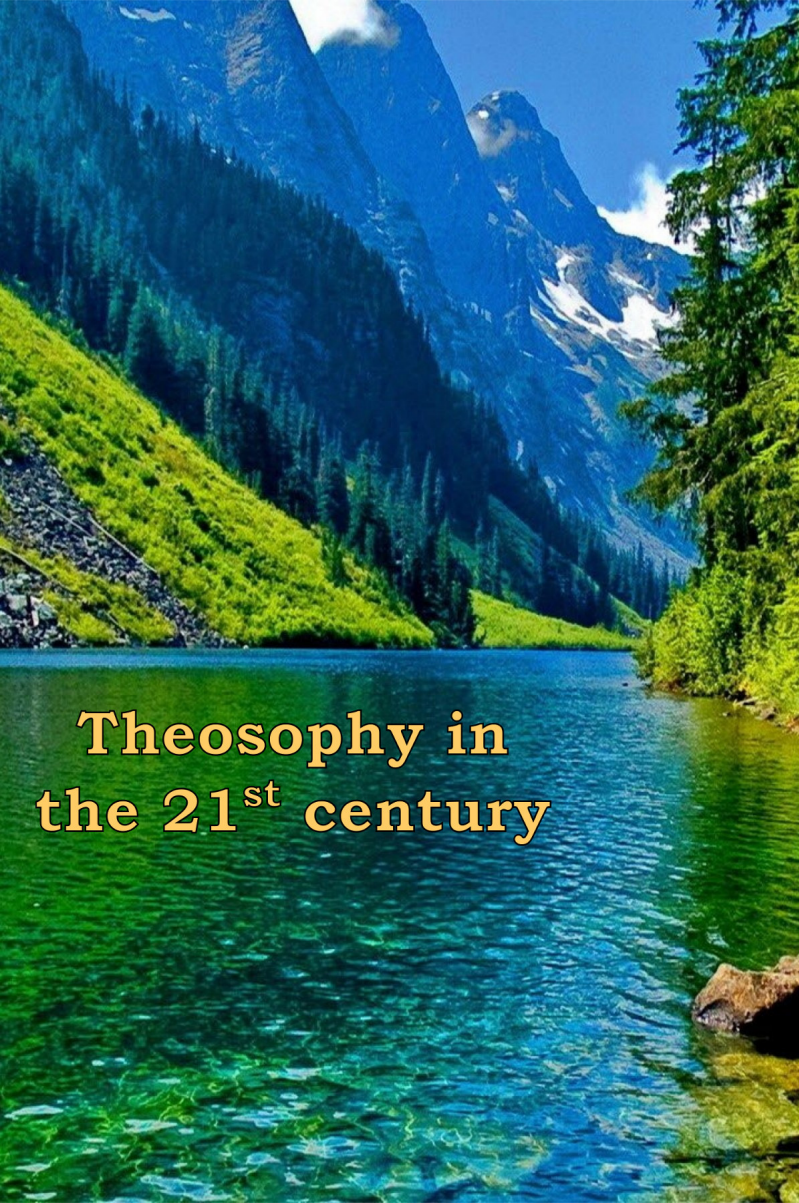




Theosophy in  
the 21<sup>st</sup> century

## *11 The evolution*

Course created by  
Carlos Pérez Menéndez  
SOCIEDAD TEOSÓFICA ESPAÑOLA

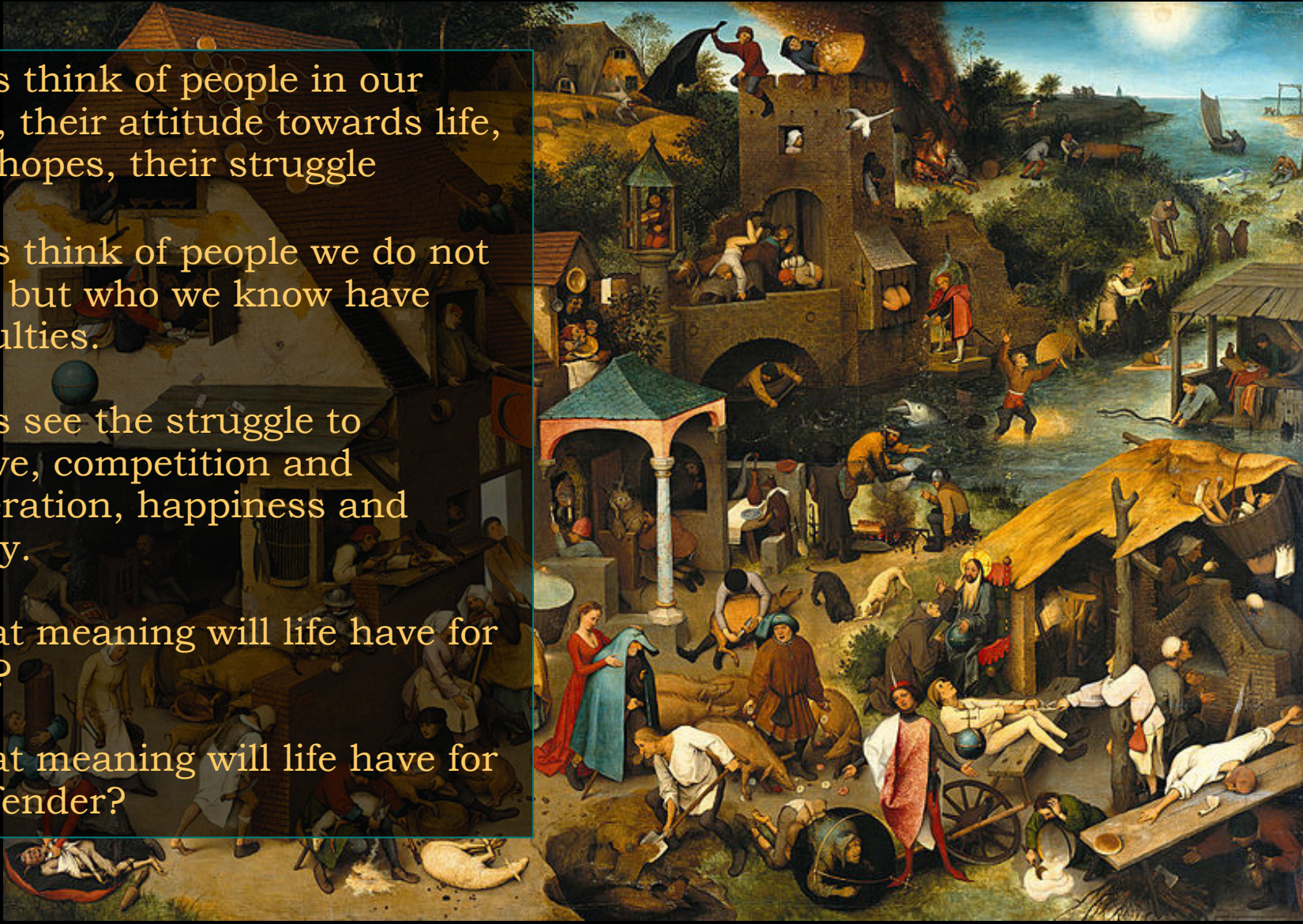
# ***What is the meaning of life?***

- Close your eyes, quiet your mind and do an exercise of reflection:
- Think of our daily life, our family and friends, our work, our aspirations, our struggles, our achievements, our frustrations, the unfulfilled longings, the sufferings, the joys, our loves, ...
- What sense do we find to all this?



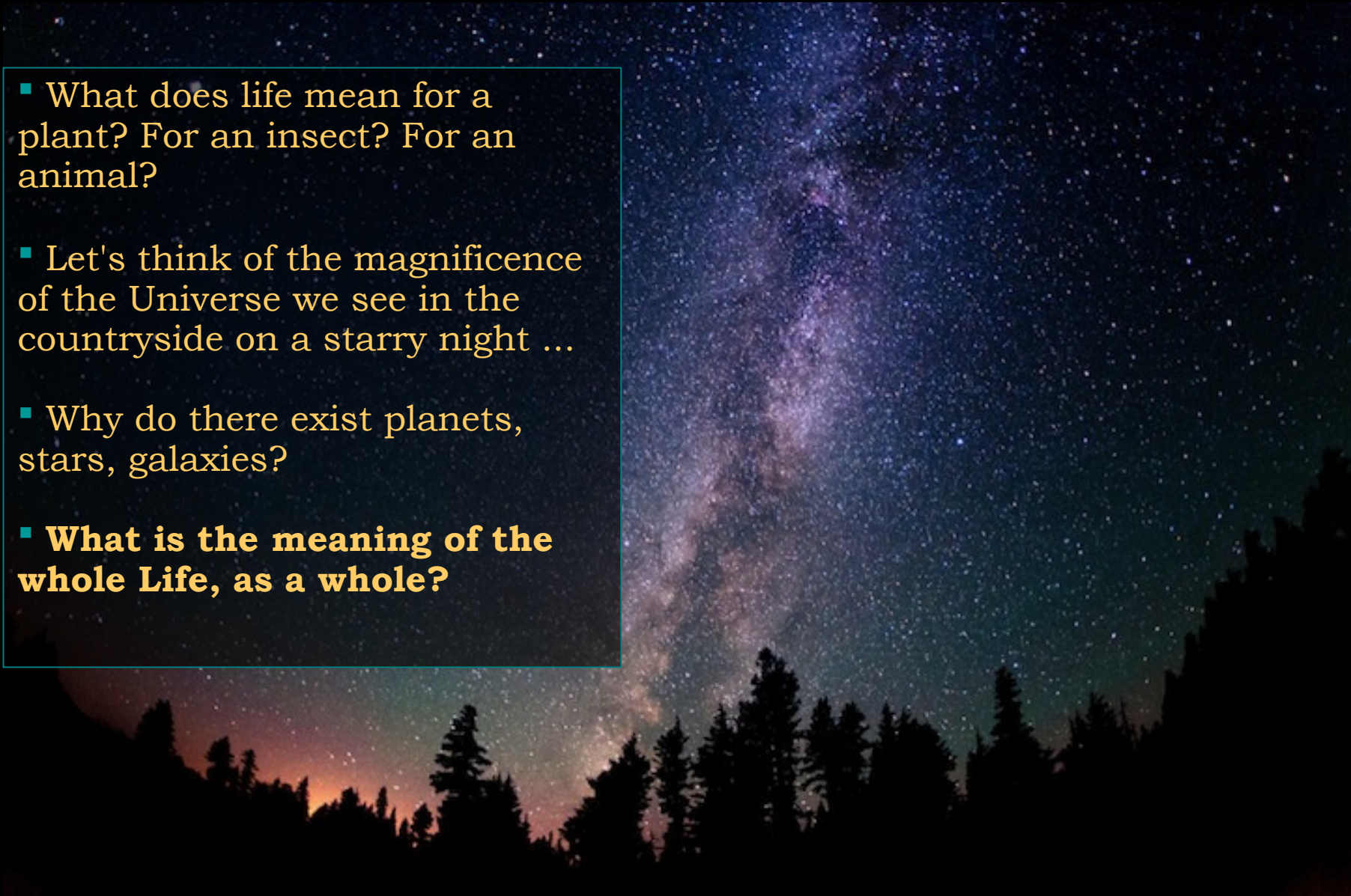
# *What is the meaning of life for others?*

- Let's think of people in our circle, their attitude towards life, their hopes, their struggle
- Let's think of people we do not know but who we know have difficulties.
- Let's see the struggle to survive, competition and cooperation, happiness and misery.
- What meaning will life have for them?
- What meaning will life have for an offender?



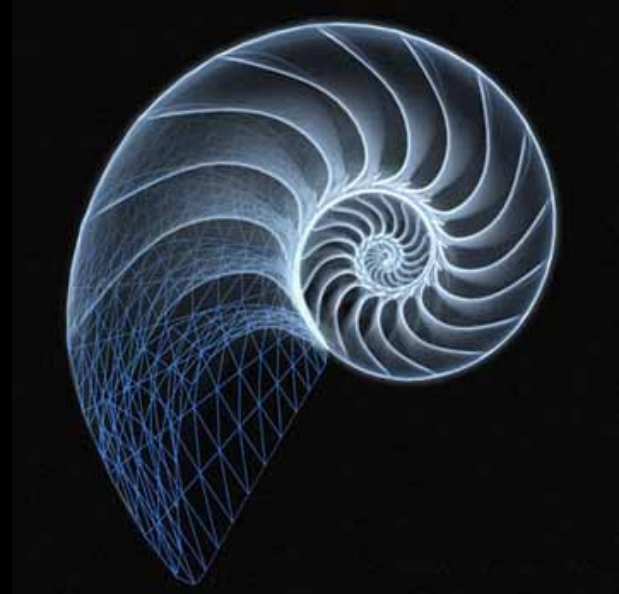
# *What is the meaning of life in general?*

- What does life mean for a plant? For an insect? For an animal?
- Let's think of the magnificence of the Universe we see in the countryside on a starry night ...
- Why do there exist planets, stars, galaxies?
- **What is the meaning of the whole Life, as a whole?**



# *The Law of Evolution*

- The **Law of Evolution** is a fundamental axiom of Theosophy since it reveals to us the progressive development of all existence.
- Everything, from the smallest to the greatest, is in a gradual and cyclical process of development activating the latent faculties.

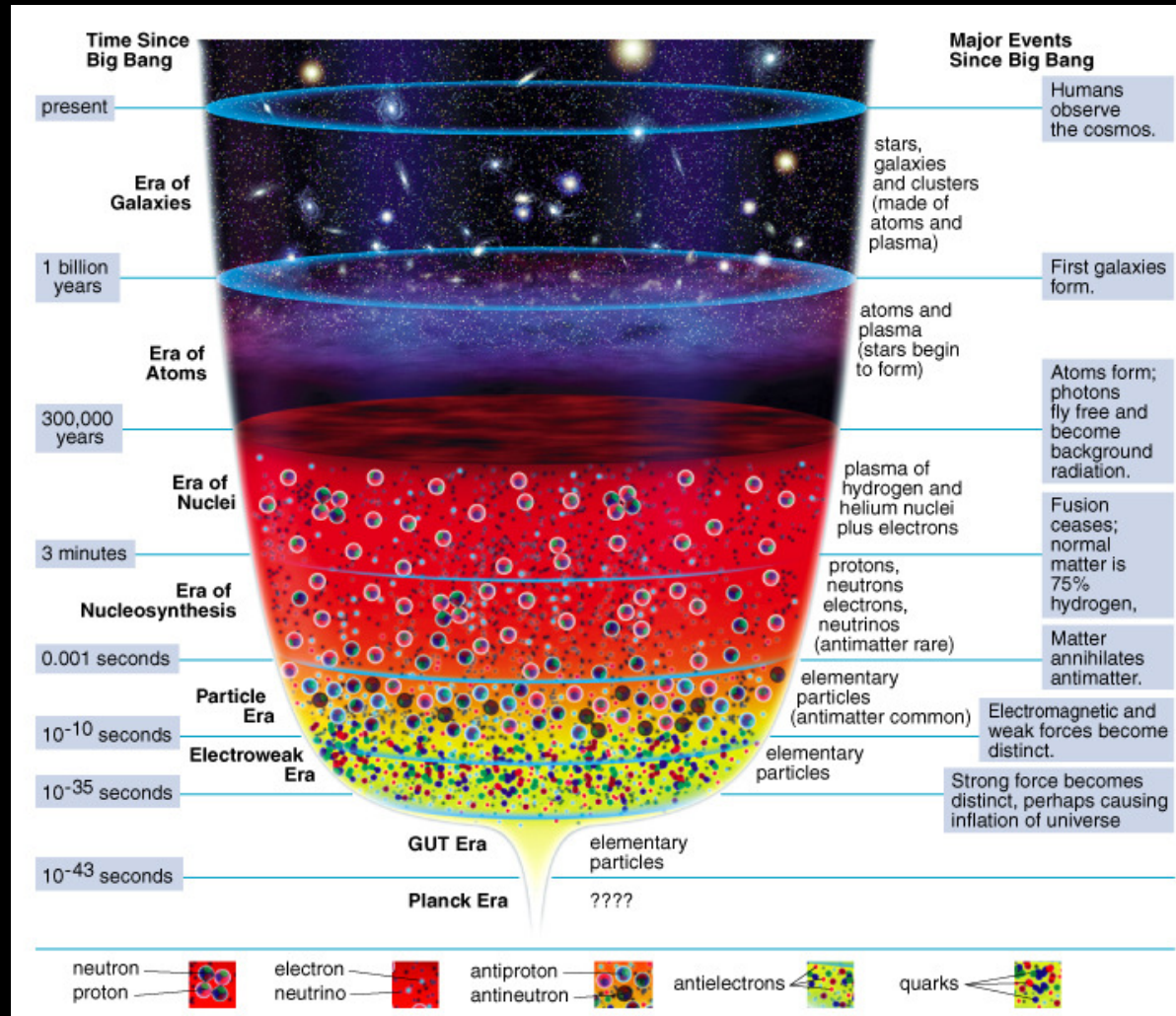


No more than Science, does esoteric philosophy admit design or “special creation.” It rejects every claim to the “miraculous,” and accepts nothing outside the uniform and immutable laws of Nature. But it teaches a cyclic law, a double stream of force (or spirit) and of matter, which, starting from the *neutral centre* of Being, develops in its cyclic progress and incessant transformations.

Helena Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, vol. 2

# *The evolution of matter*

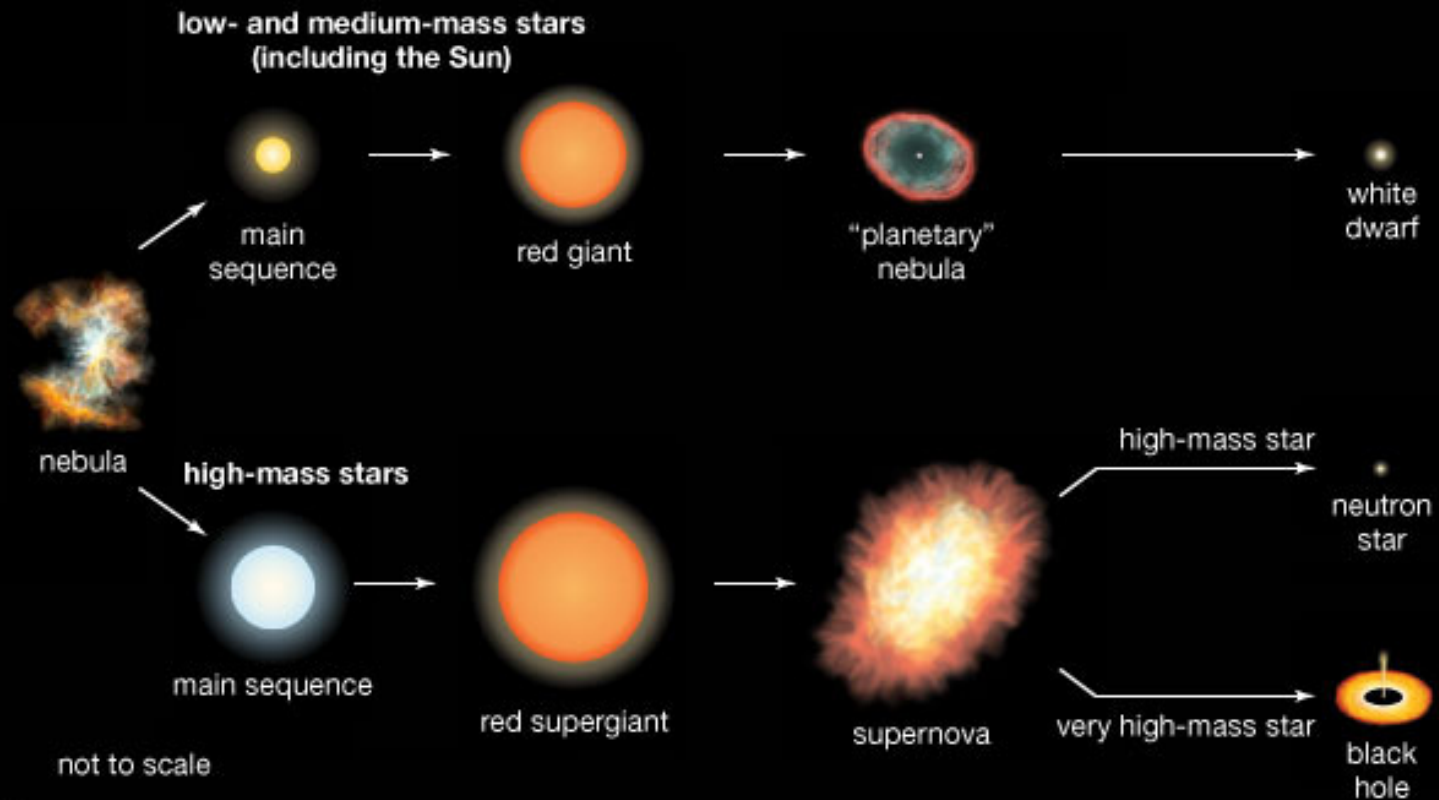
- Matter has not always been as we know it.
- The Big Bang happened 13,700 million years ago.
- A millisecond later the elementary particles appeared.
- Just after 3 minutes the hydrogen nuclei were formed.
- The atoms took more than 300,000 years to appear.



© Addison-Wesley Longman

# *The evolution of stars*

## Stellar evolution

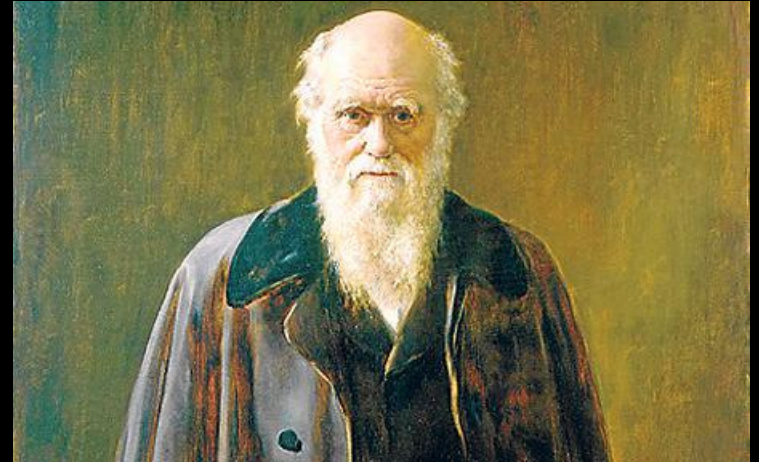


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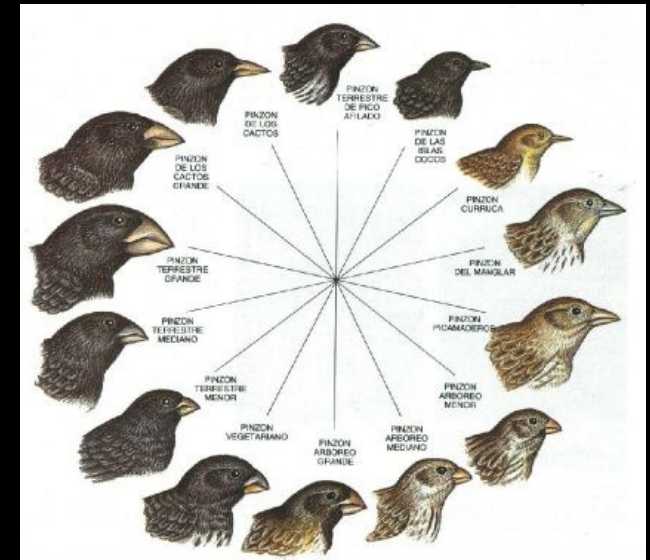
Stars also have their cycle of birth and death.

# *The evolution of the species*

- Lamarck began to sketch the ideas of evolution in 1800.
- Darwin traveled in the Beagle between 1831-1836 and published "The evolution of the species" in 1859.
- He formulated a scientific theory of evolution by means of:
  - Natural selection
  - Sexual selectionIt is the survival of the fittest.
- Mendel presented his work on genetic inheritance in 1866.



Charles Darwin (1809-1892)



Adaptation of the beak of the finches  
to the available food

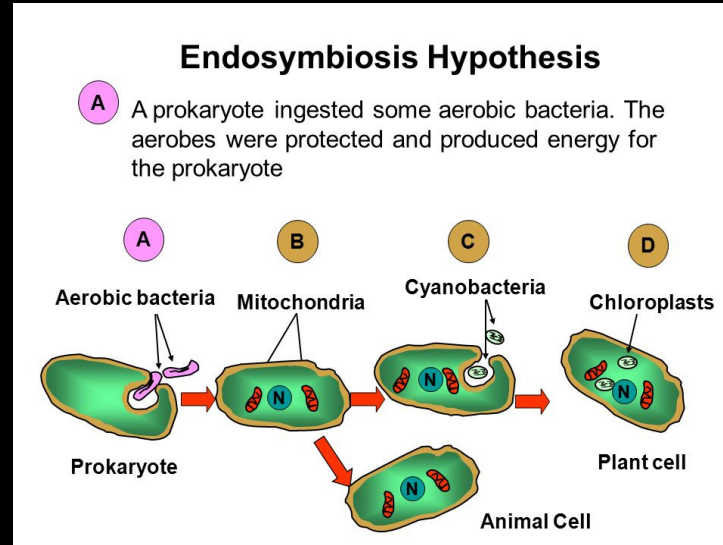
# ***Biological evolution***

- Organisms evolve from simple structures to more and more complex ones.
- In the DNA lies the biological information of the living being.
- The DNA determines the organic characteristics.
- Changes in DNA produce changes in the organism (mutations).
- Genetic characteristics are transmitted through inheritance.



# The origin of eukaryotic cells

- Lynn Margulis postulated the theory, now accepted, of **endosymbiosis**, the association between simple organisms to form eukaryotic cells.
- The bacteria appeared 3,500 M years ago.
- Eukaryotic cells appeared 1,500 M years ago (perhaps much earlier).
- It was a transcendental step in biological evolution.



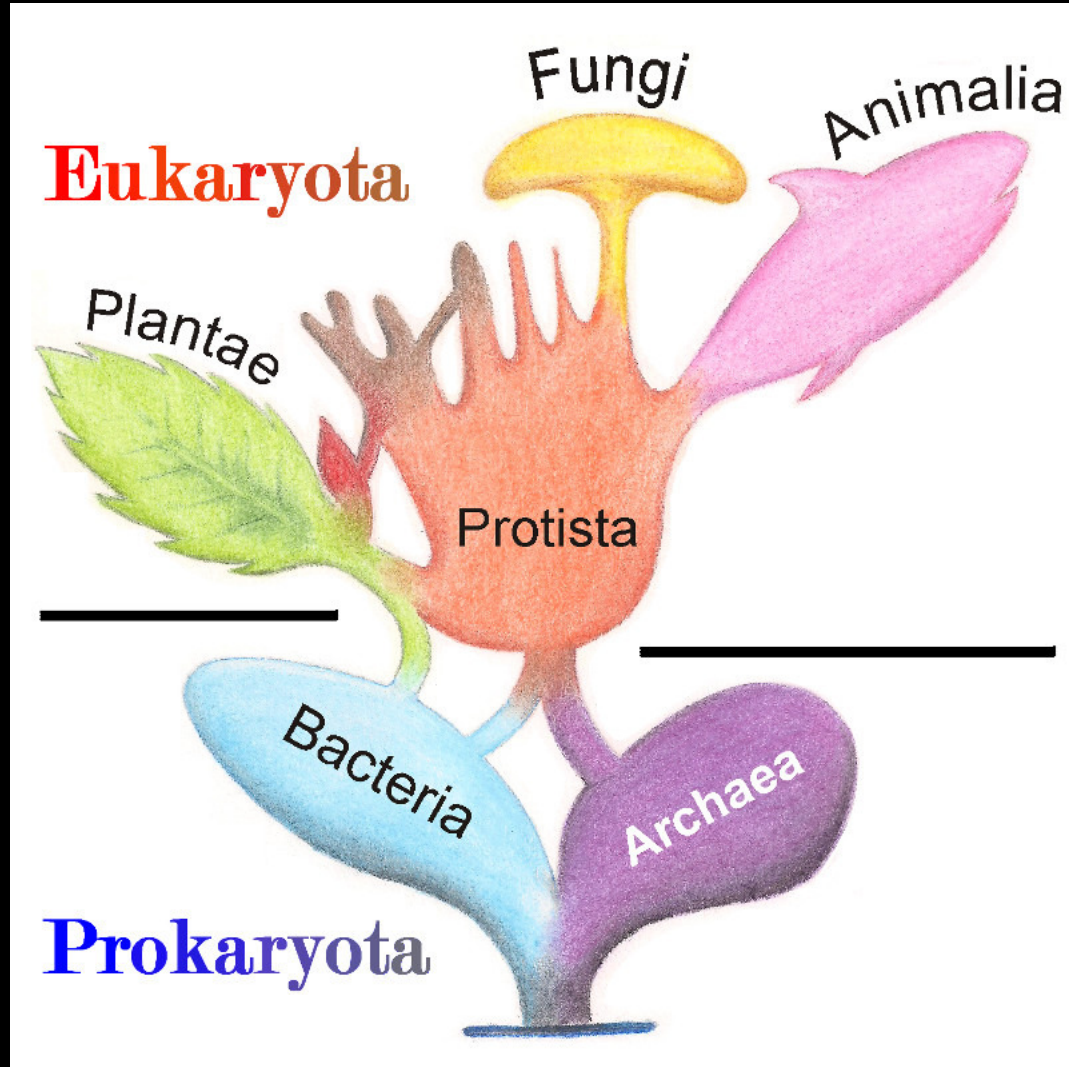
Lynn Margulis  
(1938 - 2011)

Lynn Margulis argued that symbiosis and reuse have a more important role than mutations

# Evolution in Biology

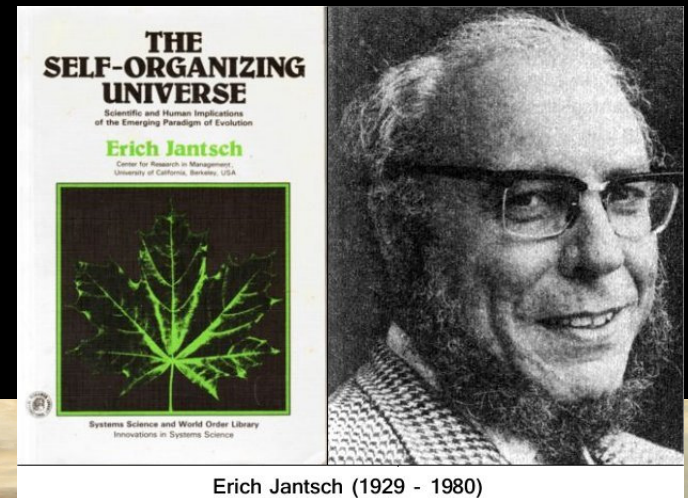
- It is produced through changes through successive generations in the inheritable characteristics of a population.
- It only deals with biological organisms, not with consciousness.
- Evolution is proven, but its mechanisms still have many unknowns to discover.

Phylogenetic tree starting from primitive organisms

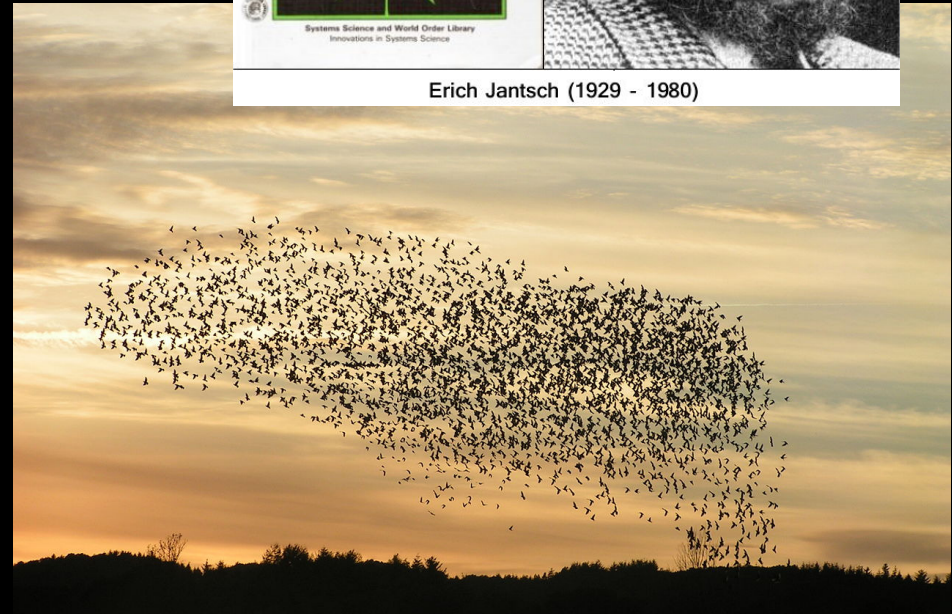


# Self-organizing systems

- New paradigm of evolution that rejects both creationism and reductionism (random mutations).
- Erich Jantsch exposed it in his work "*The Self-organizing Universe*".
- Applying systems theory to complex systems shows that they self-organize in an unstable equilibrium to evolve.
- General Evolution Theory (GET).

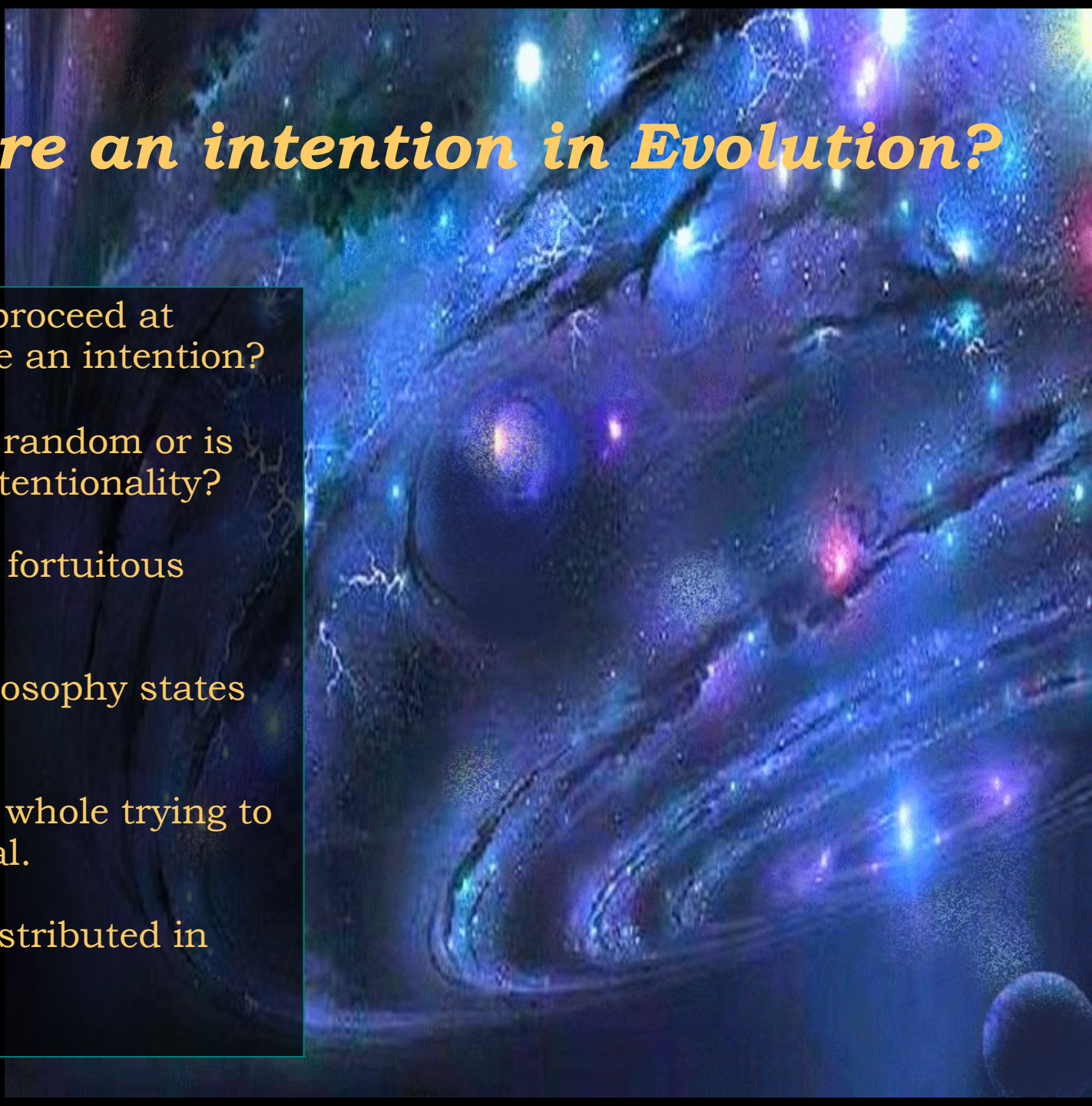


Erich Jantsch (1929 - 1980)



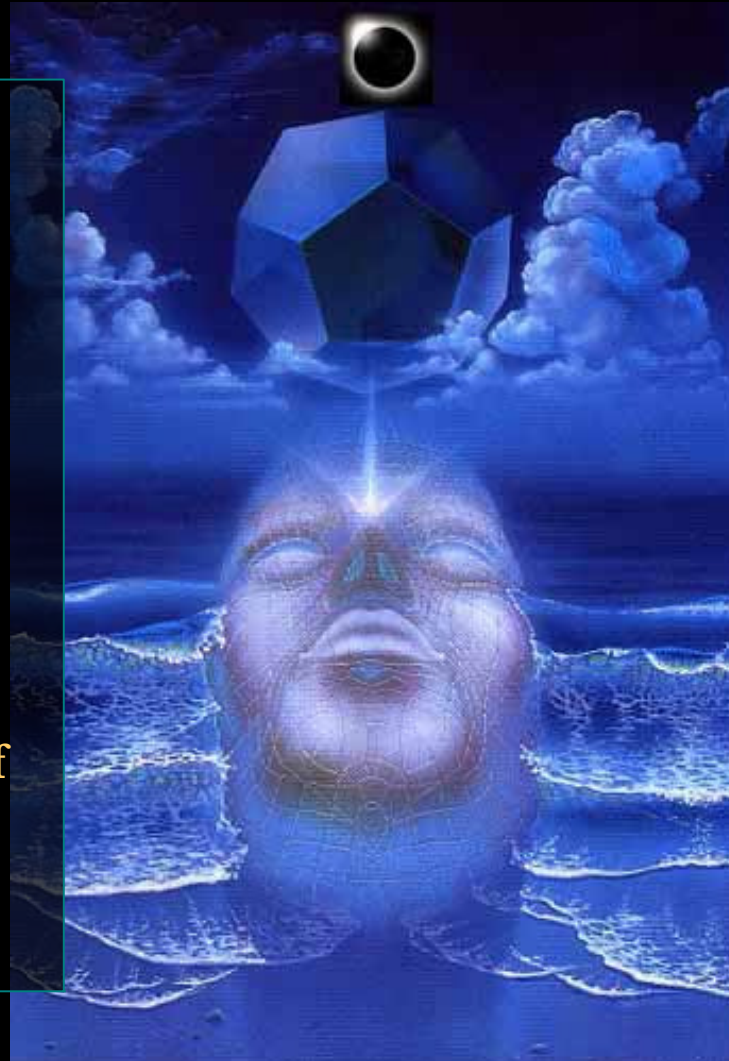
# *Is there an intention in Evolution?*

- Does Evolution proceed at random or is there an intention?
- Are the changes random or is there *teleology* (intentionality)?
- Does Life have a fortuitous origin?
- The esoteric philosophy states that:
  - Life evolves as a whole trying to unfold its potential.
  - Intelligence is distributed in everything.



# *Evolution of Consciousness*

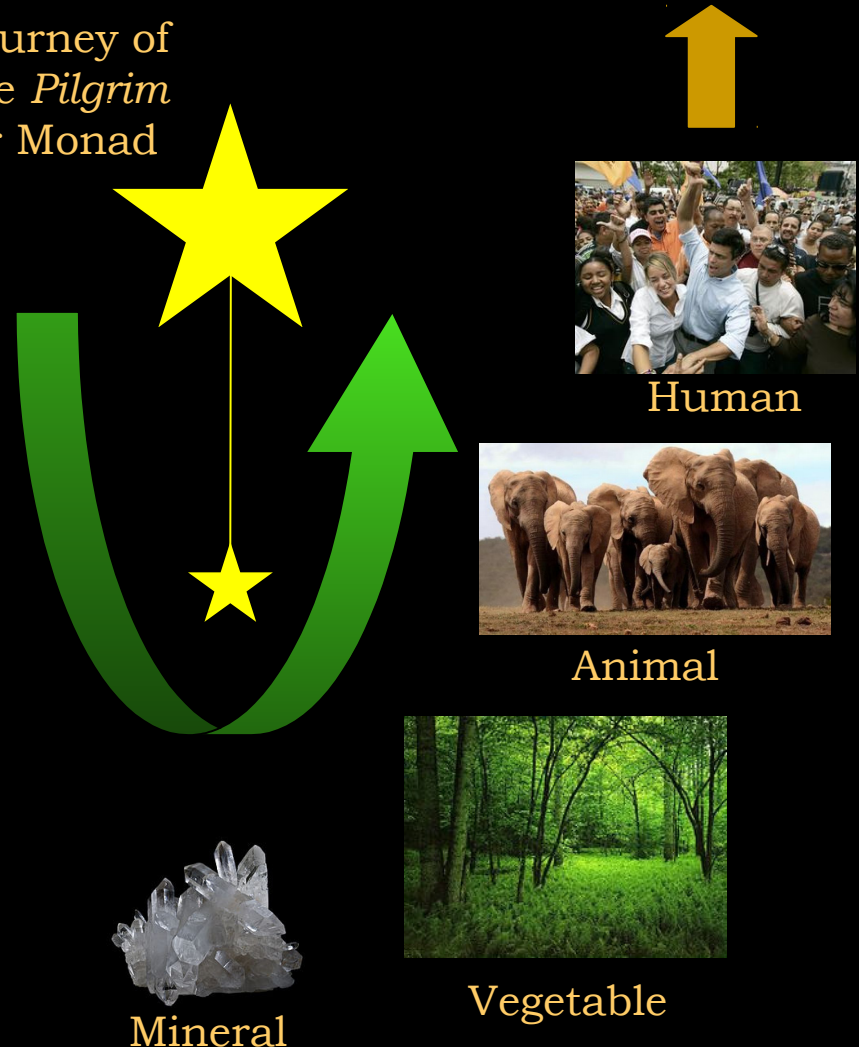
- The conscience evolves at the same time as the organism evolves by which it expresses itself.
- Evolution is essentially:
  - Learning
  - Development of latent capacities
- Psychological evolution.
- Evolution of the inner being, of the Monad.
- Everything is evolving.



# Stages of consciousness

- The divine spark passes through various stages from its emanation until it blossoms awake and self-conscious.
- The Monad goes through stages for very long periods.
- The mineral, vegetable, animal and human kingdoms are stages of the journey of the Monad, the *pilgrim*.
- The Monads did not emanate at once, but in waves.
- The vegetables and animals are our younger brothers.

Journey of  
the *Pilgrim*  
or Monad



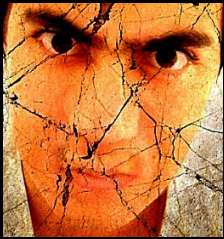
# *The duality of the world*



Discrimination



Animal  
exploitation



Conflicts



Wars



Human  
exploitation



Global  
warming



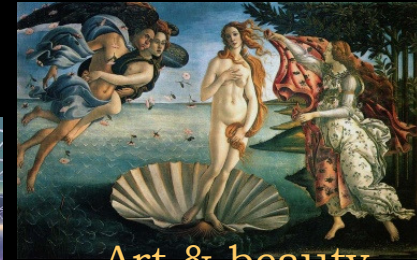
Agreement



Cooperation



Knowledge



Art & beauty



Family love



Harmony



Philosophy

# *Let's define good and evil*

- When do we say that something is good or bad?
- Relationship with a subject.
  - ... It's good for me
  - ... it's bad for our people
- What happens when something is good or bad depending on how you look at it?
- Relativity of values:
  - If something is good for us, will it always be good, in all circumstances?



The glass  
half full / half empty

# *The cause of evil*

Evil has no existence *per se*  
and is but the absence of good  
and exists but for him  
who is made its victim.

*K.H.*

There is only one good, knowledge,  
and one evil, ignorance

*Socrates*

Ignorance is the root  
and mother of all evil

*Plato*



# *Avidya, ignorance*

- *Avidya* is the essential ignorance about Life.
- It means error, illusion.
- It is to take the ephemeral as permanent.
- Separativity: the great illusion of the self.
- Evolution is to change to the state of **Vidya**, is to become conscious, wise.



# *So what is the meaning of life?*

- **Learning:** evolution is learning.
- **Love:** vivify the relationships that are part of Life.
- Everyone must discover what Life means to him.
- It is an evolutionary understanding, it changes and becomes deeper as we mature.



*To think*



Watch, think, investigate, inquire ...  
Make the following questions or thoughts suggestions  
But don't stay here, ask yourself and find out.