

Chapter 3 Creation Myths and a New Creation Theory

Human beings have developed many myths over the millennia to explain the origin of the world and describe how it was created. The process of creation is also described by various religions of the world, an example being the book of Genesis of the Bible.

In the current age of science, it is often thought that these myths and religious creation stories are nothing but fairy tales. However, when these creation myths are interpreted from the viewpoint of the new creation theory of Unification Thought, it will be seen that there is more to them than mere fairy tales. That is, Unification Thought can give modern insight into the poetic images used in the creation myths.

I. Myth of the Sacrifice of Primordial Man

Various world myths have a concept in common: That a primordial man, god or goddess, existed at the very beginning of the world; that he or she was sacrificed, **or** dead naturally; and that humans, animals, plants, heaven and earth appeared from the dead body. These are some typical ones.

A. Indian Myth of Giant Purusha

According to the ancient hymns of the *Rig Veda* of India, the vast primordial man, Purusha, was sacrificed by some gods and the world was created from his dead body (fig.3.1). This is the description in the book *Mythology*:

Purusha was cut into many pieces, from which the entire universe was created: the sky came from his head, the Earth from his feet, the air from his navel. The moon issued from his soul and the sun from his eyes. From his mouth came Indra, king of the gods, and Agni, the god of sacrificial fire; his breath became Vayu, the god of wind. The four classes of ancient India also came from Purusha: the *brahmin* or priests from his mouth; the *kshatriya* or noble warriors from his arms; the *vaishya* or traders and farmers from his thighs; and the *shudra* or servants from his feet.¹

B. Chinese Myth of Giant Pan Gu

According to the Chinese myth, there was an egg-like chaos in the beginning. A primordial man, Pan Gu, came to life from this egg of chaos. Pan Gu grew up rapidly and became a huge giant (fig.3.2). When he finally died, his body became the origin of all things:

His breath became the winds, his voice the blast of thunder, his left eye the sun and his right eye the moon, his bristling hair and beard the glittering stars of the night sky and his sweat the rains. His hands and feet became the four corners of the square Earth, and his body the five sacred mountains that were homes to the gods. His life-blood became the rivers and streams that water the Earth, his flesh was the fields, his body-hair the grass and slender trees, his teeth and bones minerals and rocks, his semen and bone marrow precious pearls and jade. The fleas on his body transformed into the human race.²

C. Norse Myth of Giant Ymir

Ymir was the primordial giant, and was the common ancestor of the gods and a clan of giants who were hostile to the gods. Ymir was killed by three brother gods Odin, Vili, and Ve:

Odin and his brothers then created the world out of Ymir's body: the earth out of his flesh; rocks from his bones; stones and gravel from his teeth and shattered bones; and lakes and the sea from the blood that flowed from his wounds. From Ymir's skull they formed the sky and set it up over the earth, placing four dwarves, Nordri, Sudri, Austri and Vestri (representing North, South, East, and West) at each corner to hold it up. Ymir's hair was used to create flora, and his brains were thrown into the sky to form the clouds.³

D. Babylonian Goddess Tiamat

Marduk, the savior and a son of the Sun, killed goddess Tiamat, the goddess of salt water, and split her into two pieces. The sky and stars were created from the upper half of the body of Tiamat, and the earth with all the plants and animals were created from the lower half. The rain clouds were created from Tiamat's spittle, the rivers Tigris and Euphrates flowed from her eyes, and her breasts became mountains from which gushed freshwater springs. Qingu, who was the commander of the Tiamat's army, was taken prisoner and killed. Human beings were created from his blood.

E. Japanese Myth of *Izanagi*

The god *Izanagi* and goddess *Izanami* created the Eight Islands of Japan through their marriage. Then, they made the gods and goddesses of mountains, the sea, and rocks, soil, trees, winds, grains, and so on. But, when *Izanami* came to give birth to the

fire god, *Kagutsuchi*, her sexual organ was terribly burned and she died. She was taken to *Yomi*, the shadowy land of the dead. *Izanagi* went there to see *Izanami*; entering a room she had told him not to enter. He saw his wife's swollen and rotting body with maggots crawling over it. He was scared and left *Yomi*. After he came back, he bathed his left eye and the sun goddess *Amaterasu* came forth; from his right eye sprang the moon god *Tsukiyomi*. He flooded his nose with waters and he brought forth the storm god *Susano*.

F. Myth of the Sacrifice of Primordial Man, and New Creation Theory

According to the myth of primordial man, primordial man (god or goddess) existed in the beginning, and the primordial man was sacrificed or died naturally. Then heaven and earth, and humans and all things were created from the dead body. However, these are not actual happenings but symbolic stories.

According to the new creation theory of Unification Thought, God first made a plan of the original human couple (Adam and Eve), and based on this plan of the original couple, He planned other humans, animals, plants, minerals, and heavenly bodies. Therefore, it can be seen that a primordial man in the myth refers to the original human being who became the prototype of all other humans and all things. In other words, a primordial man was not actually killed and cut into pieces, but other humans and all things were planned in the image of the original primordial human being: the plan (blueprint) of the original human being was transformed and simplified to make the plans (blueprints) of other humans and all things. In this way, it can be said that the creation myth of the sacrifice of primordial man is in accord with the new creation theory. The formation of God's plan of creation, according to which all things are planned in the image of the original human being (Adam and Eve), is illustrated in figure 3.3.

II. Creation Myth of the Cosmic Egg

There are many myths in a variety of cultures that have in common the image of the world being created from an egg. First, we will look at some of these 'egg' myths, and then discuss what aspect of reality is expressed in this poetic image.

A. Judeo-Christian Creation Myth

In the book of Genesis in the Bible, it is written that "the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters" (Gen. 1:2). It is said that the literal meaning of the latter part

of this sentence in Hebrew is that “a cosmic egg was hatched by the brooding Spirit, as by a bird, and produced the universe.”⁴

B. Hindu Myth of Cosmic Egg

This is how *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths* describes the Hindu myth of creation from a cosmic egg⁵:

According to the Myth from the Satapatha Brahmana, there was only the primeval sea in the beginning. The primeval sea wished to reproduce, and through devotions, the sea became heated enough to produce a golden egg. The egg floated over the sea about for a time, and then Prajapati was born from the egg [the primordial man, Purusha, is another version of the progenitor, Prajapati]. After he broke out of the egg, Prajapati rested on its shell for another year or so before he tried to speak. The sound he made—the word, his sounded breath—became earth. His next sound became sky. Other sounds became the seasons.

In the oldest of the Upanishads, the Chandogya Upanishad, there was a story of a cosmic egg. In this version, however, Prajapati became the creator god Brahma. Brahma created the sea at first, and sowed a seed in it. The seed developed into an egg. After a year, the egg broke into two parts, one of silver, one of gold. From the silver part came the earth; from the gold, the sky. Then, mountains, rivers, clouds, and so forth, came from inside.

Brahma (Prajapati, Purusha) meditating in the egg is illustrated in figure 3.4 and the breaking of the egg in figure 3.5.

C. Chinese Myth of Cosmic Egg

In Chinese myth, Pan Gu was born from an egg. *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths* describes this:

In the beginning was a huge egg containing chaos, a mixture of yin-yang—female–male, passive–active, cold–heat, dark–light, and wet–dry. Within this yin-yang was Pan Gu, that which was not yet anything, but which broke forth from the egg as the giant who separated chaos into the many opposites, including earth and sky. Each day for 18,000 years Pan Gu grew ten feet between the sky, which was raised ten feet, and the earth, which grew by ten feet. So it is that heaven and earth are now separated by 90,000 li, or 30,000 miles.⁶

D. Greek Myth of Cosmic Egg

This is how *Mythology* recounts Hesiod's creation story: "[Goddess Chaos] created the ocean and danced on its waves. The wind caused by her movements became the material from which she created a partner, a giant serpent. Taking the form of a dove, she laid a huge egg, which was fertilized by the serpent. . . . Everything in the universe hatched from this primal egg."⁷The hatching of the egg is shown in figure 3.6.

In the creation myth of the Orphic cult, Chronos, the personification of time, constructed an egg from which was born Phanes, the first born of the gods. Phanes made Nyx, his daughter, from his own body, and created everything on Earth through the union with her.

E. Egyptian Myth of Cosmic Egg

This is how *Mythology* describes the Egyptian myth of the cosmic egg⁸: According to the Hermopolitan myth, there was the Ogdoad, or "Group of Eight," consisting of four pairs of male and female deities before the world existed. The Ogdoad was divided into two groups, male and female, and the violent meeting between the two groups produced a tremendous upheaval, which in turn engendered the primordial mound. The mound contained a cosmic egg. As the shell fell apart, the mound turned into an "Island of Flame," and the newborn sun god ascended into the sky to his rightful position in the heavens. This event was considered to be the very first sunrise. In this way, the universe was born. The Hermopolitan concept, which likened the birth of the universe to a cataclysm, in some ways anticipates modern "Big Bang" theories.

According to the Heliopolitan myth, on the other hand, a benu appeared as a yellow wagtail, a manifestation of the Heliopolitan sun god Atum. The bird's call created a disturbance that set the creation act in motion. When the bird settled on the primeval mound it laid an egg, which hatched to produce the sun god Atum. Atum bore gods and goddesses and they created the universe. Greek historian, Herodotus recorded it as the phoenix. The hatching of an egg and the appearance of the sun god (phoenix) is shown in figure 3.7.

F. Finnish Myth of Cosmic Egg

Encyclopedia of Creation Myths describes a Finnish creation story, which is contained in the national epic saga, *Kalevala*⁹: In the beginning there were the primeval waters and Sky. When Sky's daughter, Ilmatar, floated over the water, a beautiful bird, a teal, came and laid six golden eggs and one iron one on her knee. The eggs fell into the water and were shattered by the wind and waves. From the lower part of one of the eggshells land developed, and from the top was made the sky. The moon and the stars

came from the egg whites, and the yolk became the sun. One day Vainamoinen, the first man, was born of Ilmatar.

G. Birth of King from an Egg in Korean Myth

It was the age of King Kim Hwa in East *Puyŏ*. One day, the king met a beautiful girl, Yuhwa on the river. She conceived a Heavenly Emperor's grandchild. The king took her to the palace, and she bore a big egg. When it hatched, a boy baby appeared, he was called Chumong. He was raised as a prince of the country.

Other princes were afraid of Chumong talents and tried to kill him, so he ran away. Chumong and his party were cornered at *Womusu*, but fishes and turtles appeared and made a line on the river. Chumong and his party crossed the bridge and survived. Chumong went south and established a nation, *Koguryŏ*. He was called King Tonmyong. A son of King Tonmyong, Onjo, established the nation of *Paekche*. Therefore, *Paekche* is the brother nation of *Koguryŏ*.

Pak Hyŏkkŏse, the first king of *Shilla*, is also said to have been born from an egg. One day, leaders of the six villages in *Saro* (now, *Kyongyu*) area prayed to the Heavenly Emperor asking for a lord. A streak of light lit the earth, and a white horse knelt before a large shining purple egg. Pak Hyŏkkŏse, who was born from the egg, became the king of *Shilla*. T'arhae, the forth king of Shilla is also said to have been born from an egg which was loaded on a boat and floating.

King Kim Suro of *Kaya* is also said to have been born from one of six golden eggs that came from heaven. Thus, Korean myths explain that the first king of their nation was born from an egg.

H. Japanese Creation Myth

The *Nihonshoki* (sometimes translated as *The Chronicles of Japan*) is the second oldest book of classical Japanese history. It explains how heaven and earth were created from an egg-like chaotic origin:

Of old, Heaven and Earth were not yet separated, and the Yin and Yang not yet divided. They formed a chaotic mass like an egg, which was of obscurely defined limits, and contained germs. The purer and clearer part was thinly diffused and formed Heaven, while the heavier and grosser element settled down and became Earth. The finer element easily became a united body, but the consolidation of the heavy and gross element was accomplished with difficulty. Heaven was therefore formed first, and Earth established subsequently. Thereafter divine beings were

produced between them.¹⁰

I. The Modern Cosmic Egg—The Big Bang Theory

According to modern cosmology, the universe started from a point that inflated rapidly and then developed into the hot Big Bang some 13.7 billion years ago.

Following this in sequence, elementary particles, atoms, and the heavenly bodies were formed, and the universe as it is now was established. This story can be viewed metaphorically as the explosive hatching of a cosmic egg. The modern cosmic egg, Big Bang, is shown in figure 4.8.

J. Cosmic Egg Myth and New Creation Theory

The new creation theory explains that God formed the Logos first, and then He created the world according to it. Logos is God's plan or a blueprint for all creation. The formation of Logos was made from top down, taking the plan of a human being as a model: human being → higher living beings → lower living beings → heavenly bodies → atoms → elementary particles → light.

The creation of the actual phenomenal world, however, was in the opposite direction from the bottom up; beginning with light, and aiming at human beings. Therefore, even before the Big Bang, the universe was planned with the Earth to be the dwelling place for human beings. The ancient myths reflected the idea of the formation of the universe from the Big Bang as a hatching of a cosmic egg.

Logos, or the plan of creation, was contained in a cosmic egg, and the world was created according to Logos. In God's Logos, the human couple Adam and Eve were the final plan of His creation and all things are the living environment for human beings. Thus, the plan for human being and all things were contained in the cosmic egg. Therefore, it is pure folklore that an egg hatched, and earth and heaven, human beings, animals, and plants all came from the egg at one time. Based on the plan contained in the cosmic egg, creation was made over a long period of time from the bottom up. In the ancient myths, however, it was explained that all things appeared all at once, neglecting the time span. If we take time span into consideration, and seen from the perspective of Unification Thought, we can understand that the ancient cosmic egg myths are not mere fairy tales: they can be accepted even in the current age of science.

Creation of the world starting from the Big Bang—corresponding to the hatching of a cosmic egg—according to God's plan (Logos) for creation is illustrated in figure 3.9.

III. Creation of Heaven and Earth through the Union of Male

and Female

In various myths of the world, a common theme is that that all things were created through the union of a god and goddess.

A. Male and Female Character of God in Judeo-Christianity and Islam

It is written in the Bible: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gen. 1:27). The clear implication of this passage is that the God is the union of male and female. God, the union of male and female, created heaven and earth. This is a common understanding in both Judeo-Christianity and Islam. The first humans created are called Adam and Eve, the progenitors of all humanity.

B. God and Goddess in Hinduism

According to the *Rig Veda*, the god of Heaven and Earth, Dyava Prithivi, is the union of the god Dyaus (Heaven) and the goddess Prithivi (Earth), and is the parent and keeper of all things. Indra, the King of gods in the *Veda*, was born from Dyaus and Prithivi. Hindu Tantrism explains the creation of the universe through the sexual union of god Shiva and goddess Parvati. Parvati symbolizes Shakti, which means female energy.

C. Chinese Myth of Fu Xi and Nü Wa

At first, Nü Wa was believed to be the dragon goddess who created human beings. But later, Nü Wa and Fu Xi were considered to be a couple whose tails were twisted. Nü Wa and Fu Xi were the first gods and they created Heaven and Earth. There is also a legend that Nü Wa and Fu Xi, brother and sister survived a flood and became first human beings (fig.3.10).

In Chinese traditional thought, the Great Ultimate, the origin of the universe engendered yang and yin. Yang and yin, in turn, gave rise to the “four images,” and four images gave rise to the “eight trigrams,” which produced the universe. The yang and yin theory also indicates that the origin of universe has dual characteristics of male and female, and the universe was created from their interactions (see fig.3.11).

D. Japanese Myth of *Izanagi* and *Izanami*

At the beginning of Heaven and Earth, five *Koto-Amatsu-Kami* (Superior Gods of Heaven) and two other primordial gods, centered on *Ameno-Minakanushi* (Lord of the Center of Heaven), were born in *Takama-no-hara* (High Plain of Heaven). All were

invisible spirits without sex and without physical form.

They were followed by five male-female pairs of deities with physical form. The last appearing was the couple *Izanagi* and *Izanami*. They stood at the Floating Bridge of Heaven and stirred the clouds with the jeweled Spear of Heaven. Then, *Onogoro-jima* (Spontaneously Conceived Island) was created. They went down to *Onogoro-jima*, and the Eight Great Islands (Japan) were created through their sexual union.

E. Creation by god and goddess, and New Creation Theory

God is the harmonious Subject Being with the dual characteristics of Yang and Yin. Thus, it can be said that God is a united being of male god and female goddess. God created the world with Logos. Logos is a plan (blueprint) for the created world, or a scenario for the creation of Heaven and Earth. Logos has dual characteristics that reflect God's dual characteristics of Yang and Yin. In this way, the world of pair systems was created—man and woman, male and female, stamen and pistil, cation and anion. God, who is the united being of god and goddess, created the world through the give and receive action between the dual characteristics.

IV. Myths of Creation through Rotation

There are myths that the world was created through the churning of gas or water centering on an upright pillar. Reflecting this, many countries and cultures have rituals in which people dance around a standing pillar.

A. Indian Myth of the Churning of the Ocean of Milk

A long time ago, Vishnu ordered gods to stir the 'Ocean of Milk' using Mount Mandara as an axis and serpent Vasuki as a churning rope. Vishnu turned himself to a huge tortoise and supported the axis on his back. As the ocean churned, the moon, the sun, the goddess Lakshmi, and a white elephant appeared. Finally, the divine physician Dhanwantari stole the soma, the spiritual potion of immortality, but Vishnu succeeded to regaining it. The gods recovered their soma and their powers. The churning of the milky ocean in Hindu myth is shown in figure 3.12.

B. Indian Myth of the Giant Fiery Pillar

The book *Mythology* describes the Lingam of Shiva as recorded in the ancient *Lingam Plana*.

One day Vishnu and Brahma were disputing which of them was the prime creator

and thus the most worthy of reverence. . . . But finally they were silenced when, suddenly, a vast, fiery pillar reared up before them on the all-encompassing primal waters. . . . Brahma transformed himself into a swan and flew upwards along the column for 1,000 years, while Vishnu became a boar and plunged into the waters, traveling down along the column for the same period. Neither found the end, . . . Then Shiva appeared to them, from inside the pillar, and they realized that the awesome column was Shiva's *lingam*, or life-giving sacred phallus.¹¹

This fiery pillar is the universal form of Shiva, and *lingam* is its worldly symbol. It can be said that the fiery pillar of the *lingam* is the pillar of universal creation.

C. Jeweled Spear of Heaven and Holy Pillar in Japanese Myth

Five *Koto-Amatsu-Kami* (Superior Gods of Heaven) centering on *Ameno-Minakanushi* (Lord of the Center of Heaven) gave the jeweled Spear of Heaven to the god couple *Izanagi* and *Izanami*. They stood on the Floating Bridge of Heaven and stirred the cloud sea with the spear. When *Izanagi* lifted the spear, drops from it solidified, forming *Onogoro-jima* (Spontaneously Conceived Island) (see fig.3.13).

Izanagi and *Izanami* set up the holy pillar in the center of *Onogoro-jima*. They went around the pillar and became one as husband and wife. Out of their union came the island of *Awaji* and then others, forming the Eight Great Islands of Japan.

D. Holy Pillar Festival

In Japan, there is a custom of setting up a holy pillar, called *Onbashira*, at the shrine of *Suwataisya*. This pillar is an upright tree cut down high on a mountain. There are also similar customs involving a holy pillar in other parts of the world¹²: In Asia, there is the pillar of Indra-Jatra in Kathmandu, Nepal; Wash doors of India Festival; the festival of setting up the pillar of Red Karen in Myanmar; a new year tree set up at the square of Lahu's village in the northwest part of Thailand; the holy pillar set up at the foot of Mount Kailas, known as the navel of universe, in Tibet.

In Europe, there is the pillar of the summer solstice festival in Kiruna, Sweden; the Maypole in Kent, England; Oktoberfest in Germany. In Central America, there is the flying Indian in Papantla, Mexico. The English Maypole is the custom in which people set up a pillar at a church or in a square of town on Mayday (first day of May). At the top end of the pillar are ropes decorated with green leaves, and as people hold these ropes they go dancing around the pillar. It is said that all these customs are carried out in order to promote exchange between people and spirits (or gods).

A Japanese-style painter, Rei Torii explains here how a rotating pillar is a model of the creation of the universe by God:

A pot as large as the universe was created from the breath of the primordial god, and then a rotating pillar appeared, bringing forth yin and yang, at left and right of the pillar, which were also rotating themselves. Thus, sun and moon appeared. This is the original form of the creation of the universe. This type of story lies deep in the culture of Japan.¹³

E. Modern Cosmology

Less than a billion years after the birth of the universe, the hot primordial hydrogen and helium gases had cooled and condensed into a host of galaxies. At the center of each galaxy, the density was such that a massive black hole emerged. About this center was a rotating accretion disc that sent great jets of material out from the poles. These are the distant quasars, which we see today across billions of years of space and time. Neutron stars called pulsars are remains of supernova explosions, the death of stars. They rotate at high speed around X-ray beams. In the core of galaxy, the black hole at the center works as an engine to jet materials into space, while gas clouds revolve at high speed around the jet streams. Thus, according to the modern cosmology, stars and galaxies are born, exist and die, rotating around central beams.

F. Rotation in the Creation of Universe, and New Creation Theory

God created the universe based on the Way of Heaven, which is the principle of creation, and the universe exists and moves in accordance with it. A basic law of the Way of Heaven is that subject and object are engaged in harmonious give and receive action centering on the center axis, which represents God's love and purpose of creation. They exist and develop performing circular motion. Therefore, the creation of the universe, the movement of galaxies, and the birth and death of stars were carried out centering on, and rotating around a central axis.

In human beings, when man and woman love each other centering on the axis of the vertical true love (God's love), they become a true husband and wife. As an individual, a person realizes a true personality through the revolution of physical mind centering on the axis of spirit mind. Thus, myths of creation through revolution symbolically express the Way of Heaven. Such circular motion, which is a Way of Heaven, is illustrated in figure 3.14.

V. Creation by Word

Worldwide, there are many myths or scriptures that explain how the world was created by the word of God.

A. Creation by God's Word in Christianity

In the Bible, the Gospel according to John states, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." As recorded in this statement, Christianity teaches that God created the world by His Word, the Logos.

B. Creation by saying 'Be' in Islam

In Islam, all things appeared with God's commanding word, 'Be', as the following phrases from the Koran state:

He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth, and when He decrees something, He says only, 'Be,' and it is (Koran, 2:117).

It is He who gives life and death, and when He ordains a thing, He says only 'Be' and it is (Koran, 40:68).

C. Egyptian Myth of Creation by Word

The people of Memphis considered Ptah the creator of the world. Ptah created all things by thought and word alone. All things came into being by thought from his heart and words from his tongue. Creation by Ptah's word is shown in figure 3.15.

In ancient Egypt, Thoth, the god of knowledge, was regarded as the deputy to the supreme deity, Re. However, according to the myth of Hermopolis, Thoth is the god who created the universe. He created himself as a cosmic egg that appeared on a water lily. When Thoth spoke words, they were given form and he created all things by his words.

D. Mayan Creation by Word

Encyclopedia of Creation Myths describes the Mayan creation story as follows:

In the beginning, there were only the creators, Tepeu and the Feathered Serpent, Gucumatz, in the void and the waters. . . . They thought the emptiness of the void

should become something and it did. “Let there be earth,” they said, and there was earth. They thought, “Mountains,” and there were mountains. They said, “Trees,” and there were trees. So it went.¹⁴

E. “Two-stage Structure of Creation” in New Creation Theory

In the Bible and also in many myths, it is thought that when God spoke a word of command, everything appeared instantly. Seen from the new creation theory of Unification Thought, however, God’s word does not mean a spoken word uttered by God, but rather it is God’s plan or scenario for the creation of the universe. Everything has been created according to this plan.

According to the new creation theory, the Logos (word) was formed first, and then, the phenomenal world was created under the guidance of the Logos. The formation of Logos was top down. In other words, God first planned our human ancestors Adam and Eve; then taking their image as a model He planned all things in downward order: other humans → higher living beings → lower living beings → heavenly bodies → atoms → elementary particles → light.

God then created the actual world under the direction of this Logos in the opposite direction, from the bottom up; beginning with light and concluding with the creation of human beings, investing His energy for 13.7 billion years. In the same way as in the cosmic egg myths, creation by the word outlines God’s creation as an instantaneous event that disregards the time span involved.

VI. Primordial Matter

Creation from nothing, sometimes called creation *ex nihilo* or *de novo*, is particularly popular in monotheistic religions. There are also creation myths which explain how things started out of primordial water (sea) or soil (mud).

A. Creation from Nothing in Christianity

The concept of “creation from nothing” was elaborated by Augustine: God created matter from nothing, and then the world was created out of this matter. In his view, almighty God created the universe without any starting materials.

B. Creation from Nothing in Islam

In the Koran, it is written that Allah created the world in two days just by saying the word ‘Be.’ This is also a creation from nothing.

C. Beginning of the World in Buddhism

In Buddhism, little emphasis is placed on the creation of the world. However, in the *Pitaka* scripture of the early Theravada school of Buddhism, Buddha spoke of the end of this world and the creation of the new world as retold in *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths*¹⁵: There is no such being as creator. In the beginning, everything was covered with water and darkness. For a long time, there were no sun, moon, stars, or seasons, and there were no creatures, no humans. After a still longer time, the earth formed on the waters, just as a skin forms on cooling hot milk. Then, the sun, moon, and stars appeared, and humans developed sexual characteristics.

D. Creation from Primordial Matter

The creation involving primordial water is a common form of creation myth. In addition, this type of creation myth often includes a diving animal as noted in the *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths*: “The Supreme Being typically sends an animal—a duck, a turtle—into the primal waters to find mud or clay with which to form the earth.”¹⁶

E. Generation of the Universe from Nothing

Alexander Vilenkin initiated the scientific concept of the “generation of the universe from nothing.” In this view, all of a sudden out of no matter, no time and no space, a tiny speck—smaller than an elementary particle—tunneled out of nothing and then expanded and created the universe. The “nothing” invoked by Vilenkin does not mean nothing without anything, but rather it is “nothing filled with something” or “nothing with enormous power;” it contained the “energy of the vacuum.”

F. Creation from Nothing Seen from New Creation Theory

God started the creation of the Universe when there was nothing—no time and no space. However, God had energy (pre-energy) to generate the world, and forces and matters were generated from this energy. In this sense, God’s creation was not a creation from total nothing. In other words, God created matter from His energy rather than from His spirit.

The term “energy of the vacuum” in modern science can be equated with the “pre-energy” in Unification Thought. From this pre-energy, which is God’s energy, physical energy, elementary particles, atoms, molecules were formed. It can be said that the biblical passage “Let there be light, and there was light” is a simple description of modern scientists’ theory of the Big Bang explosion, and the “primordial matter”

mentioned in creation myths corresponds to “energy” in modern physics.

In modern physics, from the primordial matter, or the primordial energy, light, elementary particles, atoms and molecules, and then water, soil and air appeared. In ancient creation myths, before science had developed, they could not but regard water or soil as the primordial matter. The primordial matter described by modern physics (namely, energy), and described in ancient myths, and in ancient Greek philosophy as arché (namely, fire, water, soil, and air) are combined and illustrated in figure 3.16.



Fig. 3.1. Primordial Man Purusha



Fig. 3.2. Primordial Man Pan Gu

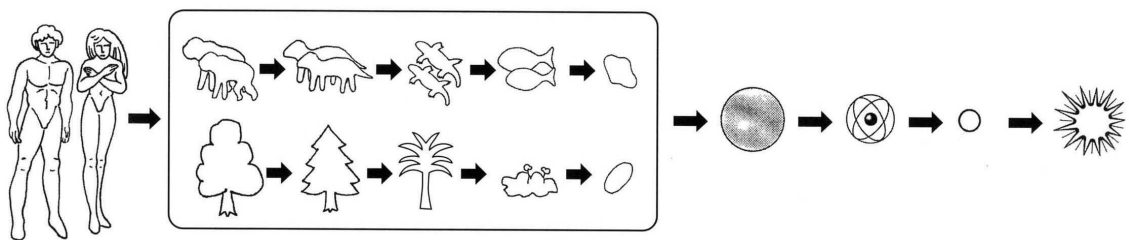


Fig. 3.3. Creation of the Image of All Things Modeled after the Image of the Original Human Couple

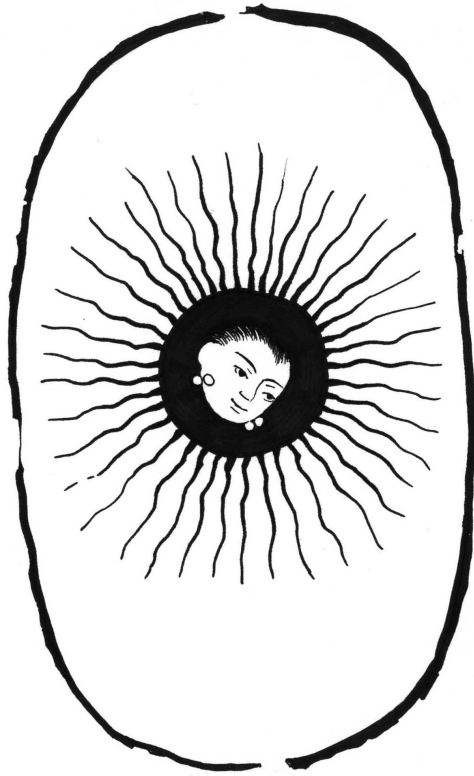


Fig. 3.4. Brahma Meditating in the Egg



Fig. 3.5. Breaking of the Cosmic Egg in Hindu Myth

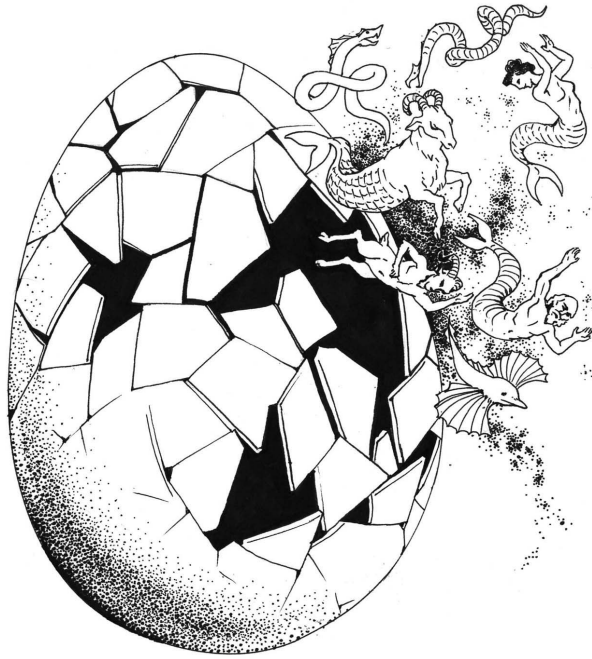


Fig. 3.6. The Hatching of the Cosmic Egg in Greek Myth



Fig. 3.7. The Hatching of an Egg and the Appearance of the Sun God (Phoenix)

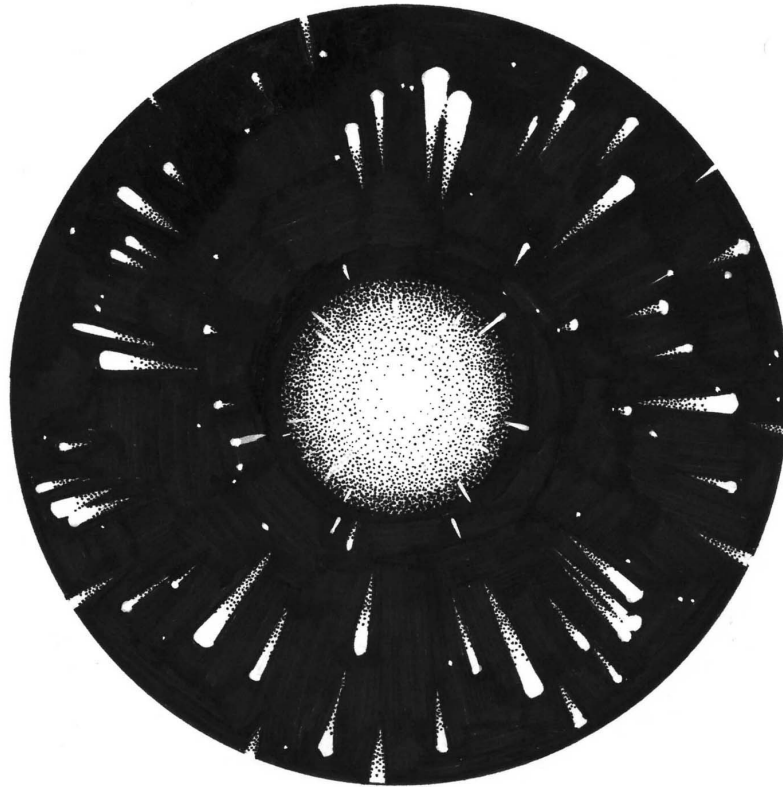


Fig. 3.8. The Modern Cosmic Egg, Big Bang

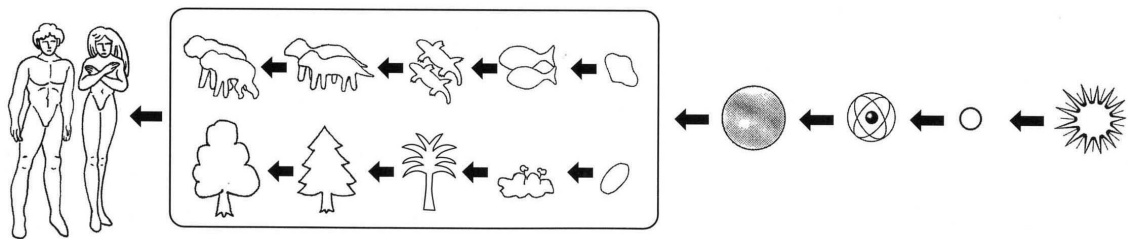


Fig. 3.9. Creation of the World according to the God's Logos, Starting from the Big Bang



Fig. 3.10. Fuxi and Nüwa in Chinese Myth

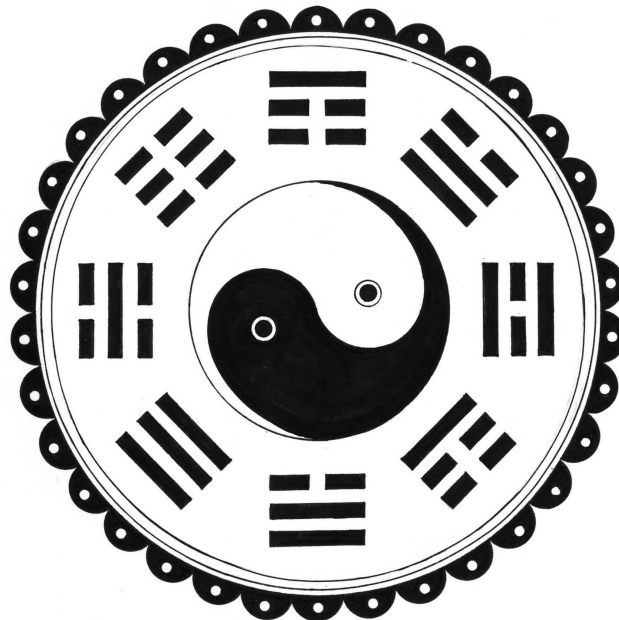


Fig. 3.11. Generation of the Universe from Yin and Yang

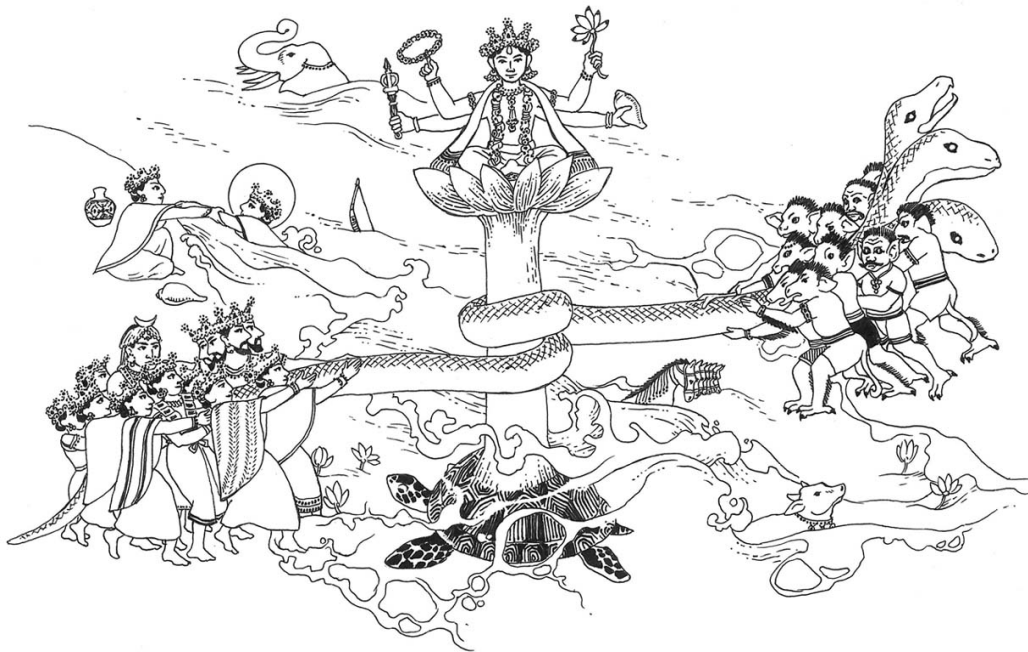


Fig. 3.12. The Churning of the Milky Ocean in Hindu Myth



Fig. 3.13. The Stirring of the Cloud Sea with the Spear in Japanese Myth

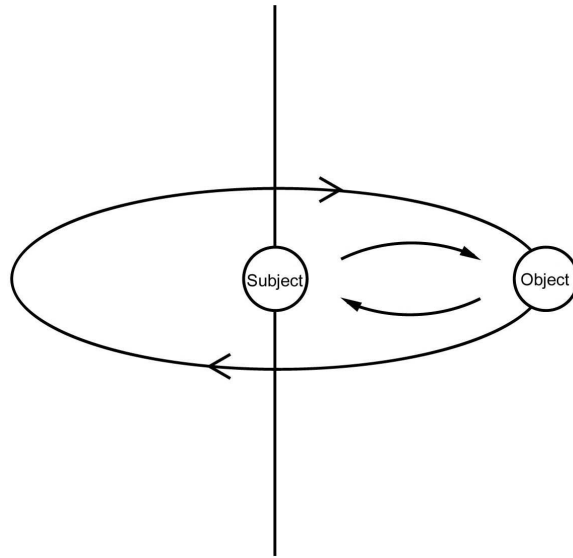


Fig. 3.14. The Circular Motion through the Give and Receive Action between Subject and Object



Fig. 3.15. Creation by Ptah's Word

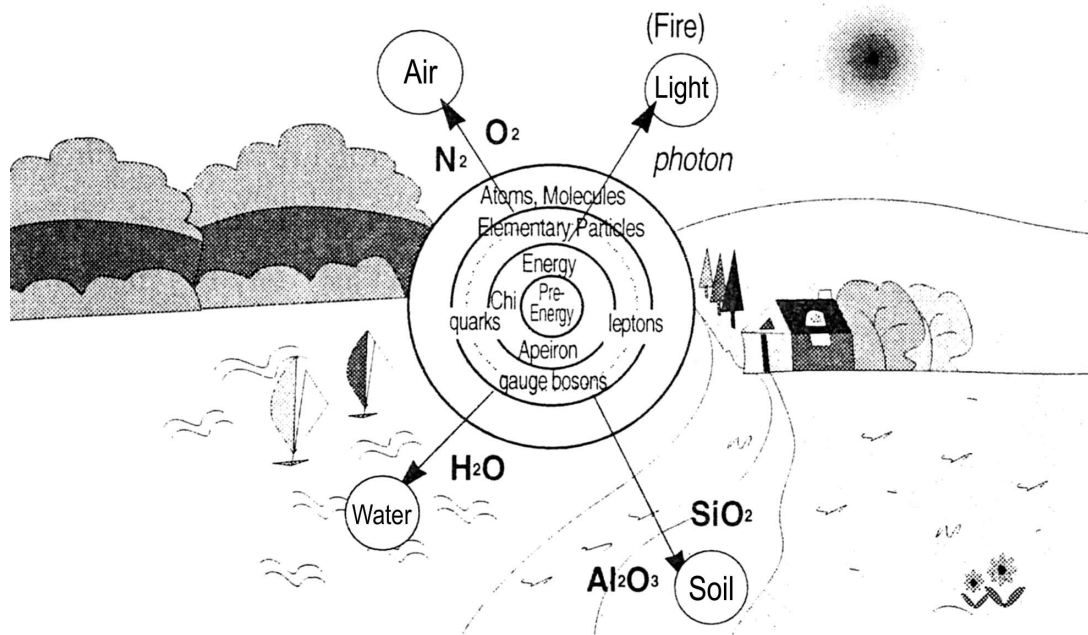


Fig. 3.16. The Primordial Matter Seen from Modern Physics