

The Leaven of Life

SINCE 1929, astronomers as well as other scientists have been puzzled by the phenomenon generally known as “the expanding universe, or the “Hubble Effect,” named after the scientist who by telescopic observation confirmed an apparent drifting apart of the numberless galaxies which constitute the material cosmos. Some of these, the more distant galaxies, appear to be drifting away from us and from each other at speeds which are a considerable fraction of the speed of light so that, at present, the universe is estimated to be 18 billion light years in diameter—and expanding. Various explanations have been put forth, but so far none has proved sufficiently compelling. While the regnant theory (“the Big Bang”) postulates the cosmos to have originated from the explosion of a single incomprehensibly immense mass of exceedingly dense matter, it fails when the same theorists calculate that such a mass could not possibly have been formed nor to have any feasible existence. The weak spot in all the materialist cosmogenetic theories is their inability to explain “first things”—the “where,” the “how,” and especially the “why” of the Beginning.

The Rosicrucian Teachings do offer an explanation for this origin, stating that the third aspect of the Supreme Being awakened cosmic root substance from its inertia and set the countless inseparate atoms spinning upon their axes and imparting to them varying rates of vibration.

This teaching is rejected by the materialist, since he acknowledges but one intelligent specie in the cosmos—man. Yet he is forced to admit that *homo*



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Creation of a Star

sapiens, as sapient as he may be, is more creature than creator.

Still, the fact of the expanding universe is a reality and no purely material explanation can give the “why” of it. We must therefore look further afield.

In the making of bread the baker takes flour and other ingredients and to them he adds a substance such as yeast, which he calls “leaven,” or the “rising agent.” The first mixture, the “sponge” containing this leaven, is allowed to set for a while in order that the leaven may work. This produces a considerable enlargement. The sponge must then be transferred to a larger vessel where the remainder of the flour is added. Again the leaven causes an increase in volume. The dough is then divided into sections, each of which requires a separate pan, for the bulk is now too great for a single container. Again the leaven is allowed to work, causing the dough to fill the pans, which are then placed in the oven where the heat effects further expansion, even to the point of causing the bread to overflow the pans if the baker has not a provided sufficient space. In short, the whole process is a matter of ongoing expansion throughout.

At the present time, our universe is behaving in a manner somewhat analogous to the rising dough. Based on terrestrial and satellite observations, galaxies are expanding just like baking bread. Since an expanding world requires greater room in which to expand, the worlds must inevitably spin further and further apart, giving each a wider orbit of activity and influence. Correspondingly, the solar systems must themselves have more room, for even though to us they seem immensely distant from one another, they too are increasing their spheres of activity, proportionate to the increase in the rate of vibration (the heat applied to the dough).

Since galaxies themselves are separating, each from the other, and since they appear everywhere in space, it follows that space itself must be expanding.

We must concede a cause for every effect, so we ask why is this expansion necessary? What is behind it? Material science offers us no help because it deals only with Form. The answer lies in form's polar opposite—Life. If one could retrospect to the beginning of this "Great Day" of manifestation, he would find conditions as Max Heindel describes them in *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*: First appearing in the World of God, Who is Life, Virgin Spirit clothes itself in substance of increasing density, descending into thought and desire worlds and finally into the physical world, this over immense periods of time.

When the imprisoned Life Forces have contracted to a state of requisite density, reaching the nadir of their involutory journey, a great change ensues. The imprisoned Life begins to orient itself towards its spiritual origins, disengaging itself from the drag of matter, but taking with it wisdom, knowledge, and power, extracted by recapitulating and consciously absorbing the essence of its involutory experiences. Some millions of years ago a new influx of Life Force was injected into Creation. The dense material universe commenced to re-expand under the leavening influence of the renewed Life Forces. This process is continuing and must continue throughout future ages until the great "Day of Liberation" at the end of this Great Day of Manifestation.

This change, this reversal from Involution to Evolution, augmented by the impulse of Epigenesis

from the World of Life Spirit, was in actual fact the beginning of the redemption of all of creation, macrocosm and microcosm, from the toils of materiality. Christ Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." Look what a little leaven does to the whole lump! Look how the spiritual leaven of faith the size of a mustard seed can create a great tree of conviction and realization.

In the individual and in the composite whole, this Leaven of Life continues to work, raising and expanding our consciousness together with the consciousness of the whole Cosmos; yes, even of the Creator Himself. As Paul described this process: "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth...waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Our worlds, our bodies, are becoming less and less dense; the hard core of matter is being transmuted into ether, into desire substance, into thought, and eventually into untrammelled spirit itself. So must our universe continue to expand until the Living Leaven, the Spirit of God, shall have done Its work and we realize our grand destiny as "sons of God" in a spiritual universe of a grandeur impossible for us now to conceive.

And we must remember that each individual Spirit contributes to this leavening. The Life Forces are working as a spiritual ferment in every one of us, in every atom of our being, whether we know it or not, making inevitable the final outcome. We each have a vital part to play in the grand work of "hastening the Day of Liberation," for our attitude can either advance or delay it. That is why Max Heindel stressed the necessity for "loving, self-forgetting service," for it is the surest, most efficient means for opposing the inertia of materialism and for activating the Christ Leaven that will bring each "Life more abundant."

Enzymatic service leavens the whole lump of corporeality. Like the aroma of fresh baked bread, the quintessences of our good deeds is a spiritual fragrance pleasing to our heavenly Father. It generates the levitating soul body, which enables us to rise from the dough of our material confines, and, in time, to collectively float the Earth. □

—Jack L. Burt