

OVERVIEW OF CREATION AND EVOLUTION

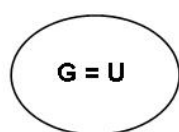
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I. Preliminary Definitions and Concepts

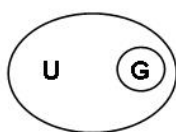
A. God: label for ultimate reality

B. God's relationship to the universe

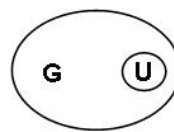
1. Natural imminence: God is not distinct in kind from the universe.



pantheism

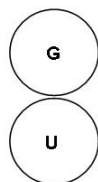


panentheism



theistic
evolution

*2. Natural transcendence: God is distinct in kind from the universe.



C. Change

1. Modification: change without increasing the number of harmoniously integrated factors.

*2. Complexification: change with increasing the number of harmoniously integrated factors.

D. Causation

1. Natural cause: an effect produced by a cause inside nature.

*2. Miracle: an effect produced by a cause outside nature.

E. Creationism: complexification via factor(s) external to the natural realm.

F. Evolution: complexification via factor(s) internal to the natural realm.

1. Micro-evolution: demonstrable change in matters of degree

*2. Macro-evolution: extrapolated change into matters of kind.

II. Models of Creation

Creation involves transcendent deity that, among other acts, brings mass/energy into existence from nothing and complexifies by miracle irrespective of time rate. The natural order has a finite beginning and possesses order because of the common Mind that lies behind the origin of "parts" whether created directly from nothing (fiat) or using previously existing created mass/energy.

A. Short-term creationism

1. Type A: creation from nothing to final form in approximately a week's time; earth's age is in the order of 10,000 to 30,000 years.
2. Type B: same as above except that creative process occurred in terms of years, and the earth's age is longer in varying degrees according to the theorist's framework.

B. Long-term creationism

3. Ruin-reconstruction: the present form of the earth is one of several destructions followed by new beginnings of divine creativity.
4. Progressive Creationism Type A: polyphyletic
5. Progressive Creationism Type B: monophyletic

III. Models of Evolution

Evolution is complexification over time by internal natural laws operating with or without beginning or end.

A. Relative to God

1. Theistic evolution: transcendent deity is only involved in the creation from nothing and by building into the natural order the principles potential for nature's complexifying itself.
2. Atheistic evolution: mass/energy is eternal and self-complexifying. (If the view of God is not that of transcendent deity, then what we call atheistic is also theistic but no external causation is involved; hence, we do not call it "creation" even if something new comes about.)

B. As to pattern: assorted terms

1. Emergent evolution
2. Punctuated equilibrium
3. Vitalism