Odyssey through Time and Space – When did our universe begin and where does it end?

Hello everyone, my name is Matei Ungureanu, and I am here to talk about the Universe. Do you ever look up and wonder what is out there? How it all began, and how will it end? But most importantly, as is human nature, how can WE affect it, and what can WE gain from it? Then worry not, for today I will answer those questions!

My talk will be divided into 3 parts. First, I’ll talk about how it was created, and how will it end. Then I’ll talk about how all this affects us as a species. Finally, I will go through our options, what can we do to preserve the Human Civilization and help it survive and thrive in the dangerous Universe. My talk will last about 10 minutes. Please feel free to interrupt anytime, should there be any unclear points.

1.

* Commander Admiral Stinger is Maverick’s boss on the USS Enterprise; he represents a figure of authority and power, which can be seen in the scene when he scolds Maverick for disobeying direct orders:

“Stinger: Maverick, you just did an incredibly brave thing. What you should have done was land your plane! You don't own that plane, the tax payers do! Son, your ego is writing checks your body can't cash. You've been busted, you lost your qualifications as section leader three times, put in hack twice by me, with a history of high speed passes over five air control towers, and one admiral's daughter!”

* Commander Viper is the winner of the first Top Gun contest, and Maverick wants that trophy himself and this pushes Maverick to be an even better pilot. Commander Viper is like a father to him, and we can see that it the scene when Maverick speaks with Viper about his plans to quit and the commander gives him some advice.

“Viper: Do you think your name will be on that plaque?

Maverick: Yes, sir.

Viper: That's pretty arrogant, considering the company you're in.

Maverick: Yes, sir.

Viper: I like that in a pilot.”

* Air Boss Johnson is the hysteric type, that cannot be taken seriously; that is why Maverick doesn’t stop after the first fly-by, and does it a second time:

“Air Boss Johnson: Two of your snot-nose jockeys did a fly-by on my tower at over 400 KNOTS! I want somebody's butt, I want it now, I've HAD IT!

[storm out, then bumps into a Yeoman and spills coffee all over his pants]

Air Boss Johnson: DAMN! That's TWICE! I WANT SOME BUTTS!”

2.

I agree that sometimes, bending the rules is the only way to push the envelope and take things to the next level. Maverick abandons his wingman to reach his objective, shooting down Jester.

Maverick’s reckless behavior is a result of his need for speed and his desire to be the best. He is a skilled pilot but his tendency to take risks and disregard orders has kept him from achieving greatness in the Navy.

Some of the fighter pilots’ missions and adventures in the air are:

* the photo of the MIG: Maverick and Goose can’t shoot the MiG’s so they decide to ‘have a little fun’ by flipping their plane on top of the MiG, showing him ‘the birdie’ and taking a photo
* the Cougar situation: after the encounter with the MiG’s Cougar is so scared by the fact that he almost died and orphaned his children; he barely manages to land the plane with the help of Maverick, then turning in his wings, claiming he ‘lost the edge’
* the mission when Maverick engages below the hard deck: Maverick has to shoot Jester to win, but when Jester cheats by going under the hard deck, Maverick follows him and shoots him, apparently winning, but going under the hard deck even for a few seconds was a big mistake and commander Viper scolds him
* the tragic accident: pressuring Iceman to move his plane so that Maverick can shoot, an air current kills the engine forcing Mav and Goose to eject, but Goose is mortally injured when the canopy hits his head

3.

I agree with Iceman’s criticisms of Maverick’s behavior because a good, but unpredictable teammate is often worse than a mediocre but predictable one.

I agree that family isn’t only about blood. Maverick and Goose were like two very close brothers, always understanding and supporting each other, everything they did, they did together

Maverick: “Well, I just happened to see a MiG-28 do …”

Goose: “We! We.”

Maverick: “Sorry Goose. We happened to see a MiG-28 do an 4G negative dive”

, while Maverick and Iceman’s relationship develops from rivalry and sarcasm to respect and genuine understanding. They started their relationship with mocking and twisting each other’s words.

“Iceman: Congratulations on Top Gun. Sorry to hear about Cougar. He was a good man.

Maverick: Still is a good man.

Iceman: Yeah, that's what I meant.”

Iceman was always on the first place and Maverick didn’t like that,

“Charlie: If you were directly above him, how could you see him?

Maverick: Because I was inverted.

Iceman: Bullshit.”

and Mav always had clever tactics and dangerous flying and Iceman didn’t like that.

“Maverick: What's your problem, Kazansky?

Iceman: You're everyone's problem. Every time you fly, you're unsafe. I don't like you. You're dangerous.

Maverick: That's right, Iceman. I am dangerous.”

In the end, Iceman won the trophy, but in the real battle against the MiG’s, after the graduation ceremony, Maverick proved he learned something by not leaving iceman’s wing, and their relationship evolved into one of respect and cooperation.

“Iceman: You! You are still dangerous. But you can be my wingman any time.

Maverick: Bullshit! You can be mine.”

4.

We see the scene where Maverick is driving his motorcycle on the freeway and sees the plane in the sky twice.

First time he is going from his old station, in the Indian Ocean to Miramar, California, leaving behind his old life and entering the new one at Top Gun, with the best pilots in USA.

Second time he is going from Charlie’s house to the Top Gun graduation ceremony, leaving behind his sorry and guild of Goose’s death.

5.

He's bugging out. = he is retreating

Do not fire until fired upon. = never shoot first

Call the ball. = request for the pilot to signal when he can see the light for the perfect glide path

He turned in his wings. = he resigned from piloting

Wingman = second plane that flies near and provides support to the first plane

Bogey = unidentified aircraft

Hard-deck = air forces slang for 10000 ft altitude

The pattern is full = the airspace is too crowded

Buzz the tower = low fly-by pass very close to the control tower at high speeds

Punch out = eject from aircraft

Canopy = the cockpit’s window

6.

We've still got a shot at it = We still have a chance to get it

Knock it off, gentlemen = Stop it, gentlemen

Rock and roll! = Let’s get going!

I've fallen for you = I’m in love with you

I was afraid they'd see right through me = I was afraid they’d find out the truth

I'm glad we got that straight = I’m glad we made it clear

My old man = My father

I'm not gonna let you down = I’m not gonna disappoint you

He's a wild card = He’s unpredictable

You've got security clearance = You’ve got authorization to read top-secret documents