

How Creation Works

Romana 01-12-2022

Everything I say here is subject to change. I change my mind a lot!

The Background

Buddhism itself does not have a creation story, which means it offers no *a priori* reason for creation to occur, such as a divine manipulator. In fact, Buddhism says that no one is doing it. This is not a hidden creator with the fancy name *no one*.

This is my speculative attempt to explain creation, using Buddhist teachings and my own intuition. I am doing this because I want to explain why I'm here and why I'm having so many problems. I will use the same technique I used as a system analyst. That is, I can see what processes are taking place, but I don't need to understand all the interfaces. I will assign a black box to anything I don't understand.

I have wanted to write this essay since my high school days, but it took most of my life to be able to do so. I remember stepping outside my front door in 1998 and hearing a sudden voice in my head, *you're going to be a philosopher*. What, was one side of my brain directly talking to the other side?

I was once told that I needed to meet a really advanced Buddhist teacher, who could *read* my karma. I doubt that there is any such teacher on the planet; besides, Buddhist teachings always emphasize that I need to do this myself.

The question is often asked, "Why is there something, rather than nothing." Well, I don't think there is actually any state called *nothing*, nor is there a state called *something*. This comes from the fact that there is no solid reality, which is a concept that all beings find troubling, since beings spend a lot of time trying to prove that their reality is solid and their ego truly exists.

Since I live in a created reality, and I'm a created being, there is a problem trying to visualize what an uncreated, original state might be. Adjectives that describe created states don't work well for a basic, underlying state that is not even a state.

So, what is it like? There is no light or dark, no dimensions, no existence or nonexistence, or even no good or evil. There's no time, since time is a feature of created realities. It has a lot of names: Nirvana, the primordial intelligence, eternity, the Bardo, the pre-life condition, the after-death condition, quantum equilibrium, and the master dream. While advanced beings might come close, no beings live here. There are no physical laws, especially no maximum speed like the speed of light. The speed of light is a necessity in created realities to hold matter together, since the bonding particles need to have a finite speed, or else all matter would fly apart.

Desire, Longing, and Query

At first, there would seem to be no path toward creation; however, the primordial intelligence generates itself, but it's not a being. I will take poetic license to compare it to a quantum computer of infinite speed and capacity. There are no physical laws or constraints, and there's certainly no time. So, it creates itself virtually. I sense this, but I would never refer to it as an omnipotent being. Beings simply cannot manage original creation itself, because beings have biases and prejudices.

Still, questions are generated, as well as longing for experiences. Like a computer, it can reuse the physical structures of past experiences. Experiences lead to the creation of entities, some of which are advanced sentient beings. I find it interesting that beings are individually quantized, rather than a smear of consciousness.

While created beings might wonder if there is any ultimate reason for being, I doubt that there is any reason except for existence itself. After all, everything is made up! Also, I think that anything that imagined has already been created at least once.

All that is generated is labeled as Samsara, or cyclical existences. The term cyclical is used because of reuse. While scholars often question the value of Samsara, I will use the term free of evaluation. It is a form of prejudice to label instances of Samsara as good or bad, rather than saying *they just are!*

Samsara is full of dualisms, where differences are generated that were not there before. The idea of Samsara versus Nirvana is the ultimate dualism, since Nirvana and Samara are an essential unity.

Realities

All experiences seem to take place in realities, often referred to as universes. From my perspective, seeds are launched that evolve into universes. Physicists often refer to it as a *big bang*, but that may not be what is actually happening. Universes evolve into somewhat steady occurrences of matter, energy, and beings. This evolution is an extensive topic of its own. While evolution can draw upon what happened before and repeat, I doubt there is any ultimate goal or that humans were a foretold part of a design.

However, universes are impermanent, which means they will eventually dissolve and cease to exist. This principle holds true for all realms of existence, including hell realms and god realms. This may be because, due to an uncertainty principle, matter and anti-matter are separated for a finite amount of time, until they meet and time ceases. Time is needed to mark off the passage of experiences.

Since there is no solid reality, universes are like virtual realities, which become limitless. Also, there are no physical constraints that would hinder the creation of parallel realities. I will discuss parallel realities in another essay. Since I believe everything happens for a reason, I find it difficult to explain myself without the existence of parallel realities.

One interpretation of the Buddhist principle of Emptiness is that *no things have any inherent reality of their own, but are defined by their relationships.*

Cause and Effect, and Consequences

Karma is the usual term used to describe cause and effect, and consequences. Karma is often said to be the same as a being's subconscious mind. In turn, reality is said to be a projection of one's subconscious. This means that karma is much more than the Sanskrit definition of *action*. I think my karma relates more to all the relationships, especially non-material relationships, in my history. This is not reincarnation, since Buddhism denies any continuation of self. Even though, under hypnosis, I can ravel off endless previous lives, I don't own those lives.

There are many systems of cause and effect, such as physical laws, weather, cosmic events, biology, and so forth. Physical beings, although ultimately virtual, are subject to karma. This is because evolution has endowed all living things with habitual patterns and roles, which are difficult to change, regardless of individual levels of intelligence. However, without the basis of previous lives in my path, I could not exist.

I'm not going to say which life forms are sentient, and which are not. However, I doubt that humans are the only sentient life on this planet. Viewing karma as pretty much the same as instinct, primitive life forms do not have much of a consciousness and seem to run entirely on karma. Humans have the ability to upload karma into a conscious mind and selectively use it; yet, so many people often seem to run on instinct.

Advanced life forms add another ingredient: feedback. Regardless of how innocent the reason for creation might be, this feedback can complicate reality and lead to needless suffering. I don't see any possible ultimate resolution or closure; rather, I see situations that need to be better managed. As the Process Theologian Alfred North Whitehead put it, *the purpose of philosophy is to counter the effects of excess subjectivity*.

Incarnation

All beings are incarnate through birth and rebirth, but this system is really somewhat capricious. So, I wonder how karma or units of consciousness are paired with bodies. Such an idea may be another dualism, but Buddhism teaches that bodies are hard to come by, especially for beings of higher sentience. Yes, I'm thankful that I got a human body, despite all subjective nonsense I have to endure. I need to stop practicing fight or flight; I only have about twenty years left, at best.

I'm not afraid of death, but I think I need to do more to prepare for it. During the pandemic, my meditation has indicated that I need to live a more ethical and virtuous life, as free as possible from anger, greed, and delusion. In fact, I see a direct correlation between mindfulness and the rebirth process. I have developed a sense for how rebirth works.

Those organisms that run mostly on objective karma have the simplest rebirth. The new beings produced to replace the deceased beings are very much like the previous beings. These are the most plentiful beings in all realities.

It's my sense that, for higher beings, there is an evaluation process that is based karma as all the past relationships. This explanation is simplistic, and some beings can have active control over the rebirth process. There is an element of affinity for what kind of a life a being is interested in. For those who like war and killing, a hell might be the most suitable. For those who are the most virtuous, a celestial realm might be picked. However, for those who are the majority, halfway between heaven and hell, the most comfortable rebirth might be selected. Because of my vows, I have chosen not to take a path of rebirth in a celestial realm.

As a Buddhist, I don't like this system; it is filled with habitual patterns that are not logical and are very resistant to change. Change has to start somewhere, which is why I have made vows to joins others working for change. Buddhist vows don't expire, and I sense that mine go back a long ways.

Why am I Here?

I realize I'm here for a reason, but the rationale is perplexing. This is a human realm with great potential, but it also an inordinate amount of pain and suffering. I don't think this is a standard human realm; the amount of dysfunction leads me to believe that it is actually a minor hell. I like to call it Pandora.

A hell is characterized by anger, greed and delusion, among many other attributes. I think the reasons for calling it a hell are obvious:

- Violence is rampant, even though all beings are virtual in nature.
- Killing is seen as a solution to major problems.
- Lifespans are much less than in a normal human realm.
- Frustration and pain abound.
- Daily life can be an ordeal for way too many.
- Slavery has been treated as normal.
- People are despised for even the most minor differences.
- Greedy people hoard all the wealth, which is also virtual.
- Human cause endless extinctions, including other human species.
- Treating men and women differently leads to excessive sexism.
- Sickness and disease are rampant.
- Dark angels and the pseudo-religious rule the world.
- Escapist tactics, including suicide, do not work.
- People vote for sin, regardless what scripture says.
- Intelligence is suspect, so it is not used to solve problems.

My birth here was far from auspicious. In fact, it was so overwhelming that I was autistic for many years, until I decided to face the truth. Perhaps I was too arrogant, thinking I could solve social problems the way I dealt with technical problems. More likely, this was part of my Buddhist training. Initially, I resisted being on a path, but my trauma of life forced me to adopt Buddhist teachings. I think even my gender change was part of my path; without it, I would have been lost. Changing gender in this reality is frowned upon, but I suspect it is an integral part of other realities.

I have experienced enlightenment relative to my experiences. Once I was an escapist, but I have learned better. I tried suicide, but I see that it causes suffering for others, as well as being a ticket back to Pandora. I think I've become functional enough to counter the features of hell avoid rebirth in Pandora. Once was enough! I certainly would not wish this place on any of my karmic successors.

