

# A Layman's Understanding of Everything

A thought experiment challenging the nature of the universe. Wipe the slate clean and view your world from a different perspective.



**A story about  
science, religion,  
and everything.**

**In the  
beginning....**

I am a retired fella and although not a scientist or theologian I had time on my hands to think about something outside my wheelhouse. I embarked on a thought experiment. I was thinking why not wipe the slate clean of what I know about everything? Then I would let logic lead me no matter how farfetched the result. For me it was a bit of a mind-bender I am curious what others think.

“In the beginner’s mind, there are many possibilities, but in the expert’s mind, there are few.” — Shunryu Suzuki

## **In the Beginning:**

Why not start at “the beginning.” On this topic what I have been taught, both scientifically and religiously did not make sense at all.

How can the beginning have stuff? Whether they are quarks, strings, or what have you, how do you start with something? If you start with something, anything, it raises the obvious questions. What was before that, and before that, and so on and so on. Unless this thought experiment starts and stops with an absolute, such as zero, I cannot see that solution as an option. It's not logical.

Taking off the guardrails of my conventional thought process I realized something. Could the reason I was having trouble rationalizing “the beginning” be because there wasn't One? In other words not just one. What if everything that ever was and ever will be was always and will always be?

“The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself.” — Carl Sagan

## **Nothing is Nothing, Right?**

What a bizarre thought, nothingness. That is a very very hard concept to wrap your mind around, right? Yet, based on what I just stated how can it be any other way? However, there is one little hitch. We exist.

Everything we see, know, and can measure exists. This is a major drawback to this premise of zero wouldn't you say? Nevertheless, let's push on and see if this is a logical dead end or not.

There are numerous theories and lines of study that delve into the nature of nothingness: Multiverse, Quantum Vacuum, Zero-Point Energy, and Philosophical Nothingness. However, spending time on that would break the rules of the experiment. I just want to focus on layman's reasoning. As they would say on Myth Busters “I reject your reality and substitute my own.”

You might be thinking “Nothing is nothing that's it, let's go home and have tea.” I say “Not so fast.” Off-hand I can think of 3 things that may exist in nothingness: Logic, an infinite nature, and somehow we do.

**Logic:** Just because there is nothing does not mean “A” does not equal “A.” The shortest distance between 2 points in 2 dimensions may still be a straight line and so on.

**An Infinite Nature:** Nothing has no matter or energy per se. It is stateless, constant, and infinite in nature and a boundless blank media with untold possibilities.

**We Exist:** This bit took some fathoming. Implausible and hard to imagine that we exist in a stateless nothingness of space. Oh wait, there is no space. Man, this is a hard concept. To start with an absolute like zero and come up with my life, wow - heavy.

“Emptiness means to be full of everything but empty of a separate existence.” — Thich Nhat Hanh

## How Can This Be?

Our essence and perception at the very least would need to navigate in the stateless infinite. This brings to mind a well-known analogy. Michelangelo's David was always in the rock until Michelangelo chipped away everything that was not him.

“I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.” — Michelangelo

This was the most mind-bending part of this journey and this line of logic had me a bit stumped.

Luckily, one day I was sitting in my car at the grocery store getting ready to back up. I must have been daydreaming when all of a sudden I panicked. I thought my foot slipped off the brake but actually it was just a car jetting into the empty spot next to me. I wasn't moving, he was.

This brought me back to the David analogy. Like a photo negative is it possible that the reciprocal is infinite everything? Could it be that the rock is the void and we and everything we know exist there?

Everything else is carved away that is to say not perceived by us. I came to understand that infinity is such a powerful and difficult concept. I had to stretch my thought process to understand this blank media is far more than matter in different states it is everything and every possibility. This only makes sense if we keep in mind the possibility that somehow there is a way to discern what should not be.

“Nature is an infinite sphere whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.” — Blaise Pascal

## **Logic is Paramount :**

Remember, logic is a constant. Therefore, in this thought experiment, logic, and consequently, the laws of physics, reign supreme. Science is therefore far more than the need to measure, predict, or explain but rather to guide our perception in the rock (the infinite). It is akin to the sculptor. The laws of physics are absolute, logic is absolute and whether we understand them correctly is immaterial. In this infinitely dimensional state, you cannot perceive anything that is not logical, in other words physically possible.

As I said we know we exist but how do we fit in? Are we cascading through an infinite set of circumstances that make sense to us? Or is there a complex hierarchy with limitless conditions we could never come close to comprehending that guides the trip? Unlike my normal view that “things happen to us” could it be the other way around? Given the unbounded nature in this reality, the answer to all things is yes, because everything is possible and exists.

"In the exploration of the universe, logic is the compass guiding us through the mysteries of existence." - Neil deGrasse Tyson

## **Physics, God, and Self:**

If there is any merit to what was just described then perception, self, soul, and god are physically part of the equation. It will be interesting to consider these topics from the aforementioned point of view.

Using this logic you can understand why it is said that “God was there in the beginning and will always be.” Also, you can understand why it is said “You are built in God’s image” and why your essence can go on forever. The reason for your continuity after physical death is because everything was always and will always be, in this thought process anyway.

I believe this approach does not prove or disprove anything, it is just another way of looking at well, everything.

“Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.” —  
Albert Einstein

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