

1. All concentrations of energy in the universe are exhausting themselves according to the principle of entropy. Eventually there will be complete cosmic degradation, and all motion will stop when the temperature of absolute zero (minus 273 degrees centigrade) becomes universal.

The principles of life directly opposes the principle of entropy. Life is young but prolificly tenacious and could conceivably overwhelm entropy through interplanetary developments.

2. The universe is expanding from an incredibly dense state called ylem. The irreversible expulsion of matter and energy from this primordial state is analogous to the expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

Reik and others have analogized human psychic conflicts to the biblical conflicts in and after Eden.

3. Einstein's relativity agitated the philosophers because of its revisions of reality, so daring that an act of faith is required to believe them.

Certain implications of relativity lead one epistemological school to hold that man can only know what man can think. It is in this sense that the original sin in Eden was failure to gain enough insight from the tree of knowledge.

4. The Platonic philosophers believe in a world of ideas, a world which is above and more real than physical reality.

These ideas, being immaterial, are presumably not subject to entropic degradation.

5. A fundamental concept in modern atomic physics in the principle of uncertainty of indeterminacy.

An analogous principle operates on any attempt to be precise — for example, on an attempt to determine actual guilt or actual innocence in a criminal case.

6. The attainments of science generate increasingly large areas of conscious ignorance.

Modern religion is responding by finding in these areas a philosophically more comfortable place.