WHY ARE WE CREATED?
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INCREASING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HUMANITY’S PURPOSE ON EARTH

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Introduction

Twenty-five centuries ago, Xenophanes, and twelve centuries ago, Shankara, taught that possibly nothing exists independently of God, and that God is immeasurably greater than all of time and space, let alone the visible earth and its billions of inhabitants! In the twentieth century, modern sciences have come to realize how very tiny the earth is when compared with the billions of galaxies or even when compared to our own Milky Way galaxy. We also realize how brief human history is in comparison with the age of the cosmos. Yet, here we are! And although humans may seem to be the most sophisticated species presently on our planet, perhaps we should not think of our place as being at the end of cosmogenesis.

This book was written to raise a number of thought-provoking questions regarding the age-old challenge and quest for increasing understanding of humanity’s purpose on Earth; in other words, to ask: “Why are we created?” One of our intents is to encourage thoughtfulness, observation, and research for multitudes of evidences of purpose in this tantalizing search that has intrigued humans for so long. We hope to point to evidence that may indicate “purpose” for humanity has been a beneficial force in various fields of human activity in areas such as
health, education, character development, the professions, science, physics, cosmology, and religion.

Perhaps asking pertinent questions regarding humanity’s purposes that stimulate pondering and research by people of various ages and diverse cultures can help humans gain greater enthusiasm for further wide-ranging and open-minded research. *Why Are We Created?* appears to be a subject that almost everyone has thought about at some time during his or her travels along this journey of life. The evolving process of human life on Earth seems abundant with innovations and superb timing. Can human lives become more productive and beneficial if we discover additional ways to become helpers in divine purposes?

We also preface this book with an awareness that the Creator of this awesome and wonderful universe is presently beyond our human capacity to measure or understand. If ancient people could usually imagine God as a spirit separate from what may now be considered “reality,” are we egotistical to think that God can be in any way smaller or more limited than total reality?

Consider this historical fact for a moment: We knew less than one billionth of the cosmos before the research of Nicolas Copernicus. And look at the tremendous advancements for humanity that his discoveries have brought about! Søren Kierkegaard taught that the human race advances on the backs of those rare geniuses who venture into unexplored realms where many fear to tread. Only in the past few decades have we come to appreciate the enormity of the cosmos and the paucity of our knowledge of it. However, when we consider the rapidly expanding reservoir of human knowledge, is it possible that within the next two centuries human perception of realities can be multiplied over one hundredfold?
We know so little of divinity. Yet, it seems that this Creator is also the God who would be known! What evidences substantiate this perspective? Let’s look at a statement from the book *The God Who Would Be Known*:

Our thesis is that God is revealing himself in his immensity at an ever-accelerating pace through rapid developments in the sciences. The sphere of the spirit is expanding exponentially all across the scientific landscape. Among the most prominent features are the fields of cosmogony — study of the origin of the universe — and of molecular biology. In between these two extremes of the galactic and the molecular stand two other prominent areas of rapid development: the studies of universal order and human evolution.¹

Does increasing evidence indicate that invisible realities may be vastly more basic than things visible? Can research reveal that the spiritual could be the foundation of the material life? It would appear that human exploration of our universal Creator is just beginning and can become both an intriguing and humanly beneficial voyage into the realm of the spirit.

The more we know about the universe and our place in it, the more we realize how little we know. One of the benefits of examining the vast development of the created cosmos is that by doing so, we may obtain a sufficiently broad perspective to begin to discern purposes or plans — perhaps even an ultimate meaning — in the evolutionary process. Great minds are beginning to see the reality that lies behind fleeting appearances and pertinent questions are being raised and researched.
EXPANDING AND EVOLVING

Have you heard the expression that life on Earth serves as a school for the soul? Various major world religions have described Earth as a school. Perhaps we could give this idea some consideration. Using the school analogy, if Earth can serve as a school, does each life become a classroom for experiential exercises? Is part of our “homework” learning ways to expand our consciousness and grow spiritually? How do spiritual maturity and strength grow? Can spiritual growth take place through a variety of avenues? For example, might growth occur through the application of human reason and research? Can openness to divine revelation represent an avenue of growth? Surely, the diligent use of the various talents given to each of us provides learning opportunities.

Is our universe an orderly system whose nature is to evolve? In some respects, a lifetime on Earth may seem a slow way to educate a soul. And fifteen billion years may seem a slow way to erect the school building! However, to put things into perspective, could divinity have created what we also call “time”? What is the purpose of time? Is its role to make room for learning, for growth, and for developing our ability to give love?

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

If Earth is a school for infinite purpose, wouldn’t a likely question be: Who are the teachers? Life is often filled with joy and sadness, challenges and overcoming, successes and difficulties—all of which offer opportunities for learning and progress. Can we perceive how these
ranges of thoughts and feelings, situations and experiences play a constructive teaching role in our lives? From a divine perspective, would our soul's education be incomplete without these experiences?

What Is the Essence of Our Purpose in Life?

Might a purpose of infinite intellect be to express itself in increasing varieties of lesser intellects? Is it possible that we may be here to become servants of creation or even helpers in divine creativity? Were human beings created to be agents of God’s accelerating creativity? Can humans discover larger fractions of infinite intellect? Could we be the beginning of a new evolution as the first creatures in the history of life on Earth to participate consciously in the ongoing creative process? Are we rewarded when we strive to increase our own intellect or to give our children better intellectual opportunities? How can we discover and more effectively utilize our gifts and talents? Who are we? Why are we created?

In World Scriptures: A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts, the human being is described as “a microcosm of the universe, having the essences of all things in himself or herself. As the microcosm, human beings have the foundation to know, use, and enjoy all things. Of all creatures, humans have the widest scope of thought and action, encompassing all things, knowing and appreciating all things, guiding and prospering all things, and transcending all things.” The Talmud tells us: “All that the Holy One created in the world He created in man” (Abot de Rabbi Nathan 31). The Qur’an states: “Do you not see that God has subjected to your use all things in the heavens and on earth,
and has made His bounties flow to you in exceeding measure, both seen and unseen?” (31:30). In the Hindu Srimad Bhagavatam 11.2, we are told: “Truly do I exist in all beings, but I am most manifest in man. The human heart is my favorite dwelling place.” Christian Scripture begins the story of Homo sapiens with the words “Let us make man in our own image, in our likeness” (Genesis 1:27), then later asks the questions:

What is man, that thou art mindful of him?
And the son of man, that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels,
And hast crowned him with glory and honor.
Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
Thou hast put all things under his feet:
All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea,
And whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

(Psalms 8:4–9)

Provocative spiritual concepts such as these help extend our desire to encourage further individual research. They may also stimulate a new personal perspective regarding the age-old question of human purpose. Perhaps we can present a selection of helpful materials to encourage deep-seated human research and raise exciting questions focusing on some of the following possibilities:

♦ What is the importance of recognizing the presence of the sacred within us and around us?
Out of our desire to change the world for the better, could we learn that the principle of creation is change and that through change God’s creations will continue and accelerate?

Is a possible purpose for our being to help accelerate God’s creativity, similar in some tiny ways to how humans recently created intelligent computers?

What evidence indicates that the invisible can be over one hundred times larger and more varied than the visible?

How can individuals create a purposeful and fruitful way of life?

Are the happiest people those who are most productive in their life’s journey and those who bring much happiness to others? How does happiness relate to one’s purpose or vice versa?

How can the humble approach to life help us experience our purpose and express true and lasting joy?

Many philosophical and theological writings suggest that our purpose here is to move from lower levels of living to higher and higher planes of expression. Sometimes, we may seem to stumble in our life’s journey. Yet, those “stumbling blocks” can actually serve as stepping stones, helping us to acquire and generate the necessary energy to propel ourselves to the next level of consciousness and creativity. Every experience is an opportunity for growth.
**Universal Laws and Spiritual Principles**

We often speak of the laws of nature as a useful analogy or comparison. The law of gravity expresses the nature of the gravitational interaction between bodies like a planet and its sun. Our Earth and our sun are one example. Are these patterns of behavior the outcome of the basic nature of creation of which we are a part? We recognize that there are laws of nature that appear to be expressions of the character or being of physical objects in creation. Is it also reasonable to expect there may be analogous laws of the spirit that are expressions of the character of spiritual realities? These laws of the spirit refer to patterns of voluntary *human* behavior, not to the involuntary behavior of physical objects. Does our world operate on spiritual principles or laws just as it operates on the natural laws of physics like the law of gravity? Universal laws affect all phases of a person’s life. Their unique characteristic seems to be that they are always effective, whether or not we believe in them, or even whether or not we are aware of them! A person is free to choose to learn about these laws and act in accordance with them. Could part of our development through the physical plane be to gain a greater awareness and understanding of these principles and utilize the knowledge in our lives for beneficial purposes?

**Possibilities for Spiritual Progress**

*Why Are We Created?* was written with the express desire of helping you, the reader, unfold a more useful and happier life. As we begin to understand more of our purpose as finite creatures in a vast universe of infinite complexity and intricacy, perhaps our growing awareness of
universal principles can help us release restricting prejudices. As we put into daily practice our increasing spiritual insights, opportunities occur for us to open our minds and hearts to greater awareness of, and beneficial participation in, the great plan of which we are all a part. The ability to choose to move to a higher spiritual level of consciousness and to a happier, more fulfilling way of life lies entirely within each individual. A universal divine intelligence flows through all of us. As we begin to elevate the thoughts, feelings, and actions of daily decision making in our individual lives, surely we will be making progress on the path of the sacred quest for all of humanity.

There is a wonderful universe within each of us— a unified field of abundant possibilities. Consider exploring the questions asked and the ideas offered in this book with your family, friends, and associates. How can you further research these possibilities and enlarge your understanding? An open door for further education is an invitation to live and learn! Share your thoughts. Ask questions. Respond from your present and personal perspectives to the questions raised in the various chapters of the book. Deepen your relationship with the concepts presented. Explore ways to activate some of these ideas in your everyday life. What new ideas and perspectives can you contribute?

Take your time with this book. Assimilate its words, ideas, possibilities, and messages into your mind, heart, and soul. In doing so, may you understand more of why you were created and move into a joyously adventurous, beneficial, and purposeful way of living. May you find a sense of direction that can bring together the needs of the world with your unique gifts. And may you know that . . . God loves you, and I do, too!

John Marks Templeton