

WHY IS THERE LIFE?

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ABSTRACT

Ongoing theoretical explorations and experimental research on the origins of life focus predominately on the details of how life evolved. However, there remains an intriguing second-order question one step removed from these focused investigations. That is: Why is there life? Exploring the forces, mechanisms, and physical laws (and their interactions) that define the creation of animate out of inanimate matter is both theoretically interesting and useful to understanding the biological and philosophical nature of life. Defining the key factors (“effectors”) behind the creation of life opens a fertile field of possibilities that is as yet incompletely explored.

The discussion of these effectors in this manuscript helps to advance our understanding of why there is life by elucidating the motive force behind the creation and evolution of life throughout the universe and by giving insight into life’s apparent teleonomy and other unique characteristics. The results of these effectors, working in conjunction with the electromagnetic force, are summarized. Similarities in the evolution of animate and inanimate complex matter are explored to explain why life evolves in the universe. Characteristics considered unique to life (creation, metabolism, growth, reproduction, evolution, ‘self’ and the logic of the metabolic machinery, together “teleonomy”) are explained employing an expanded definition of complexity applicable to both sides of the animate-inanimate divide.

Keywords: science; philosophy; creation of life

Reference:

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