Faith & Science CONFERENCE



MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF DEATH BEFORE SIN Anthony MacPherson







"The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation. During the minute that it takes me to compose this sentence, thousands of animals are being eaten alive, many others are running for their lives, whimpering with fear, others are slowly being devoured from within by rasping parasites, thousands of all kinds are dying of starvation, thirst, and disease ...

... The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference."

-Richard Dawkins







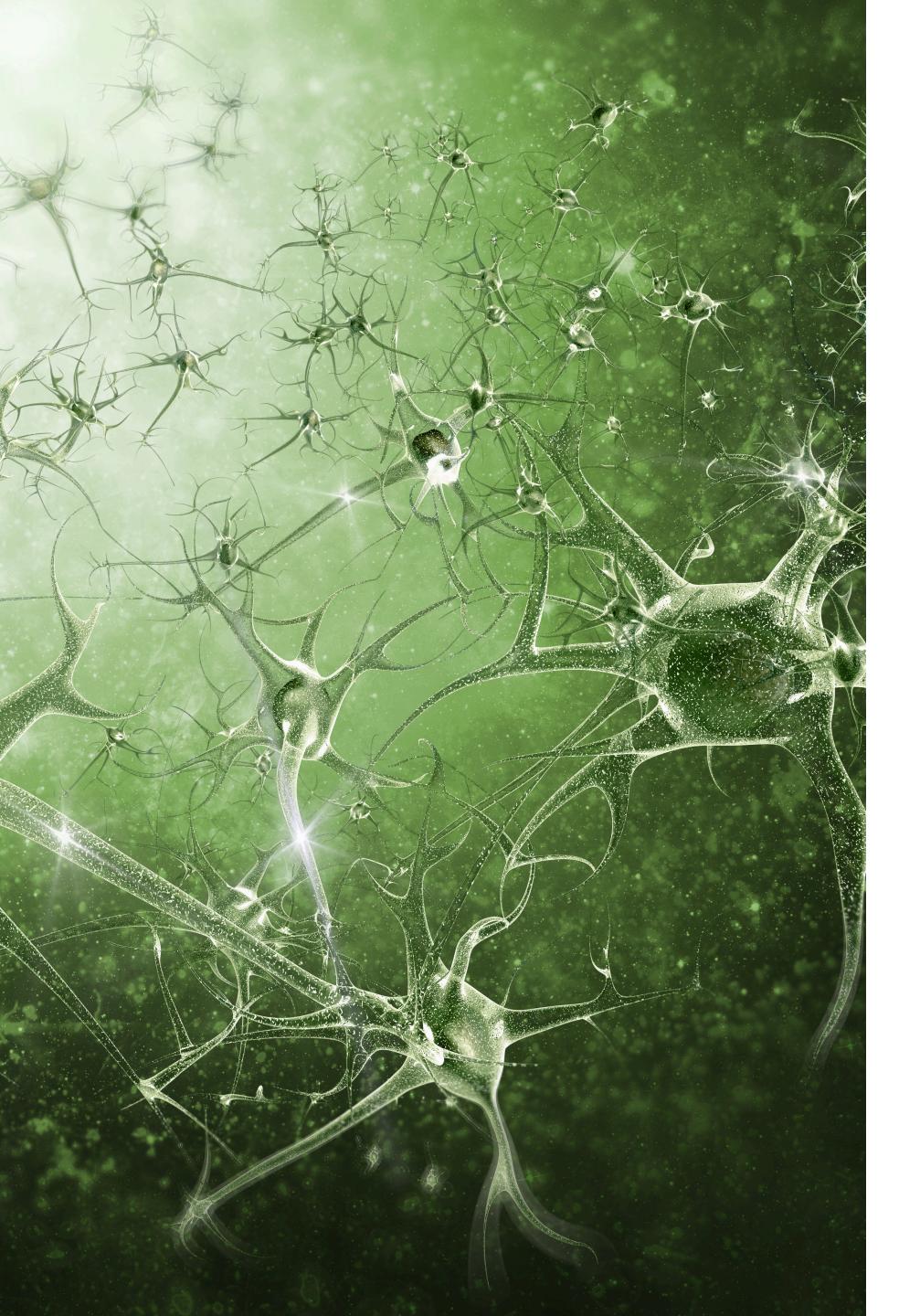
THEODICY QUESTIONS

- ➤"Is this kind of God (God of evolution) morally consistent with the Bible's story and its moral claims?"
- ►"Is this kind of God morally consistent with the morality of the God of the Bible?"
- ➤"Is this kind of God morally consistent with what we know of Jesus?"



THEODICY QUESTIONS

- ► if God is all-good then he would not have created this way
- ➤if God is all-powerful he need not have created this way
- ➤if God is all-wise then he could have created in a different and superior or kinder manner.



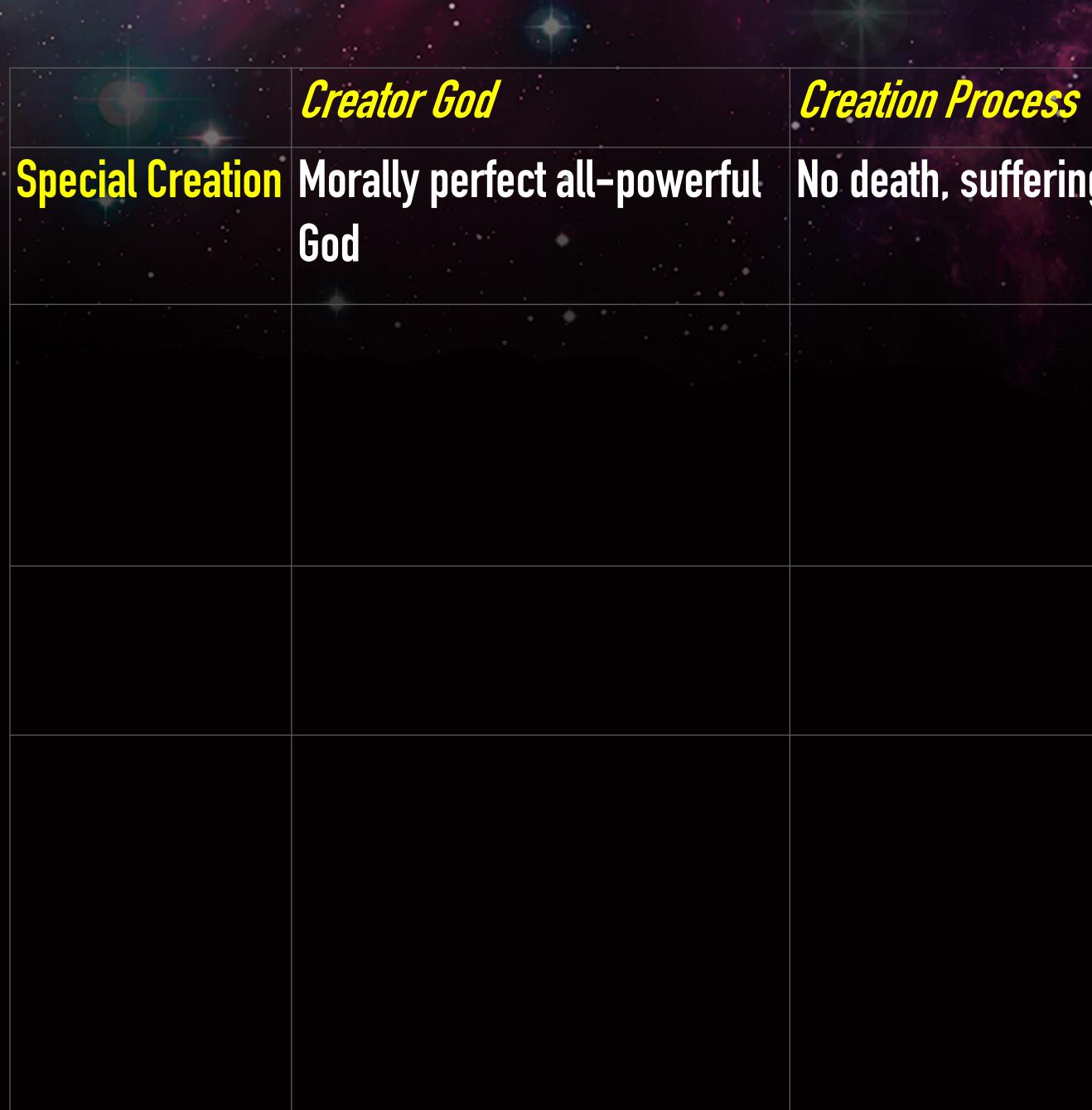
THEISTIC EVOLUTIONARY RESPONSES

- Free Process defence
- ►No Other Way/ Greater Good Defence
- ► Kenosis Theory
- Appeal to Mystery
- Minimisation Strategy
- Creationism is absurd
- The *Tu Quoque* fallacy



COMPARING FOUR VIEWS

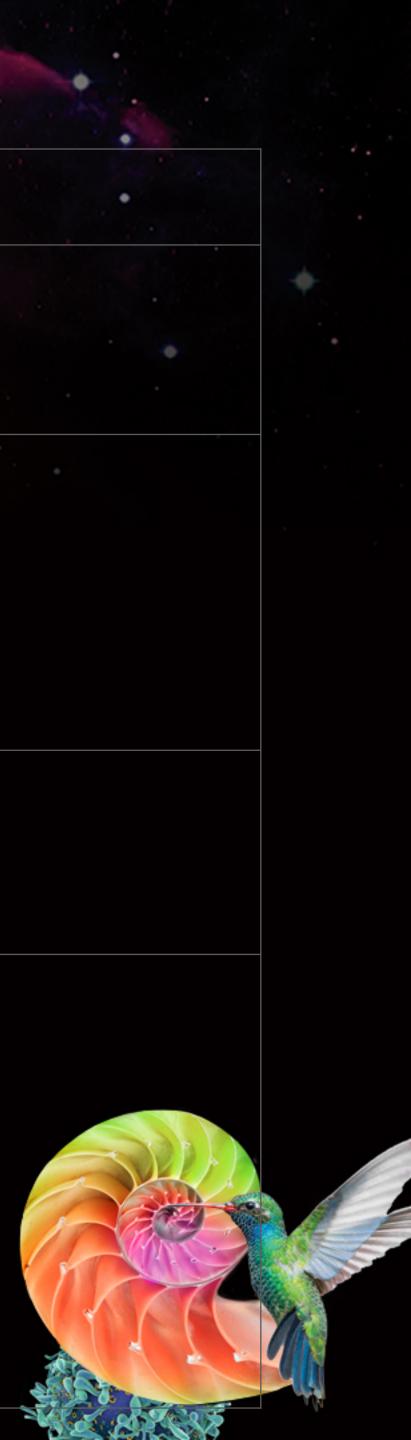
- ► Creationism
- Naturalistic Evolution
- Process Theism
- Theistic Evolution



No death, suffering, non-violent

Product/Goal

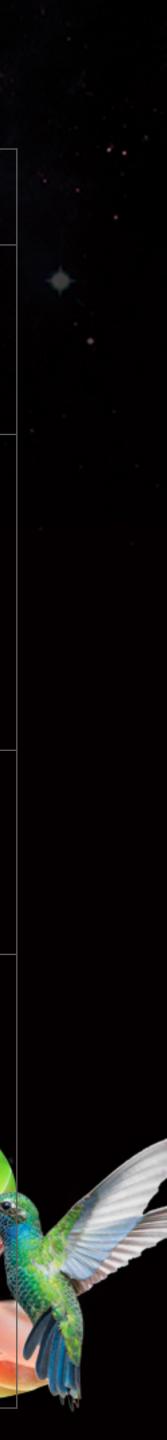
'Image of God' (Moral) No death, suffering



	Creator God	Creation Process	Product/Goal
Special Creation	Morally perfect all-powerful God	No death, suffering, non-violent	'Image of God' (Moral) No death, suffering
Process theism	Finite good god (empathic but powerless) Eternal independent matter	Progress through unavoidable death, suffering	Increasing development/ potential linked to increasing good and bad

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	Morally perfect all-powerful God	"Good" process of progress via death, suffering, predation, violence, pain	Morally good Humanity made in the 'Image of God' as climater evolution

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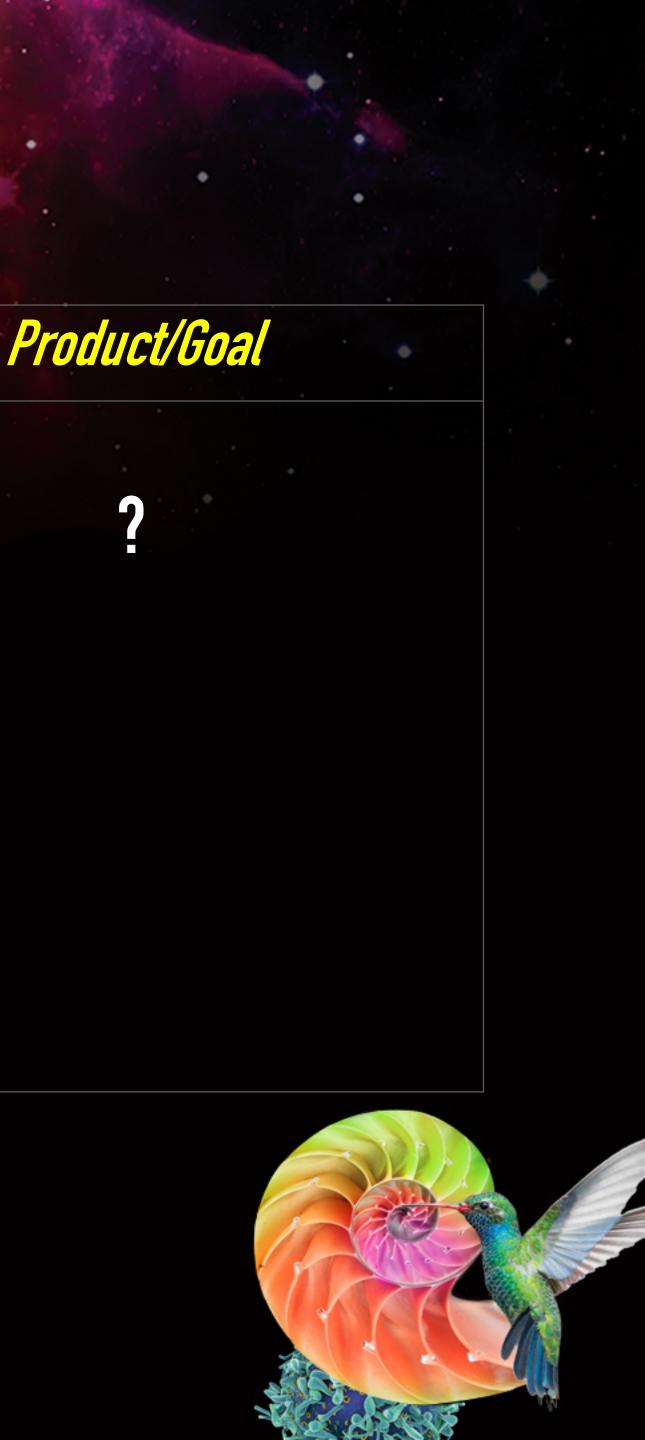
... if morally and rationally consistent ...



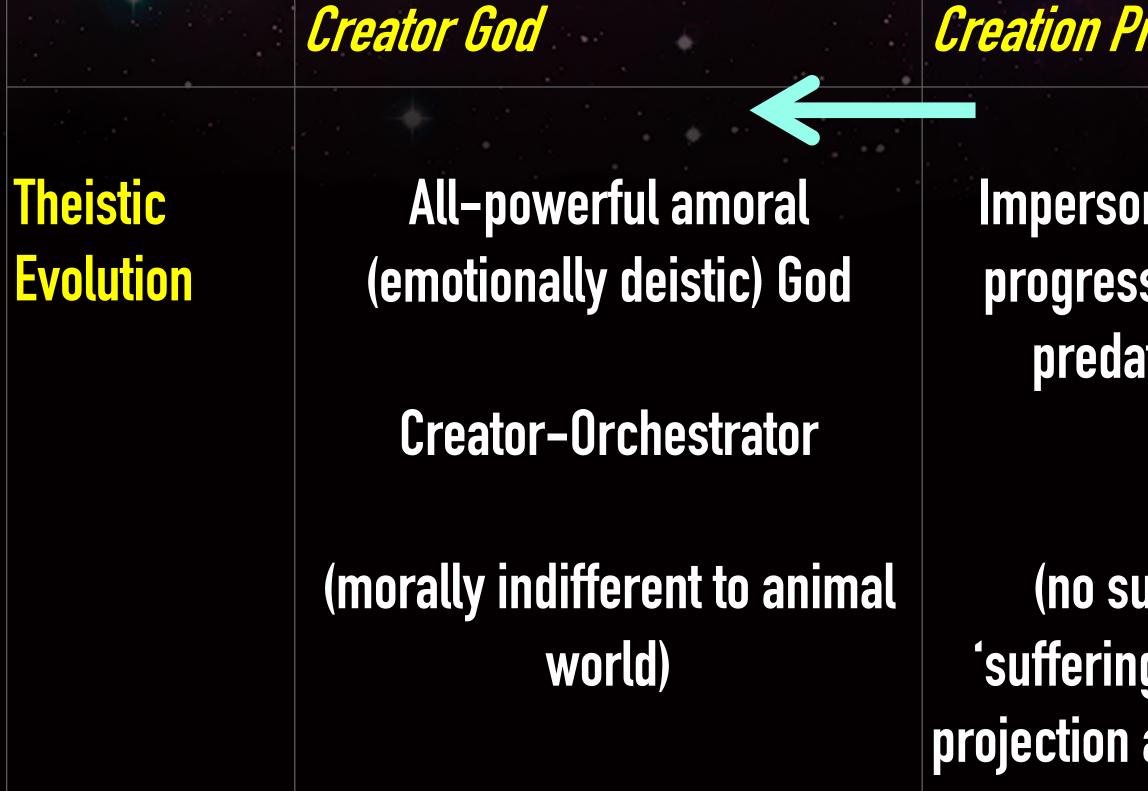
Creation Process

Impersonal amoral process of progress via death, suffering, predation, violence, pain

(no such thing as animal 'suffering' or 'cruelty' — that is projection and anthropomorphism)



... if morally and rationally consistent ...

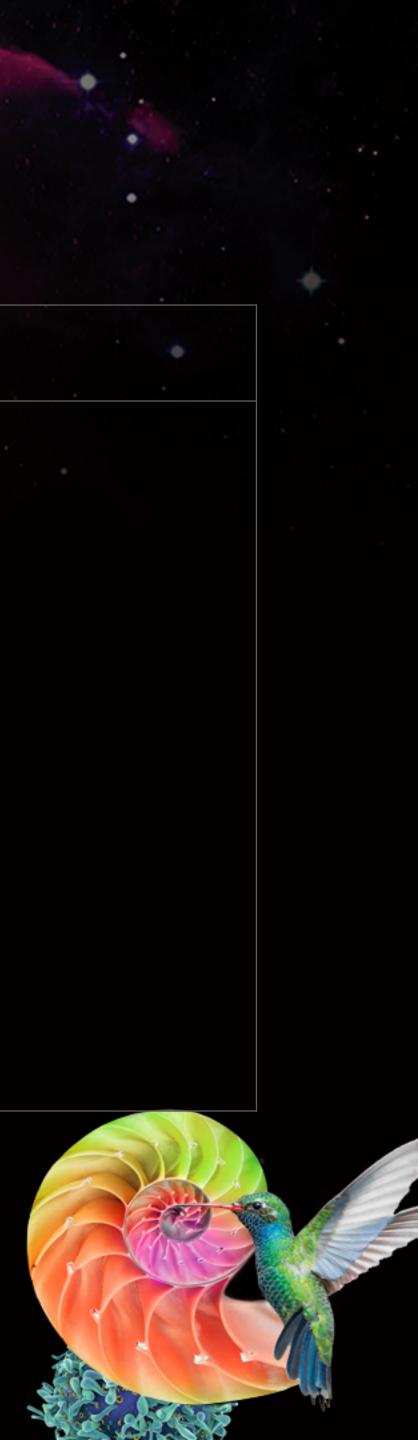


Creation Process

Impersonal amoral process of progress via death, suffering, predation, violence, pain

Product/Goal

(no such thing as animal 'suffering' or 'cruelty' - that is projection and anthropomorphism)



... if morally and rationally consistent ...

Theistic Evolution All-powerful amoral (emotionally deistic) God

Creator God

Creator-Orchestrator

(morally indifferent to animal world)

Impersonal amoral process of progress via death, suffering, predation, violence, pain

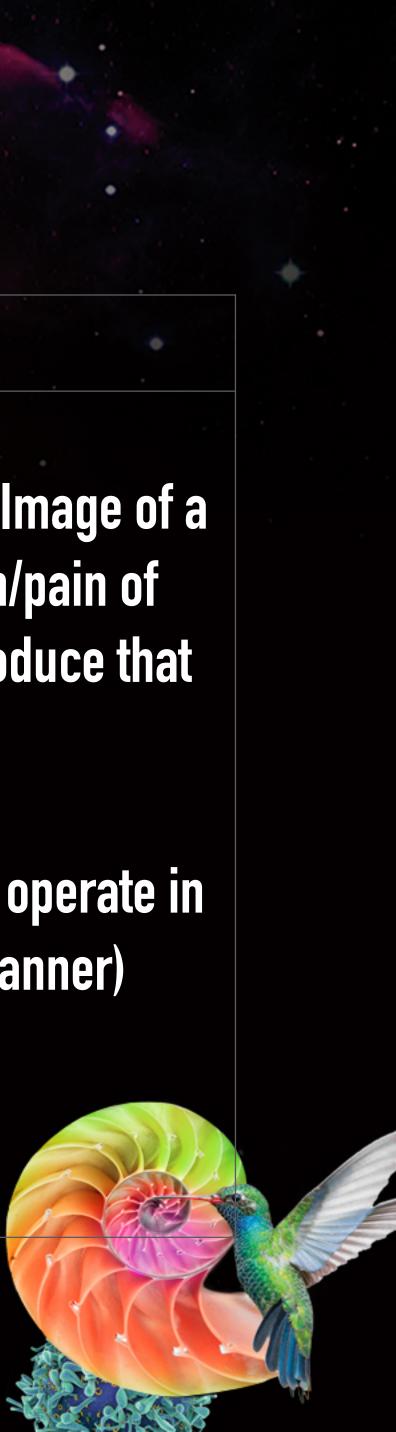
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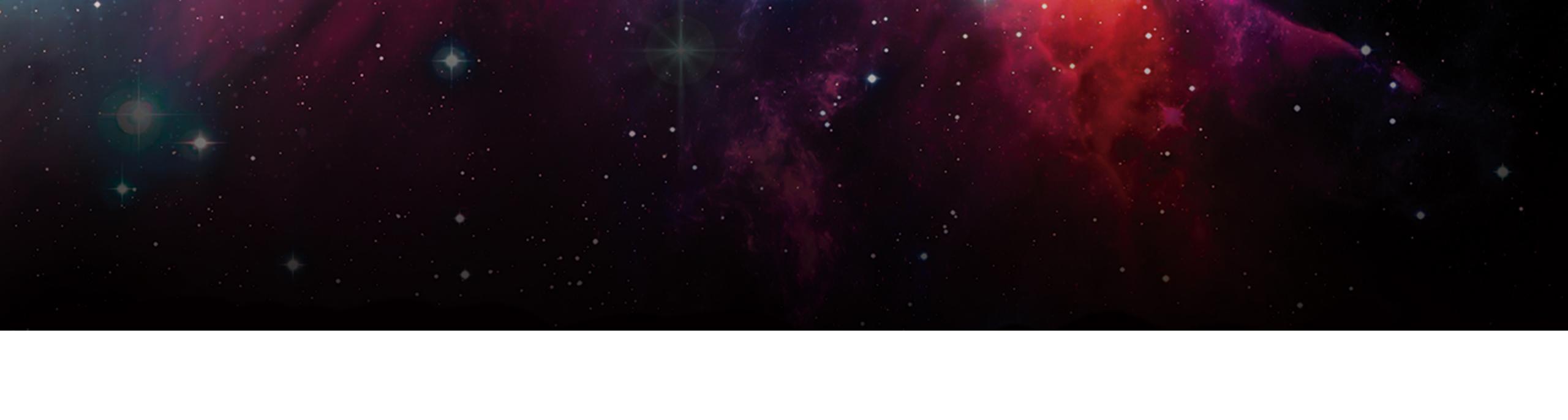
Creation Process

Product/Goal

Humanity made in the Image of a God who used death/pain of animal creation to produce that humanity

(But humans must not operate in the same moral manner)





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