

When the Universe Speaks: Rediscovering Our Home in the Cosmos

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Have we ever paused for a moment and asked: where do we truly come from? Not merely from our parents, nor just from our homeland—but from the vast depths of time and space known as the universe.

For centuries, humans believed themselves to be the center of everything. We built cities, invented machines, conquered nature, and separated ourselves from what we called “the environment.” But now, as the climate crisis shakes our planet—when floods, wildfires, and droughts are no longer unfamiliar—something vital has been lost in how we understand the world. We are no longer part of the universe’s story—we’ve become lost in a mistaken narrative.

This is where the book *New Cosmology: A New Narrative of the Universe* by Yosef Fandri (Kanisius, 2025) becomes so essential. This is not an ordinary science book, nor a conventional religious text. It is a bridge between both. Drawing on the thought of priest and ecologist Thomas Berry, Fandri invites us to see that the ecological crisis is, at its core, a crisis of story—a crisis in how we understand and give meaning to life.

The Universe Is Not a Machine

One of the central ideas in *New Cosmology* is that we have been living within two dysfunctional narratives. The first is a traditional religious narrative that sees the world as a mere stopover on the way to heaven—often neglected and exploited as a result. The second is the modern scientific narrative that views the universe as a vast machine, something to be controlled and extracted for human use.

Both narratives place humans as rulers, not as participants in a greater whole. As a result, nature becomes an object, not a relationship. We have lost our reverence for mountains, rivers, trees, and animals. Yet, according to *New Cosmology*, the universe is not a machine. It is a living being with history, movement, and purpose.

Cosmogenesis: An Ongoing Story

Yosef Fandri and Berry describe this process as *cosmogenesis*: the long story beginning with the Big Bang, the formation of stars and planets, the emergence of life, and the eventual rise of human consciousness. In this view, everything is interconnected. We do not merely live *in* the universe; we are *of* it. We come from stardust. Our bodies contain the chemical elements born in ancient stellar explosions.

Here, science and spirituality are not in conflict. Evolutionary science does not deny the Divine—rather, it reveals how the Divine works through deep time and majestic process. In the narrative of cosmogenesis, the universe is not just a dwelling place, but also a teacher, a revelation, even a companion.

The Ecozoic Era: Living With, Not Over

New Cosmology also introduces the concept of the *Ecozoic Era*: a vision of the future where humans live in harmony with Earth and all its beings. It is a post-industrial, post-exploitation age. In this era, economics, education, and spirituality are shaped by the principles of sustainability and reverence for life.

To make this real, we need a paradigm shift. We need a new way of thinking: that saving forests is not just about carbon, but about love. That littering is not just a legal offense, but a spiritual wound. And that caring for the Earth is one of the truest forms of prayer.

Returning Home

What makes this book so powerful is its narrative. It is not an instruction manual, but an invitation. Not a dogma, but a story. It reminds us that Earth is home, and that the universe is not a foreign place, but where we came from—and where we belong.

In an age of deep anxiety, *New Cosmology* gives us a new language to understand the world. It does not promise an easy path, but it offers a more integrated direction—a way that no longer separates science from faith, ecology from ethics, fact from meaning. When we once again look at the stars, the forest, or the morning sun with the awareness that we are part of them, perhaps healing begins. Perhaps, we are finally coming home.

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