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Creation Myth:

“Michael Elkins and The Great Slumber”

In a distant universe not too long ago, a baby boy by the name of Michael Elkins was placed into his crib. For, the moon had taken its throne on the night sky, signaling Michael's bedtime. This opportunity for a great slumber was long awaited by Michael Elkins, for he strongly desired the opportunity to build his own universe in his dreams. Michael Elkins closed his eyes and went into a great slumber that would result in the creation of our universe. Explosions were something Michael enjoyed, so the biggest explosion imaginable was the very first thing Michael thought of in his dream. After enjoying the explosion, Michael decided he was going to allow for another explosion of equal greatness to occur in the very distant future. This second explosion served two purposes, with the first one being to give Michael one last thrill before having to awaken and return to his boring life. The second reason for the explosion, was to give a satisfying end to the universe he created. In the meantime, Michael was going to experiment with creating life in a universe that would entertain him.

The first life Michael created was the Fupapian species on the planet Glargy. A species that clearly demonstrated Michael's inexperience in creating life, due to the Fupapians being restricted to a 20-hour life span. After many years an enlightened Fupapian was born who uncovered how to alter his genes to detect Michael snoring. Immediately after the Fupapian had detected Michael's snoring, Michael appeared before the Fupapian and warned

him not spread his discovery to other Fupapians. The enlightened Fupapian ignored the warning and took the name Michael, before spreading his discovery to as many Fupapians as possible. Baby Michael was angered and immediately summoned a thousand human elbows to exterminate the enlightened Fupapian, Michael. Baby Michael left shortly after to create better life on a distant planet he would call Earth, so that he may one day live amongst his creations in peace.

Once Michael arrived on planet Earth he sought to continue developing his life making skills causing him to create dinosaurs. After many years the dinosaurs became boring to Michael, causing him to exterminate them with a massive meteor that only spared small creatures. Michael started to select the best creatures and bred them together until he had created a species in his image. After breeding a species in his image, Michael decided to allow the Earth to run itself only to interfere every now and then causing what we call today miracles. Michael had told himself that he was to place himself to live among the people who considered themselves human when the time was right.

The time for Michael to be reborn as a human finally arrived as humanity reached the 1900s. In a flash, Michael Elkins was born into a random 1900s family that lived in the United States. In real life baby Michael was an infant who was struggling to learn the alphabet which heavily influenced how he would lead his life as a human on planet Earth. In Michael's view, the best career for him to have, to forget those alphabet learning struggles would be as a lecturer at UC Merced. Being the almighty creator of his universe Michael was able to do just that and up to this day continues working at UC Merced as a section instructor for Core 001,

although has rejected all theories that claim him to be the creator.

One day Michael will awaken from his glorious slumber ending life on not only planet Earth, but the universe as we know it as well. Although that is not expected to come anytime soon since it is merely 2:00 am in Michael's world and he does not awaken until 10:00 am. Those 8 hours until Michael has his great awakening may seem like a very short period of time, but time moves significantly slower in Michael's world. Before the universe ends there will be another great explosion that Michael set to happen in the very beginning which on its own will end life on the universe and his great awakening will end the existence of our universe.

“Michael Elkins and The Great Slumber” is arguably one of the most realistic and credible explanation for the creation of our universe. The creation myth, “Michael Elkins and the Great Slumber” is able to achieve the highly credible status by drawing from elements of different creation myths as well as a variety of scientific theories. The scientific theories employed in this creation myth range from the big bang theory, spontaneous creation theories, and natural selection. Apart from employing these scientific theories, elements from other creation myths are taken from the Genesis, Deism, and most noticeably Zhuangzi Daoism. The very first scientific theory employed in this creation myth is the big bang theory. The creation myth describes the creation of our universe starting as the “biggest explosion imaginable” and soon after the explosion Michael Elkins began to bring life in our universe. The big bang theory itself describes the creation of the universe very similarly, where the biggest explosion ever occurs that is followed by the creation of the universe allowing for there to be life. It is as if the creation myth stole the idea of the big bang for itself, since they are very similar in describing the creation of the universe. At the same time one could argue

the big bang theory is an idea that developed due to the creation myth. Apart from having the big bang exclusively create the universe, the scientific theory of the big bang returning is also used in this creation myth. The big bang returns is best described as, “After a life span of 100 or so billion years, the big bang returns and the universe reverts to the state it had originally” (Harrison 527). In essence, the universe is doomed to eventually destroy itself by having a big bang return. The creation myth embodies this idea with Michael setting an “explosion” of big bang proportions to go off before he awakens which “will end life on the universe”. That explosion returning in the end is clearly the idea of the big bang returning in the future to end life in our universe.

Spontaneous creation theories are clearly present in this creation myth. A description of spontaneous creation is, “the universe is spontaneously created...In effect, the universe self-creates without extra cosmic midwifery” (Harrison 524). In short, spontaneous creation predicts the universe was created without immense amounts of energy being used. As described previously, the big bang is in the creation myth which would mean that spontaneous creation is not possible due to the huge amounts of energy the big bang itself uses to create the universe. Although the big bang does occur in the creation myth, it is never described as the reason to why the universe was created, the universe was created the second Michael shut his eyes to have a great slumber, which is apparent in the creation myth with the line, “[Michael Elkins] went into a great slumber that resulted in the creation of our universe”. If Michael created the universe by going to sleep, then spontaneous creation is possible because Michael did not waste any energy in going to sleep. If no energy was wasted while the universe was spontaneously created, then spontaneous creation theories are embodied in this

creation myth.

The last scientific theory that is employed in this creation myth is the idea of natural selection. Charles Darwin describes natural selection as, “daily and hourly scrutinising...adding up all that is good...we see nothing of these slow changes in progress, until the hand of time has marked the long lapse of ages” (Darwin 8). In short, natural selection is a very slow process that developed complicated life forms from simple ones. Natural selection is clearly in the creation myth when, “Michael started to select the best creatures and bred them together until he had created a species in his image”. Instead of creating mankind in an instant with his godlike powers, Michael is described to have guided natural selection to allow for the development of mankind. Michael’s description of creating mankind is undeniably the process of natural selection, which only serves to add credibility to this creation myth.

“Michael Elkins and The Great Slumber” not only pulls ideas from scientific theories but also embodies some ideas from other creation myths. This creation myth takes some ideas from the Genesis. The Genesis describes the beginning of the universe with, “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light” (Genesis 3). A similar way to imagine that scene would be to have Michael demand a huge explosion followed by a huge explosion occurring. Explosions tend to be filled with light, so Michael having an explosion occur as the first in his dream is very similar to God creating light as the very first thing. The similarity between both stories shows that the creation myth was not afraid to take ideas from the Bible or vice versa. Deism is also present in this creation myth. Deism is described by Einstein as the, “universe is

not ruled by [God's] wishful thinking, but by immutable laws" (Frank 101). According to Einstein, the universe was only created by a creator, then left to develop on its own afterwards. While the creation myth does not fully embrace this idea it is present at times. Michael is not described as a micromanager of his universe, but more as an observer. He is described to create miracles at times, but in the end Michael decided to lead a life as a lecturer at UC Merced, meaning that he had left the universe to function on its own despite being the creator. Michael Elkins allowing for the universe to function on its own is a clear embodiment of Deist beliefs.

The biggest influence in this creation story comes from Zhuangzi Daoism. Vatican astronomer, Brother Guy described the idea of Zhuangzi Daoism as life being just another person's dream, which was developed after Zhou dreamt he was a butterfly (Consolmagno "Cosmology and Religion, Ancient and Modern"). The creation myth greatly depends on this concept because it makes the bold claim of our universe being just the dream of Michael Elkins. If that were to be proven untrue, the whole creation myth would fall apart. Fortunately, no evidence currently exists to disprove we are currently living in the dream of Michael Elkins, meaning the creation myth has enough credibility to be considered legitimate. In conclusion, "Michael Elkins and The Great Slumber" manages to prove its credibility by drawing on many elements from scientific theories developed by multiple scientists. The creation myth also does not shy away from taking elements from a variety of creation myths. It is thanks to the usage of many ideas from scientific to religious that "Michael Elkins and The Great Slumber" cannot be simply refuted by anyone. There are too many elements used

in the story that line up with other beliefs on creation; making it, virtually irrefutable unless amazing discoveries are made in the near future that refute the many scientific theories and religious beliefs employed by the creation myth. Until then, “Michael Elkins and The Great Slumber” is here to stay as a credible creation myth.

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