

Modern Cosmology as Creation Myth?

1. What are (creation) myths? Examples?
2. Why are they common, what role(s) do they play?
3. (How) is the Big Bang “story” different/similar?
4. Can/should it take the “larger” role of creation myths?
5. What does one lose/gain by doing this?

Nature’s Familiarity

1. Find examples of “familiar” themes
e.g. birth/youth/development; sound/harmonics; colors....
2. How can Dryden get so close without knowing?
3. Is this familiarity surprising?
4. If so, how do we explain it?
5. Does any of this help/hinder myth-making?

John Dryden (1687)

From Harmony, from heavenly harmony,
This universal frame began:
When nature underneath a heap
Of jarring atoms lay,
And could not heave her head,
The tuneful voice was heard from high,
“Arise, ye more than dead.”
Then cold, and hot, and moist, and dry,
In order to their stations leap,
And Music’s power obey.
From harmony, from heavenly harmony,
This universal frame began;
From harmony to harmony
Through all the compass of the notes it ran
The diapason closing full in man.