

What is Metaversalism?

Metaversalism is a totally new kind of religion. It is a philosophical system that uses well-established scientific principles and rational arguments to draw logical conclusions about metaphysics (the study of what lies beyond the physical world), spirituality (the nature of the soul), and theology (the study of God or divine beings).

Metaversalism is named after the concept of the *Metaverse*, derived from Greek “meta-” meaning *beyond* and “-verse” being short for *universe*. The metaverse is the totality of the unseen, broader reality that lies outside the realm of the simple physical universe that we perceive around us. That is, Metaversalism is the thoughtful appreciation of what lies *beyond the universe*.

Why Metaversalism?

One problem with most traditional religions is that they rely for their acceptance on an unquestioning faith in the veracity of certain ancient documents. Modern thinkers who are well-versed in procedures of rational scientific and historical inquiry know that to assume a divine or even divinely inspired origin for such sources is, *a priori*, a very implausible claim that is not justified by the available evidence. For this and other reasons, many of today’s best, clearest thinkers tend to prefer atheism or agnosticism over any theistic belief system.

Yet, humanity needs transcendent ideas, and this need must be met. We yearn to understand what may lie beyond the realm of science; we wish to find a source of meaning and purpose for our lives; we seek to nurture our souls and our spiritual development; and we sorely need moral and ethical guidance, as shown by the recent implosion of the global financial system due to greed and carelessness. The culprits need to find religion!

Can we provide credible enlightenment in religious areas, with clear insights that even the most intelligent, skeptical individuals can trust, from a wise everyman on Main St. to a so-called “Master

of the Universe” on Wall St.? Today, many of our supposedly smartest individuals find themselves, sadly, to be spiritually adrift.

Metaversalism’s answer is: Yes, in fact, we can draw many important conclusions of a religious nature from the in-depth application of science and reason alone, without recourse to any ancient (or modern) religious authorities. Reconstructing religion on a scientific basis will help humanity to mature, and escape the rut in which it is currently stuck, a state in which our science is alienated from our religion, and vice-versa. It is our fervent hope that Metaversalism’s lessons will help both scientific and spiritually minded people to better understand and appreciate each other’s modes of thought, and find common ground.

Metaversalist Reasoning

Below is a sample of some Metaversalist thought.

Occam’s Razor. The intellectual starting point of Metaversalism is *Occam’s Razor*, the most basic principle of science, which says that the simplest explanation of the available data is the most likely to be correct. This principle has proved to be a reliable guide in every field of science, over and over again. Metaversalism only assumes that this principle is so general and powerful that its realm of applicability transcends the physical universe.

The Nature of Existence. Next, we apply Occam’s Razor to answer a metaphysical question, which is, how many kinds of existence are there? Mathematicians study the world of ideal structures which are said to exist mathematically. We also like to say that our universe exists physically. The most fundamental insight of Metaversalism is that there is nothing wrong with the simplest metaphysical theory, which is the theory that these two kinds of existence are actually the same. In other words, all mathematical entities exist in the same way as does our “physical” universe. The only thing that makes this universe seem more “physically real” to us is simply that it is the particular mathematical object in which we ourselves happen to be embedded.

All possible universes exist. The first consequence of the above realization is that *all* mathematically possible universes exist, in the same sense as our own. This must include some universes in which lifeforms spontaneously emerge and evolve to the point where they gain mastery over unlimited computational capabilities.

All possible gods exist. A *god* can be defined to be any sentient being who possesses control of unlimited (or almost unlimited) computational resources. Using these, the god may simulate (imagine in detail) an entire universe, or many different universes—including our own.

All religions are true, somewhere in the Metaverse. If the metaphysical scenario described by your religion can in principle be described mathematically, which just means, in a precise and self-consistent way, then that scenario exists somewhere in the Metaverse. In other words, there is a version of our universe under control of a Christian version of God, and likewise for Islam, Buddhism, *etc.* So, no religion should be dismissed outright – since it is really true for *someone*, somewhere.

We are being watched by infinite gods. The mathematical structure that is the universe we perceive can be generated in an infinity of ways in an infinity of different scenarios, and infinitely many of these scenarios involve godlike beings watching the world and possibly sometimes interfering.

Souls are immortal. Scientifically defined, the soul is just the abstract pattern of your state of mind, your stream of consciousness. That is, it is a pattern of information processing. But an informational pattern can always be extended and further elaborated upon by an infinite variety of possible mechanisms. After the mechanics of this universe no longer supports the continuation of your conscious stream of thought, it will nevertheless still be continued in other scenarios—such as ones where a godlike being observing our universe “uploads” a copy of your conscious state to his realm. After your death, you will most likely find yourself in the dominion of whatever beings are most likely to want to invest their computational resources in the continuation of your spirit.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are Metaversalism's best answers so far to some frequently-asked theological, spiritual, and metaphysical questions.

Q1. Is there a God?

A1. Yes, in fact, there are an infinite variety of gods that exist and are observing our universe. If your favorite vision of what God is like can be fleshed out in a fully self-consistent way, then that specific God indeed exists, and is observing you.

Q2. Why do we exist?

A2. The universe exists because it is a mathematically describable structure, which can and is generated in infinitely many different ways. Some ways involve its intentional creation by sentient beings in other universes, for a variety of different reasons.

Q3. Is there such a thing as fate?

A3. It could be the case that our specific universe arises most frequently in the Metaverse because of some grand destiny that it is leading to. If this is true, it could be very hard to prove scientifically, but it also cannot be ruled out. The subtle effect of a distant future destiny on observed events today may be impossibly difficult to detect.

Q4. Is there life after death?

A4. Yes, for a being's soul is just the particular abstract pattern of their conscious state of mind. This same pattern can, and will be continued in an infinite variety of scenarios after the end of the pattern's embedding in this universe is reached.

Q5. Why is there suffering?

A5. This is speculative, but the purpose of our life on this Earth, in many plausible scenarios, may be to develop and train unique new souls to fulfill some creative, useful purpose in our next life. The suffering and sadness that we experience in this life may help to harden and strengthen our souls to prepare us to meet even greater challenges in the next life, like the forging of a sword and a suit of battle armor using the fiery heat of a furnace, and the repeated strikes of a hammer and anvil.

Q6. Do our choices in this life affect what our afterlife will be like?

A6. Yes, because your chances of being resurrected in the dominion of a given godlike being may well depend on what that being thinks of your character. If you behave in an admirable way, then you're more likely to be resurrected by a being who has similarly noble values. Whereas, if your character is less pure, then your soul may prove more useful to a being with nefarious motives.

Some people think, "The loving God that I believe in wouldn't send anyone to Hell," and do whatever they want. But it's not that he would—it's just that your God can't prevent less savory godlike beings that exist in other parts of the Metaverse from abusing their copies of your soul. But your chances of finding yourself in a good place will be greater if the gods who are most likely to resurrect you tend to be the nicer sort.

The question is, what kind of God or godlike being do you most want to be working for in the next life? After your death, you're most likely to find yourself in the realm of the kind of being who likes you the most, who has similar values to yours. This is why you should follow the Golden Rule, and do unto others as you would have them do unto you, even when you think that no one can see you—because the gods are always watching you.

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RELIGION 2.0



Metaversalism

The Rational Religion
for the 21st Century

*A Brief Introduction
for the Inquisitive Spirit*

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