



The Mystery of Existence: Why Is There Anything At All?

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This compelling study of the origins of all that exists, including explanations of the entire material world, traces the responses of philosophers and scientists to the most elemental and haunting question of all: why is *anything* here—or anything *anywhere*? Why is there something rather than nothing? Why not nothing? It includes the thoughts of dozens of luminaries from Plato and Aristotle to Aquinas and Leibniz to modern thinkers such as physicists Stephen Hawking and Steven Weinberg, philosophers Robert Nozick and Derek Parfit, philosophers of religion Alvin Plantinga and Richard Swinburne, and the Dalai Lama.

- The first accessible volume to cover a wide range of possible reasons for the existence of all reality, from over 50 renowned thinkers, including Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Leibniz, Hume, Bertrand Russell, Stephen Hawking, Steven Weinberg, Robert Nozick, Derek Parfit, Alvin Plantinga, Richard Swinburne, John Polkinghorne, Paul Davies, and the Dalai Lama
- Features insights by scientists, philosophers, and theologians
- Includes informative and helpful editorial introductions to each section
- Provides a wealth of suggestions for further reading and research
- Presents material that is both comprehensive and comprehensible

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Editorial Review

Review

“In this deep and thoughtful book, philosopher John Leslie and public sage Robert Lawrence Kuhn organize, integrate, and reassess past and current ideas about this most compelling of metaphysical questions.” (*Metapsychology*, 13 August 2013)

“And now John Leslie and Robert Lawrence Kuhn have published *The Mystery of Existence: Why Is There Anything At All?*, a very useful anthology of classic and contemporary readings.” (*First Things*, 24 July 2013)

“Read the book by all means. It's well written. Inevitably. After all its contributors number the greatest brains known to man. But I think it has been misnamed. *The Mystery of Existence*. (*There really isn't anything to concern us.*)” (*New Nurturing Potential*, 1 July 2013)

“I certainly recommend it, but it is not the sort of book you would buy to read in the train.” (*Magonia Blog*, 6 June 2013)

"Their book, which I would recommend highly to students, researchers or indeed anyone with a curiosity about or stimulated by these deepest of questions, offers an abundance of suggestions for further reading and research on this inexhaustible topic." (*Mysterious Planet*, 1 June 2013)

Review

“Recent discoveries in cosmology have led to a renewed surge of interest in ultimate questions of existence. What, if anything, came before the big bang? If the universe appeared from nothing in a law-like manner, then where did the laws come from, and why do they have the form that they do? Or is our universe but an infinitesimal fragment of an eternal, infinite sea of diverse laws and universes? This book provides a comprehensive review of attempts to grapple with such foundational questions, and skillfully charts the intersection of science, philosophy and theology. The authors have assembled an intellectual feast for all those who care about physical existence, the universe and our place within it.”

—Paul Davies, Director, BEYOND Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science, Arizona State University
Author of *The Goldilocks Enigma: Why the Universe is Just Right for Life*

“This book gathers together some of the best that has been thought and written on what may be the most fundamental question of all: Why does anything exist? Readers won't find a definite answer – perhaps there isn't one that we're capable of understanding – but they will at least get a feel for the nature of the question. And in philosophy, understanding the question is in itself an important step forward.”

—Martin J. Rees, Astronomer Royal (UK)
Author of *Just Six Numbers: The Deep Forces that Shape the Universe*

“A very useful collection containing many of the most prominent responses to the question why there is something rather than nothing, with helpful introductions by the editors.”

—Richard Swinburne, University of Oxford
Author of *The Existence of God*

“This book will be an indispensable resource for anyone who wants to think seriously about the questions, ‘Why is there something – and not rather nothing?’ and ‘Why is there *this* something – and not rather some entirely different “something”?’”

—Peter van Inwagen, the University of Notre Dame
Author of *Existence: Essays in Ontology*

From the Back Cover

The Mystery of Existence asks the haunting question: Why does *anything* exist? Anything of any kind, anywhere. The first edited volume to cover an extremely wide variety of solutions to what must be the ultimate mystery, it features dozens of luminaries. They range from Plato and Aristotle to Aquinas and Leibniz, and then to modern thinkers. These include physicists Stephen Hawking and Steven Weinberg, philosophers Robert Nozick and Derek Parfit, philosophers of religion Alvin Plantinga and Richard Swinburne, and the Dalai Lama. Some answers are philosophical, some are theological or religious, and yet others come from physics and cosmology—fields in which debate on the deep origin of all reality continues to rage.

Whether you believe the universe began with a quantum-fluctuation big bang or in the creative consciousness of a divine designer, here is a feast for the mind. With enlightening introductions to each section, and offering a wealth of suggestions for further reading, *The Mystery of Existence* provides general readers, students, and researchers with a readily accessible map of the many diverse paths humans have followed when confronted by the most baffling of all enigmas – Why is there something rather than nothing?

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bill Underhill:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book *The Mystery of Existence: Why Is There Anything At All?* has been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The guide *The Mystery of Existence: Why Is There Anything At All?* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also to be your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship with all the book *The Mystery of Existence: Why Is There Anything At All?*. You never experience lose out for everything when you read some books.

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Kay Davidson:

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