

【Everything, Left with Nothing】

Long before time had a name...

..No, that doesn't seem right, hmm..

It was-

No- hmm, where do I start.

Argh! Screw it.

It is what makes all, "all".

Though that's still a lie.. Damn it! Whatever! It doesn't make sense. A **Paradox**, if you will. Moving on!

There was a dream.

A dream of itself.

There were many colors. There was much nonsense, And from the nonsense was order.

All of it, all *it*.

And at the pinnacle, a being.

An **Anomaly** that stood at the top. The Anomaly that would act as its face.

The Anomaly sat there, staring blankly.

The Anomaly asked itself: "Wouldn't it be cool if.."

And so it switched things up. It made blue red. It made pi a pie. It made a cake lie. It made 2+2 fish, and watched the world flip on its nonexistent head.

It chuckled, "Well isn't that something."

It continued to ask. It continued to break. It continued to amuse.

At one point, it asked, "what if all was broken?"

And so it broke everything.

The world convulsed violently. A flurry of nonsense.

"But that's fine. More importantly.."

It looked around in awe. All the weird ways the world went wrong.

...

...

...

It looked around. "All so interesting," a world that was truly alien. It was colorful. Stunningly beautiful, it dared to say.

...

...

...

“Okay, now I’m bored. How about something different?”

Without even batting so much as an eye, it let some places be “normal”, gave them some semblance of structure amidst the chaos.

The orderly was... Surprisingly interesting! “They can do that?” It thought, pointing at a few tiny, other beings.

Those tiny beings. They ran around frantically. They screamed, hugged, stabbed, kissed. But more importantly, they had limits.

They died, left, forgot, feared. They were weak, dirty, some animalistic, some attempting to be more elegant than their original nature.

And they were interesting.

It rocked back and forth, looking at them. It couldn’t help but want to chew on its nai-

...

.. It didn’t have nails though. It didn’t even have a body.

“Goodness, why didn’t I think of this?”

And without thinking twice, it sent itself into a proper world. It gave itself its own mask and body, and left its “throne” in the middle of nowhere, and got a closer look at it all.

A olive-colored skin, dark brown eyes, short jet black hair, and a beard. It looked just like the rest.

He proclaimed himself the son of a great being from above. They looked at him with awe, they followed him, cherished him.

Some would oppose him, claim him a fake, call him the incarnate of a great evil.

It felt hurt. No doubt, anyone called that would be hurt.

But at the same time, it was a profoundly interesting feeling. The feeling of "hurt".

One it had never felt.

He lived his short life, he was betrayed by one of his people, and he died bleeding.

clap clap clap, "I've GOT do it again," He cheered, patting himself on the back for bringing such amusement to himself. He wanted more.

And so it got another life. The life of a rich man. He'd do the unreasonable, he'd throw goodness out the window, leeching off of the others, watching others die, turning many blind eyes, until the people run up to him with pitchforks and turn him to ash.

"Gee, burns are quite hurtful."

"..I think, I want to try something happier."

Another life, she was a farm girl, swept away into a magical land, along with her house. On a quest to return home, she encountered many friends, defeated a witch, and met a fake Wizard, who helped her return home.

When her life was over, it simply sat there, with nothing to say.

"Hmm, that felt kinda meaningless. Perhaps just a liiiiittle sadder."

Another life, he was a middle-aged man, having read so many novels, his mind went kooky, playing a knight, hiring a farmer, fighting windmills, and so on. Although he woke up eventually, he wouldn't live his remaining days happily.

“Heh, perhaps living a delusion isn’t so bad.”

“Let’s see here...”

Another life, he was a talentless boy with morbid jealousy towards a powerful person with flame powers, but was killed by him after seeing his bad side. He found an ability to go back in time on death, killed that sociopath in the past, lived his dream life and made the world a little better.

Another, a civil engineering student was reincarnated as a scumbag noble in a story he read, and went on a morally ambiguous journey to change his fate, subsequently helping his people prosper.

Another, a commoner with no birthright, who dreamed of claiming his own kingdom, created a successful band of mercenaries, before sacrificing all of them for his selfish dream.

Another, she was a poor kid, ostracized because her lack of talent was viewed as a bad omen, but went on a journey, finding happiness in taming monsters.

Another, he was just a “hero” in a party, who fired his comrade, before being felled by the same comrade, who came back extraordinarily strong.

...

“I’ve been doing this for a while, huh?”

“... Eh, not like I have much to do. Off I go!”

...

One life, he met a diviner. A powerful magician working a job. She looked at her, she did her magic, and she paused.

“You.. You are not normal, that’s for sure.”

“I’m sorry. You have so much, but you will end with nothing. Whatever you do, I warn you: steel yourself, old one.”

He sat there, still as a rock, his smile completely gone.

It knew what she hinted at. An unease that it couldn’t shake.

“That so?”

But, it kept that at the back of its head, continuing on.

Living, dying, spending eternities as gods, rulers, diviners, magicians, peasants, slaves..

..Until it ran out. Before it realized, it had tried everything.

...

It went through its lives. Checking one by one.

It really went through it all.

It swung its “arm”, cracked the world. “How do I even.. I ran out of things in an infinite pool of things.”

It watched the other beings again. They still smiled, they still despaired, they still hurried. Unlike it, who had nothing left to do.

It went through the worlds again. Searching for something.

Nothing.

It went through everything once again. Surely there is something it left out.

Nothing.

It went through everything once again. *Surely* there is something it left out.

Nothing.

...

It screamed in agony. It frantically changed the world, hoping for one more novel experience. Perhaps the odd rainbow-y static? No! It already knew of it! It already grew bored of that nonsensical realm! It screamed, running through this infinite pool for something outside of my vision- no, its vision.


It zoomed through every life, looking for something, anything that I-, *ahem*, it missed.

Please! ~~NO! I HAVE SEEN YOU ALREADY! DAMN IT!~~

~~YOU. WRITER, YOU'RE THE ONE WRITING STORIES, COME ON! THINK OF SOMETHING! PLEASE!~~

THERE'S SOMETHING I MISSED.

There must be.

Hey, there's something ~~left~~ right? 

left
right
up
down

answer me..

...

Alas, it is the absolutely infinite. There's nothing past itself. That truth that it had hidden for so long, it couldn't help but hear the truth laughing, mocking it.

It went through its many lives again, hoping to find something, one last time. It was a desperate attempt.

It laughed at itself, "I've gone insane, huh? Doing something over and over, and expecting something new," it said as it walked through the many worlds it had seen, slumping.

"Stupid."

Eventually, it met a diviner. A powerful magician working a job. She looked at her, she did her magic, and she paused.

"You.. You are not normal, that's for sure."

"...You already know what I have to say, don't you?"

It did in fact know. After ignoring that warning she had said, it couldn't even bring itself to look her in the eye. They both fell silent, at a loss for words.

The diviner sighed, "I suppose you only have one place to go now, is it not?"

It turned around, got a good look at the sky for once.

It chuckled, "I guess you're right."

“I must look like a real manchild, huh? An old man pretending he can still be a young lad, still playing games, still wandering aimlessly.”

It got up, writing on a piece of paper, “You’re right though, my time is up, I ought to leave for real now. Though, I guess it won’t hurt to return every now and then.”

It gave her the paper, folded, “Call me if you’re in a bind, alright?”

“..And, thanks. I needed to hear those words,” it said with its back turned on her.

The diviner chuckled, “I guess even mysteries like you can have humanity, eh?”

“Alright, I’ll remember it, stranger.”

With nothing left, it did the only thing left that was reasonable: to cease the illusion of separation. As the view faded, as everything became nothing, and nothing itself ceased, only one was left. The Paradox from which the dream became possible.

Despite this, they still think of it. They still live the dream, and some still believe in a higher being.

“I bet they still expect more from ‘The Almighty’ than this.. this idiot god.”

The diviner unfolded the paper, reading its contents.

“””

You are one with everything, and an Anomaly is no different.

If you wish to seek me,

Cease all that makes you, and wake up from this dream.

Once you're out, try to return, just like I promised you.

You'll be me, and my mind shall lead the way from there.

“”””

Paradox / Anomaly

Description

Paradox is my Hyperverse (no, this is not the same as VSBW's tier of the same name). By itself, the Hyperverse is without coherence. As it is without coherence, it is impossible to describe. Any specific definition would be a lie about Paradox. Though, if I must pick the closest lie to the truth, Paradox is that which all variations of logic is contingent on.

Logic in this case is how logical realists perceive it: it is the arbitrary, full set of rules that the concept of intelligibility and definitions depend on, independent of the mind. Paradox aside, nothing is more fundamental than logic.

As stated earlier, logic in here, can have variations. It can range from what we use, the framework that describes all of formal logic as we know it, to straight nonsense, variants of logic that contradict themselves ad nauseam, “utter bull [REDACTED]”, if you will.

The Observable Hyperverse

The Observable Hyperverse is Paradox's expression, and an illusion: the false reality that all lesser beings experience. That's not to say that its inhabitants all live mere dreams though, from every lesser beings' perspectives, their existence is very much real. It is only in the illusory Observable Hyperverse that structure can exist. In it, there are two things: “The Outside”, a substrate of nonsense (that is, variants of logic that from us human's perspective, is wrong, maybe even “utter garbage”), and “Multiverses” (again, not the same term that VSBW uses), regions where variants of logic are consistent, regions where a

“framework” of sorts can exist, regions with enough consistency for mathematics can exist. They may not appear right from our perspective, but they follow enough patterns to count as a framework. (E.g. $A \wedge \neg A$ may be true there, but it stays true in the framework. Maybe $B \rightarrow (A \wedge \neg A)$ is false, it’s always false in the framework)

In each Multiverse, is all (**all**) mathematics, and physics that is consistent with its own logical framework, which can be anything ranging from something that’s unintelligible from us humans’ POV, to something we can understand, like second-order logic. It is separated similarly to the Observable Hyperverses, a “Lesser Outside” where mathematics is inconsistent, and Universes, regions where mathematics and physics are stable.

Entropy for universes is the slow return from order to disorder, from the consistent physics that you and I can enjoy, to the end where it becomes one with the inconsistent physics. Entropy for multiverses is the same, the slow return from order to disorder, from logic to nonsense. The rate at which entropy operates, is inconsistent, varying from Multiverse to Multiverse, from Universe to Universe.

How do Multiverses and Universes pop up? From how we view it, pure chance. The Outside (in the way we perceive it) is nonsensical. It contradicts itself a lot, thus allowing for some form of pseudo-fluctuation. Occasionally, the changes align just right to allow a framework for mathematics/physics.

How do Multiverses and Universes maintain their separation? When a multiverse or universe forms due to conditions aligning right, said conditions can sustain themselves, as if the consistency re-affirming itself. That is, until the disorder from entropy accumulates, eventually leading to it fading back to incoherence, and the change game begins all over again. Unfortunately, the self-reaffirmation is still a sort of push back against the incoherence. It cannot hold up ad infinitum, hence why entropy pervades every multiverse and universe. Also, not every logical/mathematical framework that pops up is able to do this self-reaffirmation (e.g. a framework where an “Axiom of Identity” cannot exist), in which case, they instantly collapse back into incoherence.

Cool fun fact: What’s it like on the Outsides?

Let's pretend you're absolutely immortal, and your mind and consciousness is indestructible and for some reason you can end up in the Lesser Outside. Well first of all, teleporting here is nearly impossible, because whatever coordinate system a teleport would rely on is almost certainly messed up. But second of all, you'd probably, instantly dissolve. Unlike a Universe which holds the laws of physics, you're just a thing that obeys said laws, you do not have the self-reaffirmation of a Universe. One point of your body may rely on a coordinate system that's angled slightly different from another point of your body for example, or maybe one uses polar while another uses Cartesian. Or maybe Newton's Third Law just quits in one point. In any case, your body's ripped apart the moment you try to move.

The Outside is even worse, mathematics doesn't even exist, you definitely can't teleport here. And, chances are even the cool immortality hax I just mentioned will fail, because the logic is so inconsistent, immortality and mind might not even be sufficiently defined to work. To operate here, you either need constant control over logic (which only Anomaly can do), or you need a pocket Universe in a pocket Multiverse that can hold off against the incoherence, or you need to bring a chunk of your Universe and its underlying Multiverse with you. All three are off limits for most beings, even in-multiverse deities.

Cool fun fact: Is there a map I can draw of the whole cosmology?

Nope, as a being from one universe, you normally cannot interact with another universe. A multiverse occupy the same "space" as another multiverse, but at the same time they operate as if they're completely separate and totally not colliding at all. Spacetime is a construct based on mathematics after all, so each universe has their own local spacetime. More often than not, this ends up being infinite, so everyone overlaps each other (though this is a misnomer, there's no meta-spacetime as a medium to actually "contain" lesser spacetimes).

Anomaly

Anomaly is an illusory self-referential expression of Paradox, a medium of sorts from which Paradox can (apparently for us) manifest in the Observable Hyperverse, and experience (fake) potential, and thus a mind, a being, a distinct identity and so on. Since it is fully backed by Paradox, it also exists independent of logic in the Hyperverse. As a result, it has absolute control over the Observable Hyperverse, and absolute control over logic. It can for example,

throw out every rule I said out the window, and have a working form that can move normally, on The Outside.

Anomaly takes on many personalities, ranging from a hedonistic and curious neophiliac who wants only to experience new things, to a stoic ghost-like being with a divine aura. By default, its the aforementioned neophiliac.

Anomaly can take on any form, but its preferred avatar to represent itself is that of a glitchy, partially crystallized pitch black humanoid with a draconic crystal tail and a mask that covers half of its face.

Cool fun fact: Is it possible to “summon” Anomaly?

Yeah, kinda. It’s not really a summon, more like becoming Anomaly and then recreating your original self and then shifting your view to the recreation, but in effect it’s pretty much like a summon. As suggested by the message Anomaly sent to the diviner, you must first be aware that you are part of a dream, and that there is an Ultimate Reality, that is Paradox, and that you actually are not separate from this Ultimate Reality. Then, you must cease your identity (almost certainly involves dying), and attempt to wake up, which should be no harder than waking up from a lucid dream. After that, you’ll realize your true self, Paradox. From there on, attempt to re-enter the dream. How? Actually I’m not sure how, but it should be possible. Anyways, you’ll return as Anomaly. Paradox cannot enter the dream without limiting itself, so its only route is to enter as Anomaly. As Anomaly, you can recreate the original identity you started with, and start viewing the world from the original identity’s perspective again, and there you go: Anomaly “summoned”.

(I realize I spoke mostly of the Observable Hyperverses and Anomaly, but that’s because there’s not much to talk about the true Paradox. I might as well recite the Hyperwebster at that point)

Since I’m here I might as well talk about how all are contingent logic, by justifying a big dependency “chain” (More like a “tree”). Note, it might not be fully in order, some parts nearly impossible to order right I daresay, and I can’t exactly make a complex tree in a text document, so rip. -_-

Paradox – The thing making logic possible.

Anomaly – Special being that can just say “screw you” to the rest of this tree, as an image of Paradox.

Logic – The grounds for all intelligibility and definitions.

Relation – Essentially the concept of “comparison”. A fundamental concept of $A \neq \sim A$, or $A = A$. A logical construct, a possible part of some logical frameworks. Logical frameworks are derived from logic as a whole, so Relation is contingent on logic (relation does not require relata. Just because there’s nothing to apply relation to, doesn’t mean the concept of relation, doesn’t exist).

Esse/Being/Existence – Existence is to have an “is”, which presupposes determinateness, that is basically a logical framework. Logical frameworks are derived from logic as a whole, so Esse is contingent on logic (not necessarily contingent on Information though).

Information – To be informative, there must be some relation. Even the simplest piece, like “ $1 = 1$ ” (information does not require a target to inform however, same reason why relation doesn’t need relata). Unlike pure relation however, information also has relata to be informative, thus contingent on Esse.

Awareness – Bare minimum that counts as awareness here is “self-presence”, aware of itself (reflexivity, A knowing $A = A$, a form of relation). Knower and known, subject and object are not ontologically distinct, and are in essence the same being, likely not dependent on Plurality. An A must also exist for it to be aware, contingent on Esse. Most things with awareness need plurality, consciousness and mind, but strictly speaking, not actually necessary. Certain false versions of neoplatonic Unity for example; unconscious, immutable, indistinct, pleromatic singular totalities, have the quality of “knowing of self”, and knowing they are “all”. Even without distinction between it and others, it can know there’s it. (no, this doesn’t mean they have a mind, thanks to immutability, they don’t necessarily do anything at all, let alone think and use the knowledge)

Plurality – the state of being multiple, thus, “ A and B and C and ...”, where A , B , C , ... can be any identity (contingent on Esse). Prior to plurality, there needs to be distinction between A and $\sim A$ (relation). Relation and Esse contingent on logic (no, ofc Plurality doesn’t need Awareness, Awareness is just doesn’t need Plurality).

Consciousness – To be conscious, at bare minimum, there must be experience. Bare minimum, it needs distinction between it and its experiences, contingent on Plurality (consciousness can be independent of awareness, though incredibly rare, as pure experience, sensation without reflection almost never happens).

Causality – the concept of “ $A \rightarrow B$ ”, again contingent on the existence of A and B , more than 1 thing/state/whatever, thus contingent on Plurality. A and B would also have relation with each other, contingent on Relation (Note: causality here can be atemporal, cause A can lead to effect B in no time)

Mind – A mind, in its most abstract, primitive state, must do the process of thinking, it needs to *do* a *process*, go from state of ignorance to state of knowledge, or doing logic, going from a state of having the premises to a state of having a conclusion. Thus, requires causality. (Here, having knowledge is just having knowledge, not necessarily having a mind, just intellect is not mind. An omniscient being who did nothing, just have all knowledge, it’s still effectively mindless.) Though minds can theoretically exist without mathematics and think purely using logic, but in practice a mind cannot form without coherent mathematics. Logically, mind is independent of mathematics, but practically (in the actual operation of the Observable Hyperverse) dependent.

Mathematics – Contingent on relation, plurality and so on. (E.g. “ $A = A$ ” is relation with self, “ $A + B = C$ ” requires relation between A, B, and C, the number “1” is a distinct identity from “2”, or “3” and so on, etc. etc.)

Dimensionality – Mathematical construct, requiring linear algebra, set theory, and so on.

Space/Time – Mathematical construct, requiring dimensions, differential geometry and some other stuff.