

Creation Myths and a New Creation Theory

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Human beings have made up a lot of myths from ancient times. Those myths explain the beginning of the world, and describe how the universe was created. Creation is also described in various religions of the world, such as in the Genesis of the Bible.

In the age of science today, it is often thought that these myths and the religious creation stories are nothing but fairy tales. However, if these creation myths are interpreted from the viewpoint of the New Creation Theory of Unification Thought, it will be clarified that they are not mere fairy tales. That is, Unification Thought will vitalize and enliven creation myths in the present age. On the other hand, it is expected that the truthfulness of Unification Thought be enhanced by doing so.

A. The Myth of the Sacrifice of Primordial Man

Various world myths explain that a primordial man, a god or goddess, existed at the beginning of the world and he or she was sacrificed, and then, humans, animals, plants, heaven and earth appeared from his or her dead body. Let me introduce some typical ones.

1. Indian Myth of the Giant Purusha

According to the ancient hymns of *Rig Veda* of India, the vast primordial man, Purusha, was sacrificed by some gods and the world was created from his dead body. *Mythology* (C. S. Littleton, ed.) writes:

Purusha was cut into many pieces, from which the entire universe was created: the sky came from his head, the Earth from his feet, the air from his navel, and the azimuth from his ear. The moon issued from his soul and the sun from his eyes. From his mouth came Indra, king of the gods, and Agni, the god of sacrificial fire; his breath became Vayu, the god of wind. The four classes of ancient India also came from Purusha: the *brahmin* or priests from his mouth; the *kshatriya* or noble warriors from his arms; the *vaishya* or traders and farmers from his thighs; and the *shudra* or

servants from his feet.¹

2. Chinese Myth of the Giant Pan Gu

According to the Chinese myth, there was chaos before heaven and earth were separated. A primordial man, Pan Gu, came to life from this chaos. Pan Gu grew up fast and became a huge giant, and finally died. Pan Gu became the origin of all things. *Mythology* writes:

His breath became the winds, his voice the blast of thunder, his left eye the sun and his right eye the moon, his bristling hair and beard the glittering stars of the night sky and his sweat the rains. His hands and feet became the four corners of the square Earth and his body the five sacred mountains that were homes to the gods. His life-blood became the rivers and streams that water the Earth, his flesh was the fields, his body-hair the grass and slender trees, his teeth and bones minerals and rocks, his semen and bone marrow precious pearls and jade. The fleas on his body transformed into the human race.²

3. The Giant Ymir in Norse Creation Myth

Ymir was the primordial giant, and he was a common ancestor of gods and giant clan who is hostile to gods. He was killed by three god brothers Odin, Vili, and Ve. *Mythology* says:

They created the world out of Ymir's body: the earth out of his flesh; rocks from his bones; stones and gravel from his teeth and shattered bones; and lakes and the sea from the blood that flowed from his wounds. From Ymir's skull they formed the sky and set it up over the earth, placing four dwarves, Nordri, Sudri, Austri and Vestri (representing North, South, East, and West) at each corner to hold it up. Ymir's hair was used to create flora, and his brains were thrown into the sky to form the clouds.³

4. Babylonian Goddess Tiamat

Marduk, the savior and a son of the Sun, killed goddess Tiamat, the goddess of salt water, and he split her into two pieces. The sky and stars were created from the upper half of the body of Tiamat, and the earth with all the plants and animals were created from the lower half. The rain cloud was created from Tiamat's spittle, and the rivers Tigris and Euphrates flowed from her eyes and her breasts became mountains from which freshwater springs cascaded. Qingu who was the commander of the Tiamat's

army became a prisoner, and he was killed. Human beings were created from his blood.

5. Japanese Myth of *Izanagi*

God *Izanagi* and goddess *Izanami* created the Eight Islands of Japan through their marriage. Then, they made the gods and goddesses of mountains, the sea, and rocks, soil, trees, winds, grains, and so on. But when *Izanami* came to give birth to the fire god, *Kagutsuchi*, she was terribly burned and died. She was taken to *Yomi*, the shadowy land of the dead. *Izanagi* went to *Yomi* to see *Izanami*, entering a room she had told him not to enter. He saw his wife's swollen and rotting body with maggots crawling over it. He was scared and left *Yomi*. After he came back, he bathed his left eye and the sun goddess *Amaterasu* came forth; from his right eye sprang the moon god *Tsukiyomi*. He flooded his nose with waters and he brought forth the storm god *Susano*.

6. The Myth of the Sacrifice of Primordial Man, and the New Creation Theory

According to the myth of primordial man, primordial man (god or goddess) existed in the beginning, and the primordial man (god or goddess) was sacrificed. Then heaven and earth, and all things were created from his or her dead body. However, these are not actual but symbolic stories.

According to the new creation theory of Unification Thought, God made a plan of original human couple (Adam and Eve) first, and based on the plan of the original human couple, He planned other humans, animals, plants, minerals, and heavenly bodies. Therefore, it can be seen that a primordial man in the myth refers to the original human being who became the prototype of all other humans and all things. In other words, a primordial man was not actually killed and cut into pieces, but other humans and all things were planned in the image of the original primordial human being: the plan (blueprint) of the original human being was transformed and simplified to make the plans (blueprints) of other humans and all things. Therefore, it can be said that the creation myth of the sacrifice of primordial man is in accord with the new creation theory.

The formation of God's plan of creation, according which all things are planned in the image of the original human being (Adam and Eve), is illustrated in fig.1.

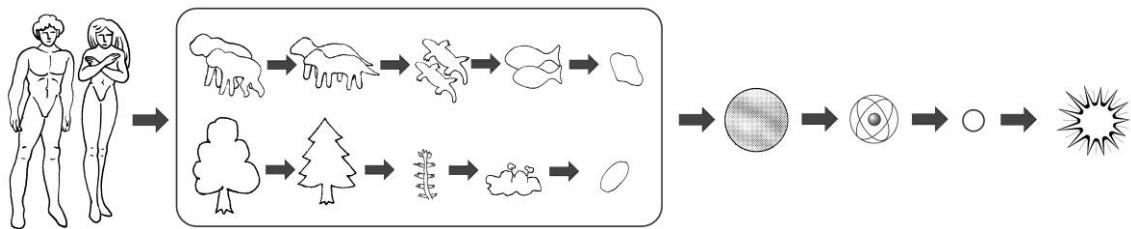


Fig.1. Creation of all things modeled after the image of original human being

B. Creation Myth of the Cosmic Egg

The myths that the world was created from an egg are found all over the world. What do these myths mean? Let me introduce some of them.

1. Judeo-Christian Creation Myth

In the book of Genesis in the Bible, it is written that “the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:2). It is said that the literal meaning of the latter part of this sentence in Hebrew is that “a cosmic egg was hatched by the brooding Spirit, as by a bird, and produced the universe.”⁴

2. Hindu Myth of the Cosmic Egg

D. A. Leeming & M. A. Leeming explains the Hindu myth of cosmic egg in *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths* as follows⁵: According to the Myth from the Satapatha Brahmana, there was only the primeval sea in the beginning. The primeval sea wished to reproduce, and through devotions the sea became heated enough to produce a golden egg. The egg floated over the sea for one year, and then Prajapati was born from the egg. After he broke out of the egg, Prajapati rested on its shell for another year or so before he tried to speak. The sound he made became earth. His next sound became sky. Other sounds became the seasons. In the oldest of the Upanishads, the Chandogya Upanishad, there was a story of a cosmic egg. In this version, however, Prajapati became the creator god Brahma. Brahma created the sea at first, and sowed a seed in it. The seed developed into an egg. After a year the egg broke into two parts, one silver, one gold. From the silver part came the earth; from the gold, the sky. Then, mountains, rivers, clouds, and so forth, came from inside.

3. Chinese Myth of the Cosmic Egg

In Chinese myth, Pan Gu was born from an egg. *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths* writes:

In the beginning was a huge egg containing chaos, a mixture of yin-yang—female-male, passive-active, cold-heat, dark-light, and wet-dry. Within this yin-yang was Pan Gu, that which was not yet anything but which broke forth from the egg as the giant who separated chaos into the many opposites, including earth and sky.⁶

4. Greek Myth of the Cosmic Egg

Mythology describes the Hesiod's creation story: “[Goddess Chaos] created the ocean and danced on its waves. The wind caused by her movements became the material from which she created a partner, a giant serpent. Taking the form of a dove, she laid a huge egg, which was fertilized by the serpent.... Everything in the universe hatched from this primal egg.”⁷

In the creation myth of the Orphic cult, Chronos, the personification of time, constructed an egg from which was born Phanes, the first born of the gods. Phanes made Nyx, his daughter, from his own body, and created everything on Earth through the union with her.

5. Egyptian Myth of Cosmic Egg

Mythology describes the Egyptian myth of cosmic egg as follows⁸: According to the Hermopolitan myth, there was the Ogdoad, or “Group of Eight,” consisting of four pairs of male and female deities before the world existed. The Ogdoad was divided into two groups, male and female, and the violent meeting between the two groups produced a tremendous upheaval, which in turn engendered the primordial mound. The mound contained a cosmic egg. As the shell fell apart, the mound turned into an “Island of Flame,” and the new-born sun god ascended into the sky to his rightful position in the heavens. The Hermopolitan concept, which likened the birth of the universe to a cataclysm, in some ways anticipates modern “Big Bang” theories.

According to the Heliopolitan myth, on the other hand, a benu appeared as a yellow wagtail, a manifestation of the Heliopolitan sun god Atum. The bird's call created a disturbance that set the creation act in motion. This myth reflected that of Amun honking like a goose on the waters of Nun, causing a similar cosmic cataclysm. When the bird settled on the primeval mound it laid an egg which hatched to produce the sun god. Greek historian, Herodotus recorded it as the phoenix.

6. Finnish Myth of the Cosmic Egg

Encyclopedia of Creation Myths describes a Finnish creation story which is contained in the national epic, *Kalevala*, as follows⁹: In the beginning there were the primeval waters and Sky. When Sky's daughter, Ilmatar, floated over the water, a beautiful bird, a teal, came and laid six golden eggs and one iron one on her knee. The eggs fell into the water and were shattered by the wind and waves. From the lower part of one of the eggshells land developed, and from the top was made the sky. The moon and the stars formed the egg whites, and the yolk became the sun. One day Vainamoinen, the first man, was born of Ilmatar.

7. Birth of King from an Egg in Korean Myth

It was the age of King Kim Hwa in East Puyō. One day, the king met a beautiful girl, Yuhwa on the river. She conceived a Heavenly Emperor's grandchild. The king took her to the palace, and she bore a big egg. When it hatched, a boy baby appeared, he was called Chumong. He was raised as a prince of the country.

Other princes were afraid of Chumong talents and tried to kill him, so he ran away. Chumong and his party were cornered at Womusu, but fishes and turtles appeared and made a line on the river. Chumong and his party crossed the bridge and survived. Chumong went south and established a nation, Koguryō. He was called King Tonmyong. A son of King Tonmyong, Onjo, established the nation of Paekche. Therefore, Paekche is the brother nation of Koguryō.

Pak Hyōkkōse, the first king of Shilla, is also said to have been born from an egg. One day, leaders of the six villages in Saro (now, Kyongyu) area prayed to the Heavenly Emperor asking for a lord. A streak of light lit the earth, and a white horse knelt before a large shining purple egg. Pak Hyōkkōse, who was born from the egg, became the king of Shilla. T'arhae, the forth king of Shilla is also said to have been born from an egg which was loaded on a boat and floating.

King Kim Suro of Kaya is also said to have been born from one of six golden eggs which came from heaven. Thus, Korean myths explain that the first king of their nation was born from an egg.

8. Japanese Creation Myth

Nihonshoki explains that heaven and earth were created from chaotic mass like an egg:

Of old, Heaven and Earth were not yet separated, and the Yin and Yang not yet divided. They formed a chaotic mass like an egg, which was of obscurely defined

limits, and contained germs. The purer and clearer part was thinly diffused and formed Heaven, while the heavier and grosser element settled down and became Earth. The finer element easily became a united body, but the consolidation of the heavy and gross element was accomplished with difficulty. Heaven was therefore formed first, and Earth established subsequently. Thereafter divine beings were produced between them.¹⁰

9. Modern Theory of the Cosmic Egg—Big Bang Theory—

According to the modern cosmology, the universe was born from an explosion, and inflated rapidly some 13.5 billion years ago. Then, elementary particles, atoms, and the heavenly bodies appeared, and the universe as it is now was formed. This story can be metaphorically seen as the explosive hatching of a cosmic egg.

10. The Cosmic Egg Myth and New Creation Theory

The new creation theory explains that God formed Logos first, and then He created the world according to it. Logos is God's plan or a blueprint for all creation. The formation of Logos was made top down, taking the plan of a human being as a model: human being → higher living beings → lower living beings → heavenly bodies → atoms → elementary particles → light. However, the creation of the actual phenomenal world was made from the bottom up, beginning with light, and finally human beings. Therefore, beginning with Big Bang, the universe was planned with the Earth as the dwelling place for human beings. It can be said that the ancient myths understood the formation of the universe from Big Bang as a hatching of a cosmic egg.

Logos was contained in a cosmic egg, and the world was created according to Logos. In God's Logos, the human couple Adam and Eve were the final plan of His creation and all things are the living environment for human beings. Thus, the plan for human being and all things were contained in the cosmic egg. Therefore, it is pure folklore that an egg hatched, and earth and heaven, human beings, animals, and plants all came from the egg at one time. Based on the plan contained in the cosmic egg, creation was made over a long period of time from the bottom up. Thus, seen from the Unification Thought viewpoint, the ancient myths of a cosmic egg are not mere fairy tales; they can be metaphorically elucidated even from the standpoint of modern science, if an explanation is added as described above.

Creation of the world starting from the Big Bang, which corresponds to the hatching of a cosmic egg, according God's plan (Logos) of creation is illustrated in fig.2.

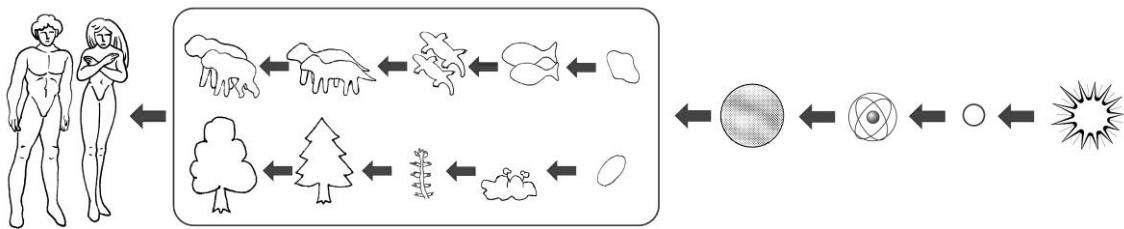


Fig.2. Creation of the world according to the God's Logos, starting from the Big Bang

C. The Creation of Heaven and Earth through the Union of Male and Female

In various myths of the world, it is explained that all beings were created through the union of a god and goddess.

1. Male and Female Character of God in Judeo-Christianity and in Islam

It is written in the Bible, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Gen. 1:27), so it can be concluded that God is the union of male and female. All things were created by God as male and female. This is a common understanding in Judeo-Christianity and Islam.

2. God and Goddess in Hinduism

According to *Rig Veda*, the god of Heaven and Earth, who is the union of god Dyaus (Heaven) and goddess Prithivi (Earth), is the parent and keeper of all things. Indra, the King of gods in *Veda*, was born from Dyaus and Prithivi. Hindu Tantrism explains the creation of the universe through the sexual union of Shiva and Parvati. Parvati symbolizes Shakti which means female energy.

3. Chinese Myth of Fu Xi and Nü Wa

At first, Nü Wa, was believed to be the dragon goddess who created human beings. But later, Nü Wa and Fu Xi were considered to be a couple whose tails were twisted. Nü Wa and Fu Xi were the first gods and they created Heaven and Earth. There is also a legend that Nü Wa and Fu Xi, brother and sister survived a flood and became first human beings.

In Chinese traditional thought, the Great Ultimate, the origin of the universe engendered yang and yin. Yang and yin, in turn, gave rise to the “four images,” and four images gave rise to the “eight trigrams,” which produced the universe. The yang and yin theory also indicates that the origin of universe has dual characteristics of male and female, and the universe was created from their interactions.

4. Japanese Myth of *Izanagi* and *Izanami*

At the beginning of Heaven and Earth, five *Koto-Amatus-Kami* (Superior Gods of Heaven) and two other primordial gods, centered on *Ameno-Minakanushi* (Lord of the Centre of Heaven), were born in *Takama-no-hara* (High Plain of Heaven). All were invisible spirits without sex and without physical form. They were followed by five male-female pairs of deities with physical form. The last appearing was the couple *Izanagi* and *Izanami*. They stood at the Floating Bridge of Heaven and stirred the clouds with the jeweled Spear of Heaven. Then, *Onogoro-jima* (Spontaneously Conceived Island) was created. They went down to *Onogoro-jima*, and the Eight Great Islands (Japan) were created through their sexual union.

5. Creation by a god and goddess, and New Creation Theory

God is the harmonious Subject Being with the dual characteristics of Yang and Yin. Thus, it can be said that God is a united being of god and goddess. God created the world with Logos. Logos is a plan (blueprint) for the created world, or a scenario for the creation of Heaven and Earth. Logos has dual characteristics which reflect God's dual characteristics of Yang and Yin. Therefore, the world of pair systems—man and woman, male and female, stamen and pistil, cation and anion—was created. God, who is the united being of god and goddess, created the world through the give and receive action between its dual characteristics.

D. Creation through Rotation

There are myths that the world was created through the churning of gas or water centering on a pillar which stood upright. Also, the ritual in which people dance around a standing pillar, can be seen in many countries.

1. Indian Myth of the Churning of the Ocean of Milk

A long time ago, Vishnu ordered gods to stir the 'Ocean of Milk' using Mount Mandara as an axis and serpent Vasuki as a churning rope. Vishnu turned himself to a huge tortoise and supported the axis on his back. As the ocean was churned the moon, the sun, the goddess Lakshmi, and a white elephant appeared. Finally the divine physician Dhanwantari stole the soma, spiritual potion of immortality, but Vishnu succeeded to get it back. The gods recovered their soma, and then their power.

2. Indian Myth of the Giant Fiery Pillar

Mythology describes the Lingam of Shiva told in *Lingam Plana* as follows:

One day Vishnu and Brahma were disputing which of them was the prime creator and thus the most worthy of reverence.... But finally they were silenced when, suddenly, a vast, fiery pillar reared up before them on the all-encompassing primal waters.... Brahma transformed himself into a swan and flew upwards along the column for 1,000 years, while Vishnu became a boar and plunged into the waters, traveling down along the column for the same period. Neither found the end,... Then Shiva appeared to them, from inside the pillar, and they realized that the awesome column was Shiva's *lingam*, or life-giving sacred phallus.¹¹

This fiery pillar is the universal form of Shiva, and lingam its worldly symbol. It can be said that the fiery pillar compared to lingam is the pillar of universal creation.

3. Jeweled Spear of Heaven in Japanese Myth

Five *Koto-Amatsu-Kami* (Superior Gods of Heaven) centering on *Ameno-Minakanushi* (Lord of the Centre of Heaven) gave the jeweled Spear of Heaven to the god couple *Izanagi* and *Izanami*. They stood on the Floating Bridge of Heaven and stirred the cloud sea with the spear. When *Izanagi* lifted the spear, drops from it solidified, forming *Onogoro-jima* (Spontaneous Conceived Island).

4. Holy Pillar in Japanese Myth

Izanagi and *Izanami* set up the holy pillar in the center of *Onogoro-jima*. They went around the pillar and became one as husband and wife. Out of their union came the island of Awaji and then others, forming the Eight Great Islands of Japan.

5. Holy Pillar Festival

In Japan, there is a custom to set up a holy pillar, called *Onbashira*, at the shrine of *Suwataisya*. It is an event to set upright a tree cut down from a mountain. Also, there are similar customs to set up holy pillars in other parts of the world, as is written in the book on *Onbashira*¹²: In Asia, there is the pillar of Indra-Jatra in Katmandu, Nepal; the festival of the spinning door of the Andami-Naga tribe in Assam, India; the festival of setting up the pillar of Red Karen in Myanmar; a new year tree set up at the square of Rafu's village in the northwest part of Thailand; the holy pillar set up at the foot of Mount Kailas, known as the navel of universe, in Tibet. In Europe, there is the pillar of the summer solstice of Nepland, in Kirna, Sweden; Maypole in Kent, England; Oktoberfest in Germany. In Central America, there is the custom of the flying Indian in

Papandra, Mexico. Maypole in England is the custom in which people set up a pillar at a church or in a square of town on Mayday (first day of May). At the top end of the pillar ropes are tied decorated with green leaves, and as people hold these ropes they go around the pillar dancing. It is said that all these customs are carried out in order to promote mutual friendship between people and spirits (or gods).

A Japanese-style painter, Rei Torii explains that a rotating pillar is a model of the creation of the universe by God as follows:

A pot as large as the universe was created from the breath of the primordial god, and then a rotating pillar appeared, bringing forth yin and yang, at left and right of the pillar, which were also rotating themselves. Thus, sun and moon appeared. This is the original form of the creation of the universe. This type of story lies deep in the culture of Japan.¹³

6. Modern Cosmology

A billion years after the birth of the universe, shining materials gathered and formed clouds. The primitive stars born from the clouds formed galaxies. A quasar, which is said to have been the active element at the center of the galaxy at the time, rotated around a beam. Neutron stars called pulsars are remains of supernova explosions, the death of stars. They rotate at high speed around X-ray beams. In the galaxy, black holes which are at the center core, work as an engine to jet materials into space, while gas clouds revolve at high speed around the jet streams. Thus, according to the modern cosmology, stars and galaxies are born, exist and die, rotating around central beams.

7. Rotation in the Creation of Universe, and New Creation Theory

God created the universe based on the Way of Heaven, which is the principle of creation, and the universe exists and moves in accordance with it. The basic law of the Way of Heaven is that subject and object are engaged in harmonious give and receive action centering on the center axis, which represents God's love and purpose of creation. They exist and develop performing circular movement. Therefore, the creation of the universe, the movement of galaxies, and the birth and death of stars are carried out centering on, and rotating around a central axis. In human beings, when man and woman love each other centering on the axis of the vertical true love (God's love), they become a true husband and wife. As an individual, a person realizes a true personality through the revolution of physical mind centering on the axis of spiritual mind. Thus, myths of creation through revolution symbolically express the Way of Heaven.

E. Creation by Word

The myths or scriptures, which explain that the world was created by the God's word, can be seen in various parts of the world.

1. Creation by God's Word in Christianity

The gospel according to John in the Bible says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." As shown in this statement, God created the world by His Word (Logos) in Christianity.

2. Creation by saying 'Be' in Islam

In Islam, all things appeared with God's word, 'Be', as the following phrases of the Koran says.

He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth, and when He decrees something, He says only, 'Be,' and it is (Koran, 2:117).

It is He who gives life and death, and when He ordains a thing, He says only 'Be' and it is (Koran, 40:68).

3. Egyptian Myth of Creation by Ptah's Word

People of Memphis considered Ptah the creator of the world. Ptah created all things by thought and word alone. All things came into being by thought from his heart and word from his tongue.

4. Egyptian Myth of Creation by Thoth's Word

Thoth, the god of knowledge, is a deputy of the supreme deity, Re, in all Egypt. However, according to the myth of Hermopolis, Thoth is a god who created the universe. He created himself as a cosmic egg and appeared on a water lily. When Thoth spoke words, they were incarnated. Thus, he created all things by word.

5. Mayan Creation by Word

Encyclopedia of Creation Myths describes the Mayan creation story as follows:

In the beginning there were only the creators, Tepeu and the Feathered Serpent, Gucumatz, in the void and the waters.... They thought the emptiness of the void should become something and it did. “Let there be earth,” they said, and there was earth. They thought, “Mountains,” and there were mountains. They said, “Trees,” and there were trees. So it went.¹⁴

6. Japanese Myth of Creation

Five *Koto-Amatsu-Kami* (Superior Gods of Heaven) gave words to *Izanagi* and *Izanami*: Arrange and solidify well the drifting cloud sea. And they gave *Izanagi* and *Izanami* the Jeweled Spear of Heaven. *Izanagi* and *Izanami* followed the word of *Koto-Amatsu-Kami* and created the Eight Great Islands of Japan.

7. “Two-stage Structure of Creation” of the New Creation Theory

According to the new creation theory, Logos (word) was formed first, and then, the phenomenal world was created following the Logos (word). The formation of Logos was top down. In other words, God first planned our human ancestors Adam and Eve; then taking their image as a model He planned all things in the downward order: other humans → higher living beings → lower living beings → heavenly bodies → atoms → elementary particles → light. Then, He created the actual world following Logos, in the opposite, from the bottom up order, beginning with light and aiming at the creation of human beings. Thus, God created the world with His Word.

F. Primordial Matter

Creation from nothing, sometimes called creation *ex nihilo* or *de novo*, is particularly popular in monotheistic religions. Also, there are creation myths which explain that there was water (sea) or soil (mud) in the beginning.

1. “Creation from Nothing” in Christianity

“Creation from nothing” was established by Augustine: God created matter from nothing and the world was created using matter. Thus, almighty God created the universe without any materials or any means.

2. “Creation from Nothing” in Islam

As it is written in the Koran, “Were they created without any agent?” (52:35), Islamic creation is the creation from nothing.

3. Beginning of the World in Buddhism

In Buddhism, little emphasis is made on creation of the world. But, in the scripture called Pitaka of the early Theravada school of Buddhism, Buddha speaks of the end of this world and the creation of the new world. *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths* explains¹⁵: There is no such being as creator. In the beginning, everything was covered with water and darkness. For a long time, there were no sun, moon, stars, or seasons, and there were no creatures, no humans. After a still longer time, earth was formed on the waters, as skin forms on cooling hot milk. Then, the sun, moon, and stars appeared, and humans developed sexual characteristics.

4. Creation from the Primordial Waters or Soils

The creation from the primordial waters is a common form of creation myth. Also, there is a creation myth of earth-diver type as written in *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths*: “The Supreme Being typically sends an animal—a duck, a turtle—into the primal waters to find mud or clay with which to form the earth.”¹⁶

5. “Generation of the Universe from Nothing” in Modern Science

Alexander Vilenkin announced the “generation of the universe from nothing.” One day, all of a sudden, out of nothing with no time and no space, the universe which was squeezed and smaller than an elementary particle was born by passing a wall of energy as if going through a tunnel. The “nothing” said by Vilenkin does not mean nothing without anything, but rather it is “nothing filled with something” or “nothing with enormous power;” it contained the “energy of the vacuum.”

6. Creation from Nothing seen from New Creation Theory

God started the creation of the Universe when there was nothing—no time and no space—in the world. Therefore, God created the world starting from nothing. However, God had energy (pre-energy) to generate the world, and forces and matters were generated by this energy. In this sense, God’s creation is not the creation from total nothing. In other words, God created matter from His energy rather than from His spirit.

“Energy of the vacuum” of modern science can be understood as “pre-energy” in Unification Thought. From pre-energy, which is God’s energy, physical energy, elementary particles, atoms, molecules were formed. It can be said that the biblical passage “Let there be light, and there was light” refers to modern scientists’ theory of the Big Bang explosion, and the “primordial matter” mentioned in creation myths corresponds to “light” in the Genesis story of the Bible.

In modern physics, the primordial matter is energy, from which light, elementary particles, atoms and molecules, and then water, soil and air appeared. In ancient creation myths, when science had not developed yet, they could not but regard water or soil as the primordial matter. The primordial matter seen from modern physics (namely, energy), and that seen from ancient myths (namely, water or soil) are combined and illustrated in fig. 3.

In Search for the Origin of All Things(*Arche*)

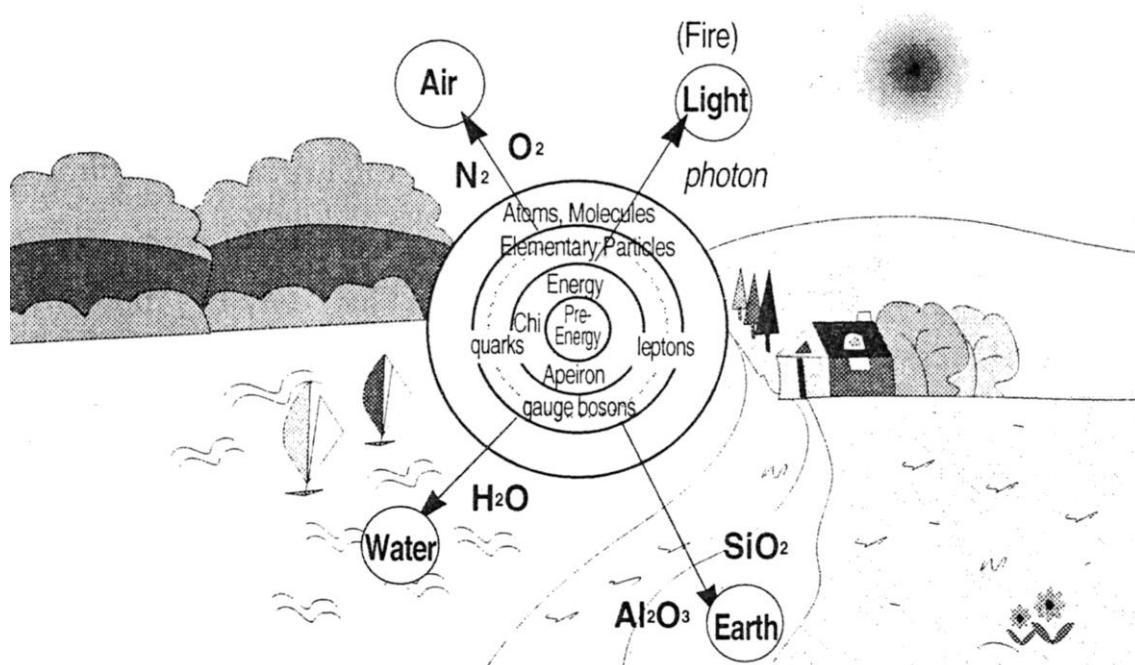


Fig.3. The primordial matter seen in modern physics and in ancient myths

Notes

1. C. Scott Littleton, general editor, *Mythology* (San Diego: Thunder Bay Press, 2002), 330-331.
2. Ibid, 392-395.
3. Ibid, 278.
4. It is written in *The Interpreter's Bible* (New York: Abingdon Press, 1952):

It must be noted, however, that this verse stands apart from the rest of the chapter in that (a) it represents the Spirit of God, not the uttered word, as the agent of creation; and (b) the reference to the Spirit "brooding upon" . . . the chaos has underlying it the idea of a cosmic egg which was hatched by the brooding Spirit, as by a bird, to produce the universe, an idea which is foreign to the story as a whole (vol.1, 466-67).
5. David Adams Leeming with Margaret Adams Leeming, *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths* (Denver: ABC-CLID, 1994), 142-143.
6. Ibid., 49.
7. C. S. Littleton, general editor, *Mythology*, 137.
8. Ibid., 16, 30.
9. D. A. Leeming with M. A. Leeming, *Encyclopedia of Creation Myths*, 94.
10. Ibid., 150 (Reprinted from a translation by W. G. Aston, London, 1924).
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