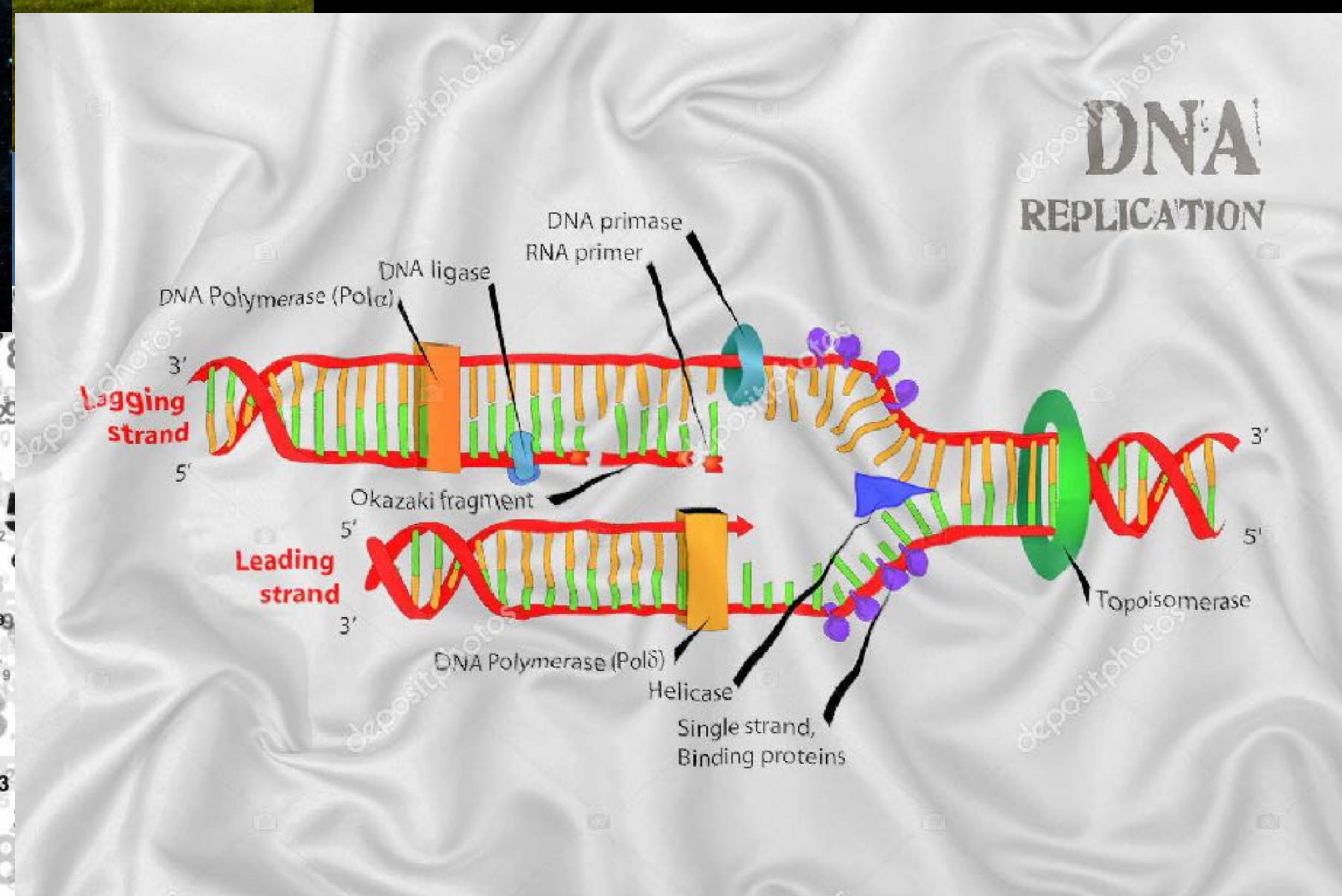


Neighboring Apologetics

4. Faith and Reason



Neighborly Apologetics

The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family

with a priestly role in our neighborhoods

Faith and Reason

Is Christianity a
leap of faith?

Is a belief in God and
Jesus Christ irrational?

Aren't we in the age of science
now where we've discarded belief
in fairy tales?

these are common questions and they might often
pop into our own thinking

Faith and Reason

First Things

Our focus should always be on God

God is rational and logical

God always acts rationally and with purpose

He does not act capriciously nor randomly



Dr. Will Provine

Cornell University

“you have to suspend your
rational mind”

“fairy tales”

No gods or purposive forces
No ultimate foundation for ethics

No free will

Premise: Naturalism & Materialism are rational

Supernaturalism and Christianity are irrational

Faith and Reason

In our world today, the philosophy of Naturalism and science are wedded together



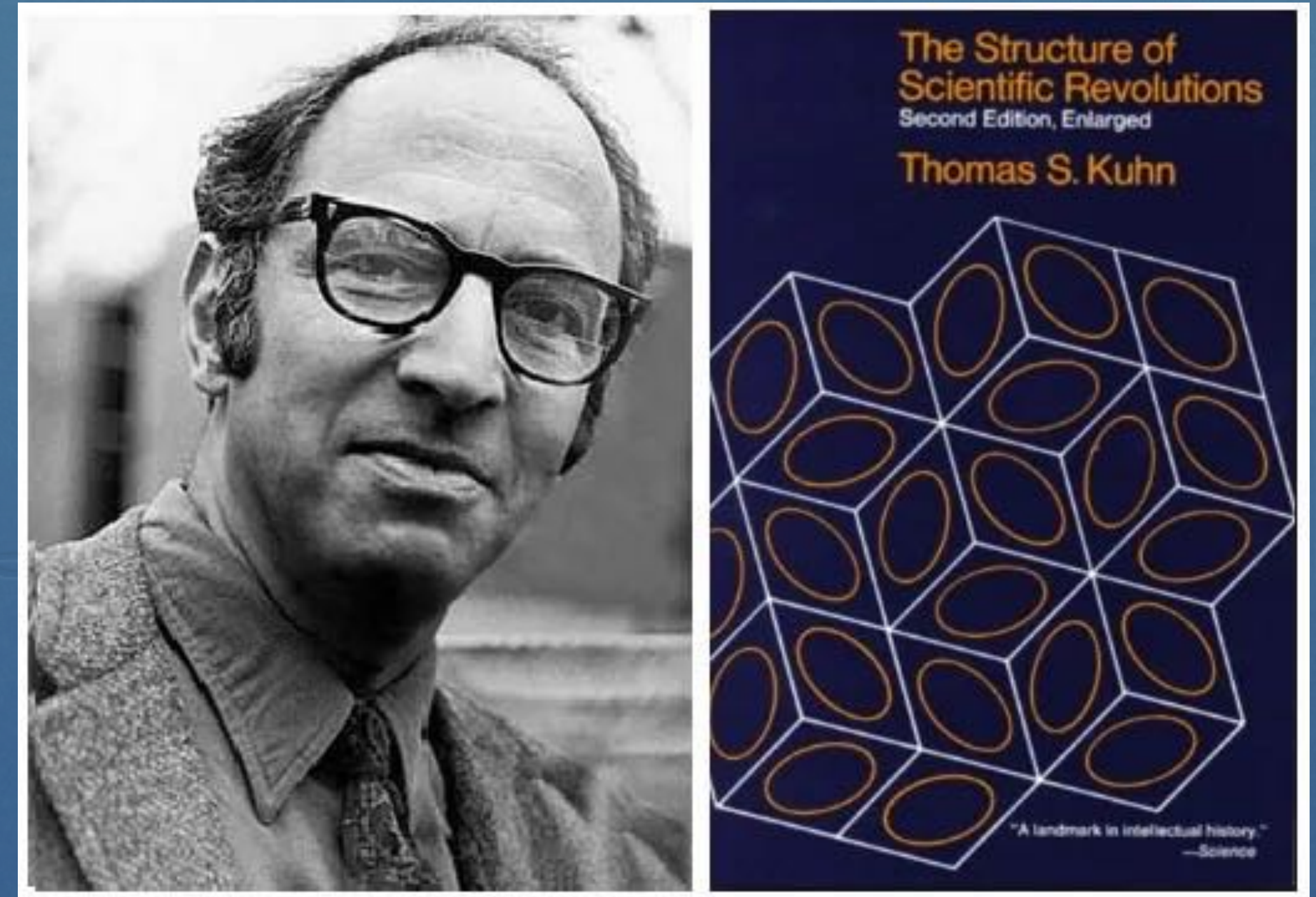
so...let's look at how science got to where it is

HISTORY OF SCIENCE -THE CURRENT PARADIGM

HISTORY OF SCIENCE -THE CURRENT PARADIGM

“The Structure of Scientific Revolutions”

Thomas S. Kuhn
1962



the rise and fall of scientific paradigms

PAST SCIENTIFIC PARADIGMS

a

b

c

n

x

CURRENT
SCIENTIFIC
PARADIGM

NEXT
PARADIGM

z

?

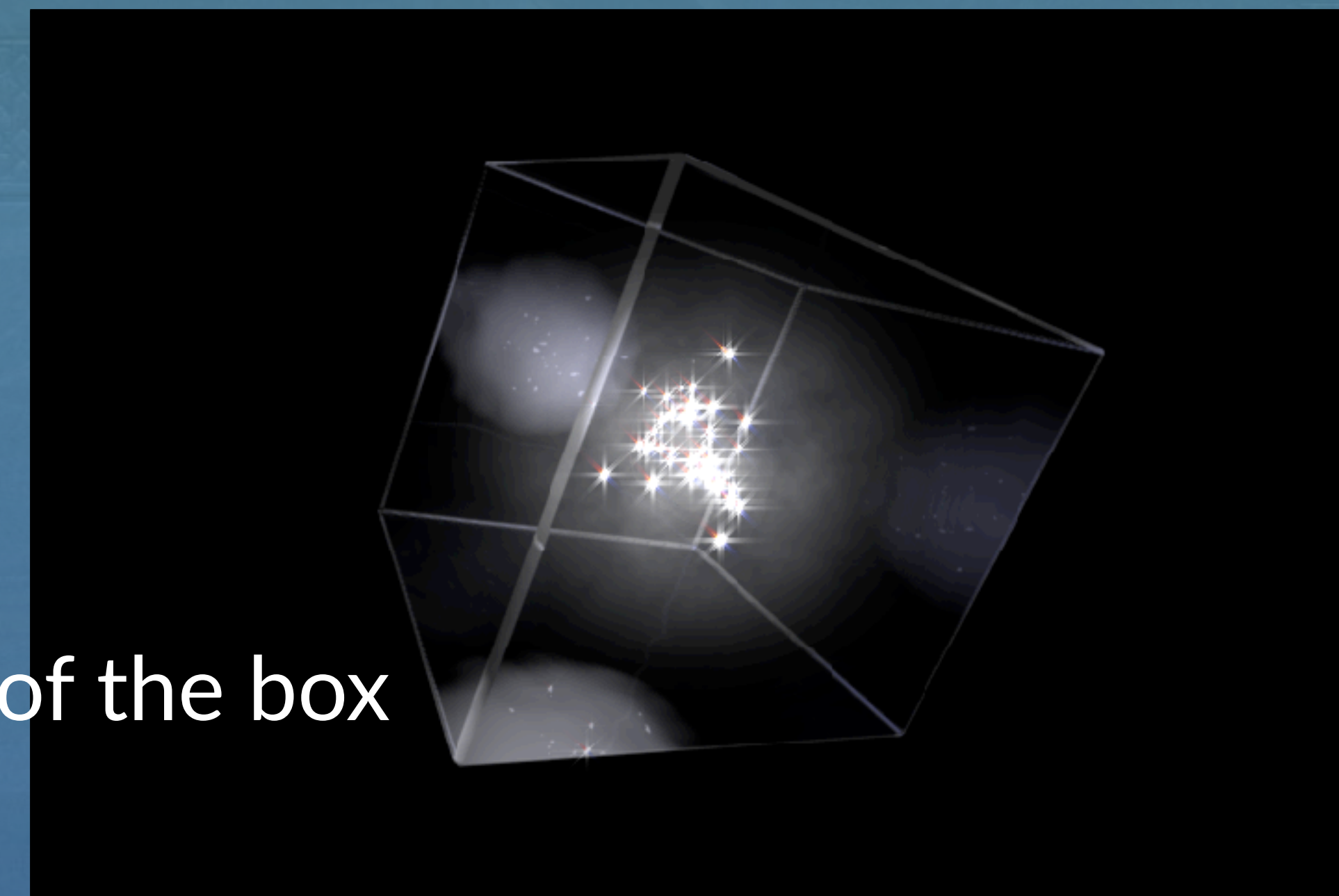
naturalism

must conclude
natural causes
only

The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God.” Johannes Kepler

naturalism and the current scientific paradigm

nothing is allowed to point to anything outside of the box



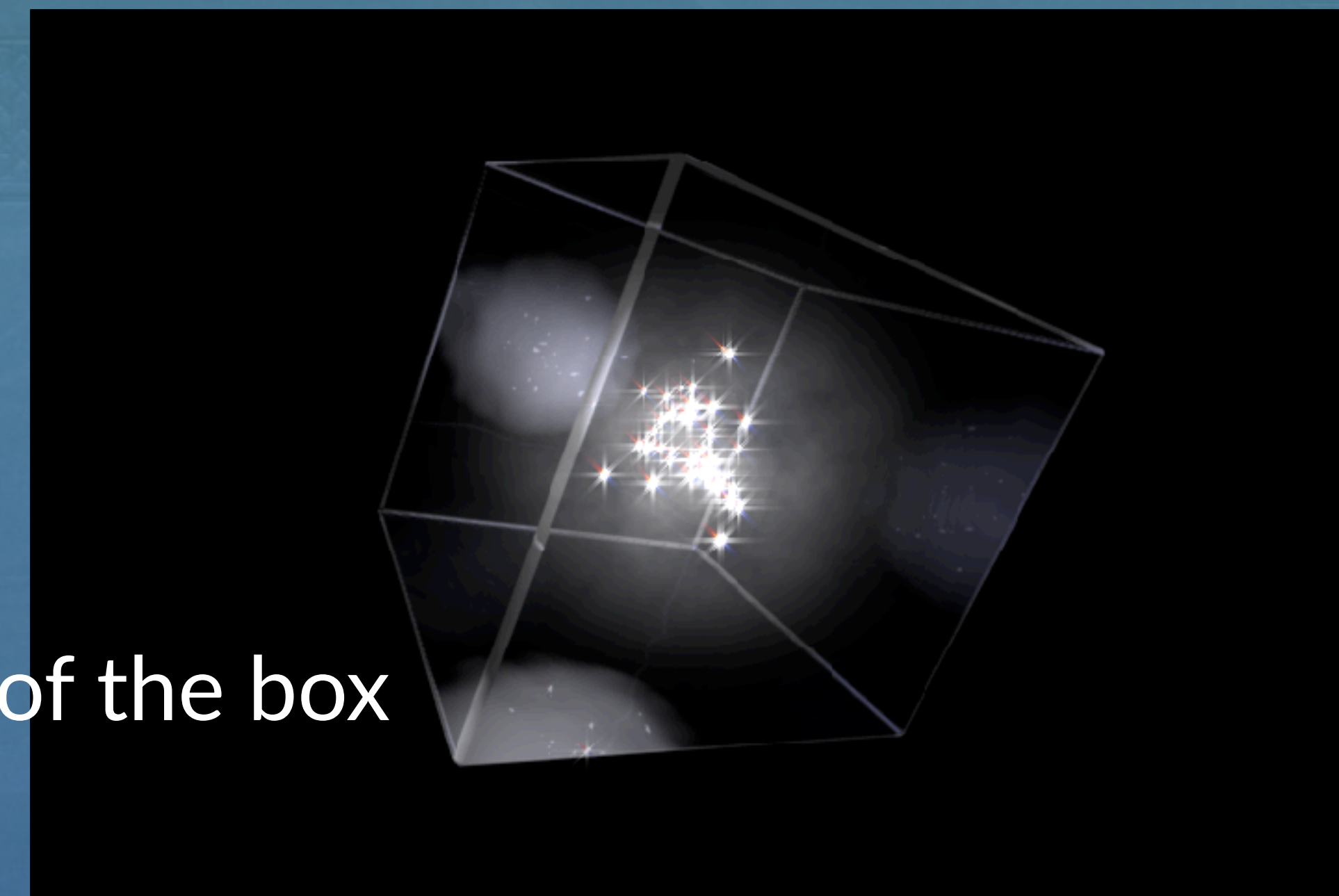
all conclusions **MUST** point to natural causes

so, if one argues for a cause outside the box, i.e. for Intelligent Design, you will have defied the definition of “science” and you will be therefore shunned, cancelled, shamed, or ignored and labeled “**unscientific**”

this is the position of the current science/philosophy paradigm

naturalism and the current scientific paradigm

nothing is allowed to point to anything outside of the box



all conclusions **MUST** point to natural causes

so, to speak of God, Christ as Savior, miracles,
soul, mind, life after death, free will, etc.

will be viewed as “irrational”

Faith and Reason

but is this really “irrational” ?

Is the Biblical Christian Worldview **irrational**?

Or, is it possibly the case that if one doesn't want to believe the Biblical Christian Worldview, the charge of being “**irrational**” is a way to rationalize it away and dismiss it as unworthy of consideration?

Faith and Reason

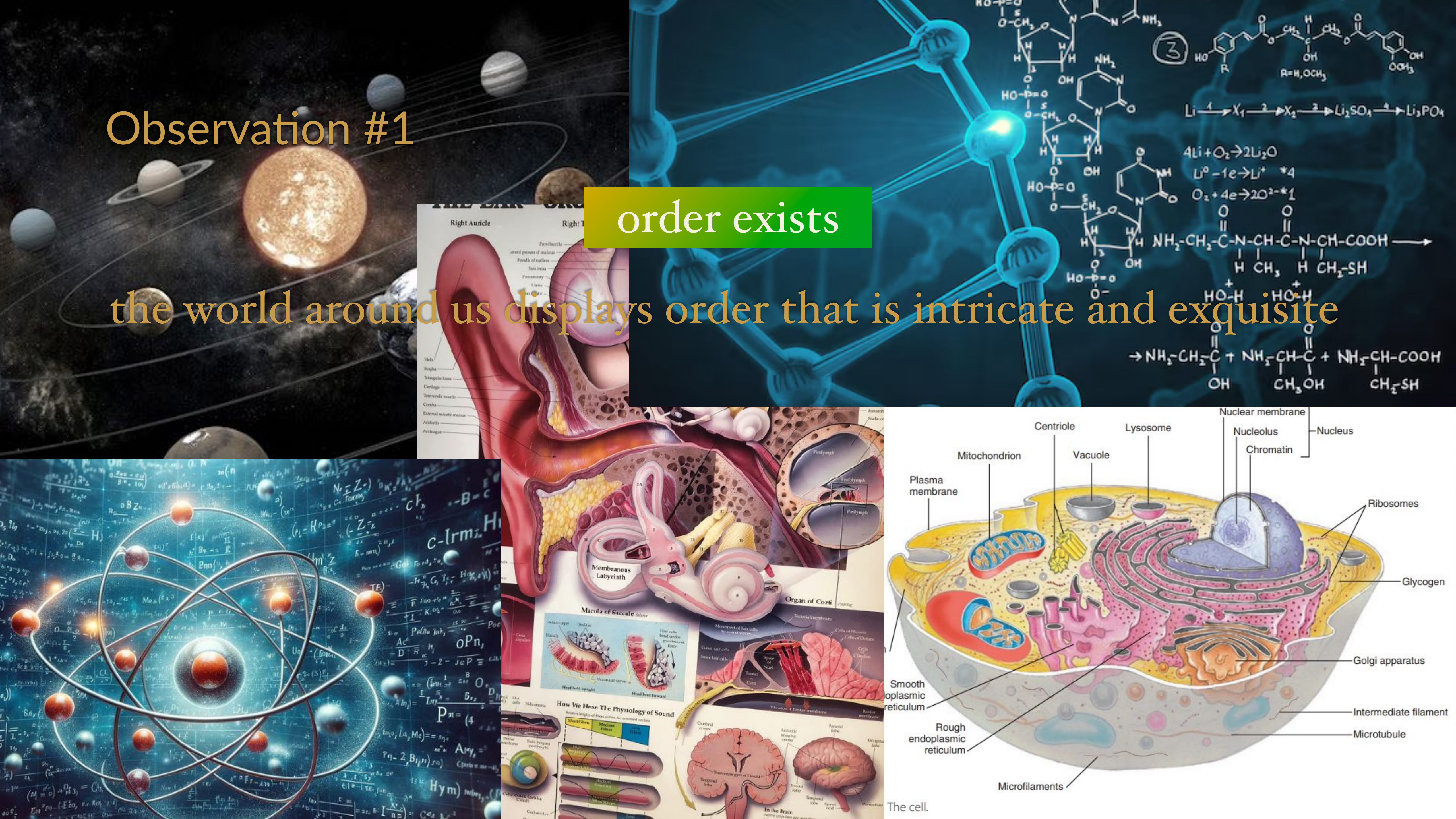
so, let's do some rational and logical thinking



Observation #1

the world around us displays order that is intricate and exquisite

order exists



Observation #1 **order exists**

the world around us displays order that is intricate and exquisite

even modern science
acknowledges this reality



Carl Sagan

“Cosmos is a Greek
word for the order of
the universe. It is, in a
way, the opposite of
Chaos.”

“Cosmos” (1980)

Observation #1 **order exists**

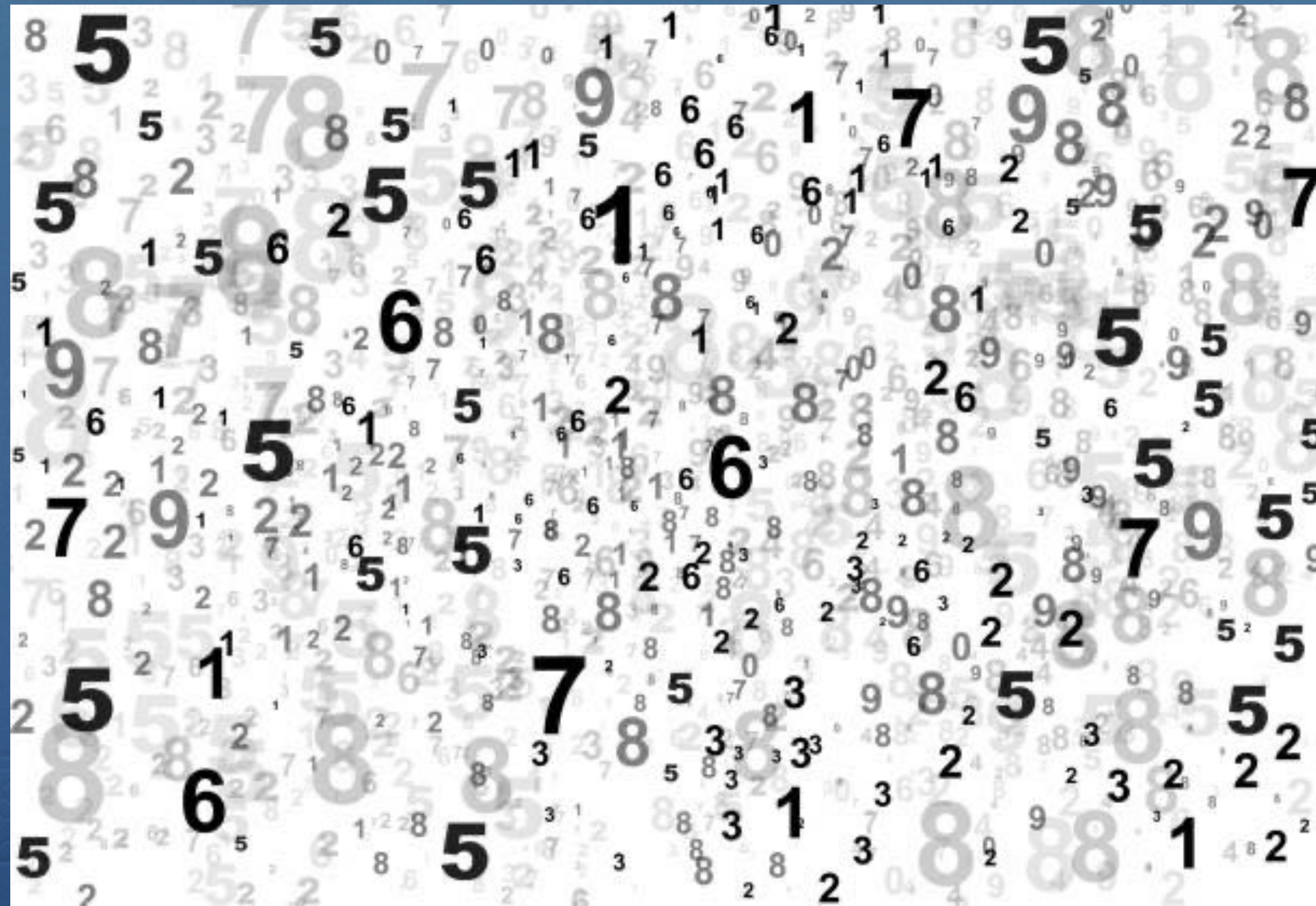
Conclusion: **there must be an ordering cause or force**

because random forces don't produce order

Observation #1 **order exists**

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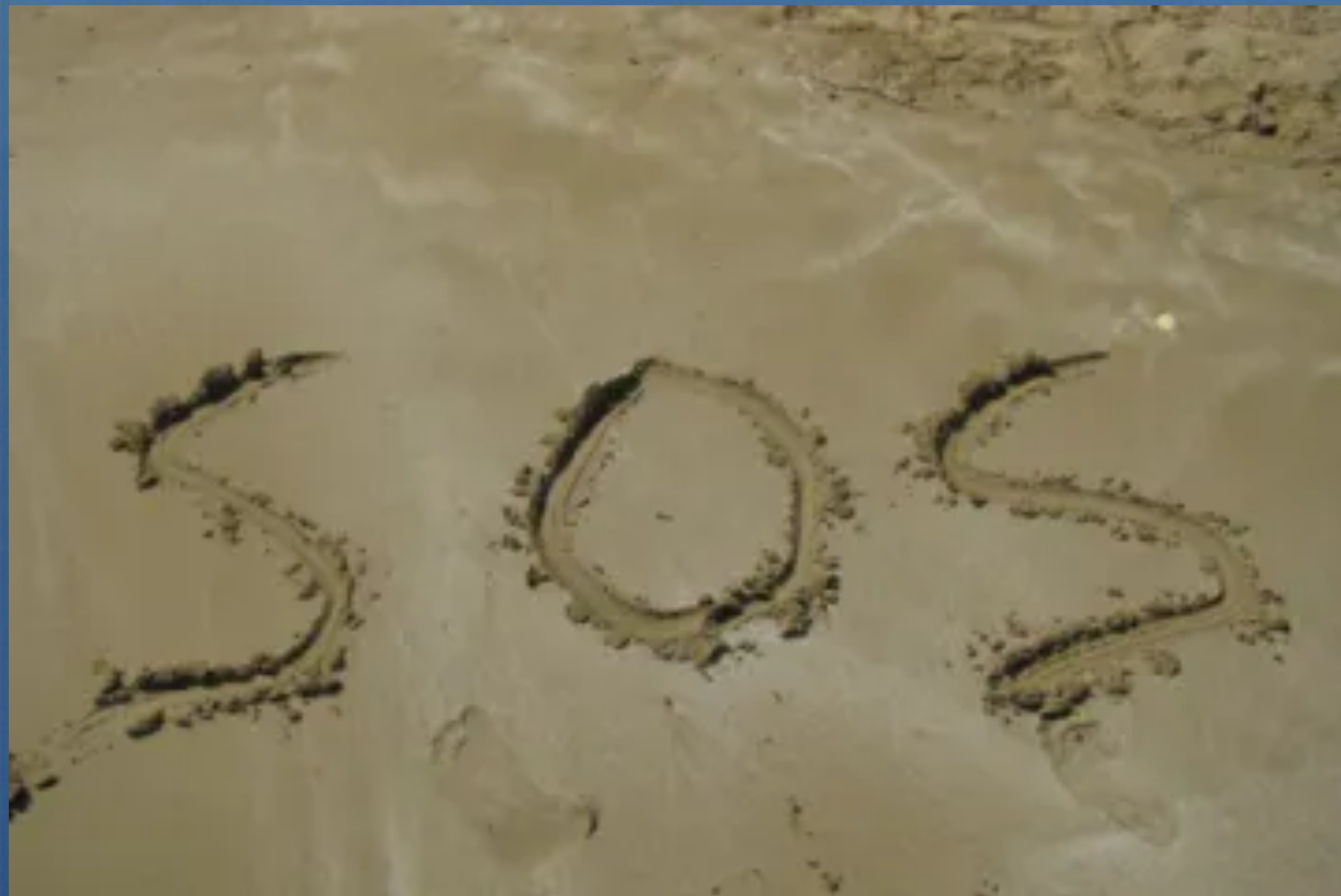
Stonehenge



Observation #1 **order exists**

Conclusion: **there must be an ordering cause or force**

because random forces don't produce order



Observation #1 order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

because random forces don't produce order

this is a rational thought process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

Observation #1 **order exists**

Conclusion: **there must be an ordering cause or force**

because random forces don't produce order

this is a rational thought process

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) has set up an observation into space looking for “order” (a message like “hello” or some other “ordered” signal). If they find an “ordered” signal, rather than random noise, they will conclude there is an intelligent source or force that has created it



Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array

NRAO Very Large Array and
SETI Institute Collaboration

Observation #1 **order exists**

Conclusion: **there must be an ordering cause or force**

because random forces don't produce order

this is a rational thought process

Science looks at the universe and sees that normal gravitational and physics cannot account for the universe expanding. They conclude there must be a “**dark energy**” or “**dark force**” out there



Observation #1 order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

because random forces don't produce order
this is a rational thought process

Science looks at the universe and sees that normal gravitational and physics cannot account for galaxies still held together. They conclude that there must be “dark matter” out there

Observation #1 order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

because random forces don't produce order

this is a rational thought process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

Observation #1 order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

because random forces don't produce order

this is a rational thought process

if one looks at the universe and sees vast,
exquisite order, it is a logical process to
conclude that there must be an ordering force

Observation #1 order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

because random forces don't produce order

this is a rational thought process

in fact, if a person looked at the universe and saw vast, exquisite order everywhere, and yet concluded that it was all the result of random forces, a **rational** person might conclude that the person was thinking **irrationally**

Observation #1 order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

Observation #1a

order exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion:

this ordering cause or force must be Transcendent

this is a rational thought process

Observation #1 order exists and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent ordering cause or force

we will simply refer to it as the Transcendent Ordering Force

this is a rational thought process

Observation #1 order exists and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force

this is a rational thought process

there is nothing irrational or illogical about this process

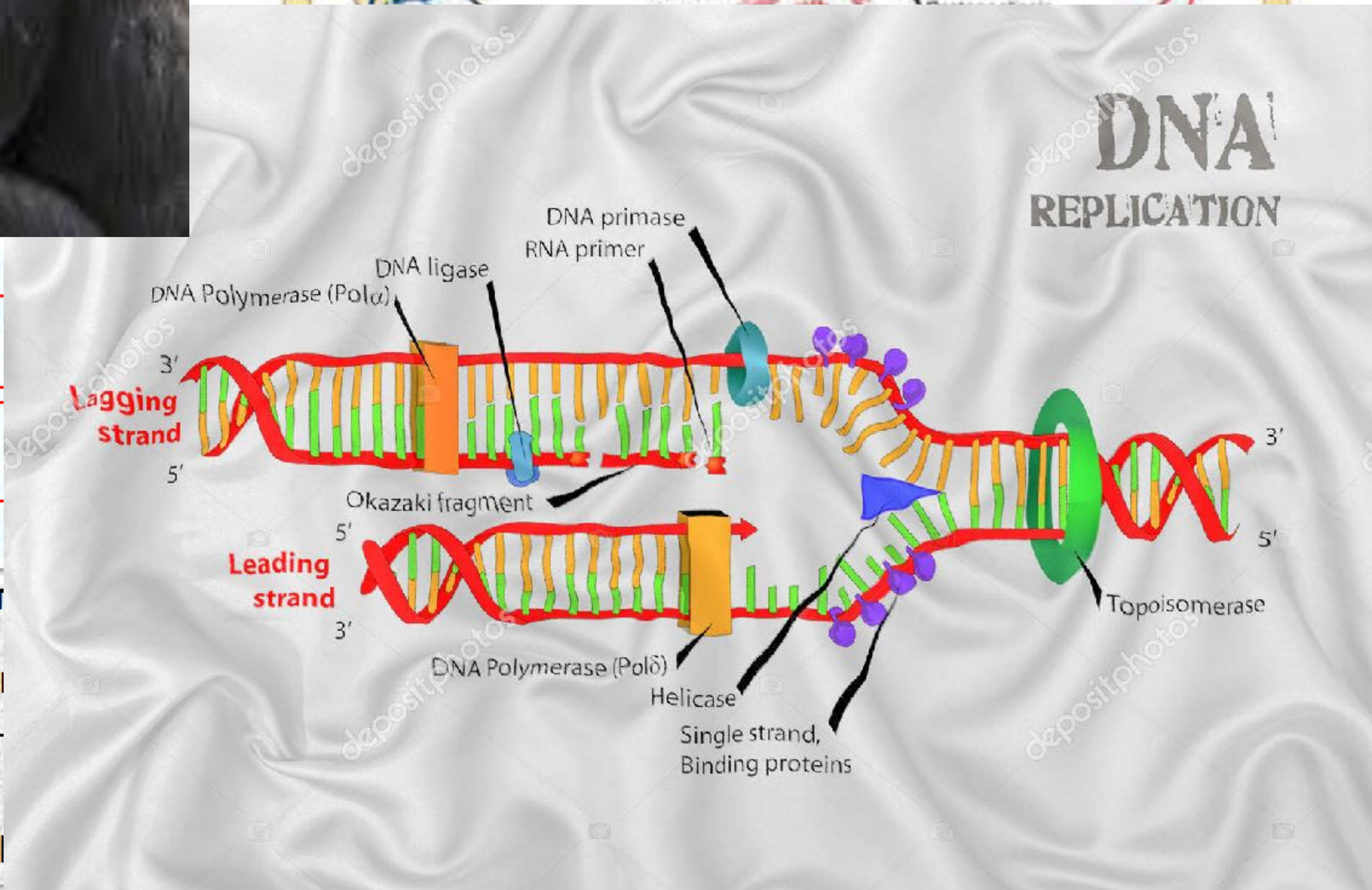
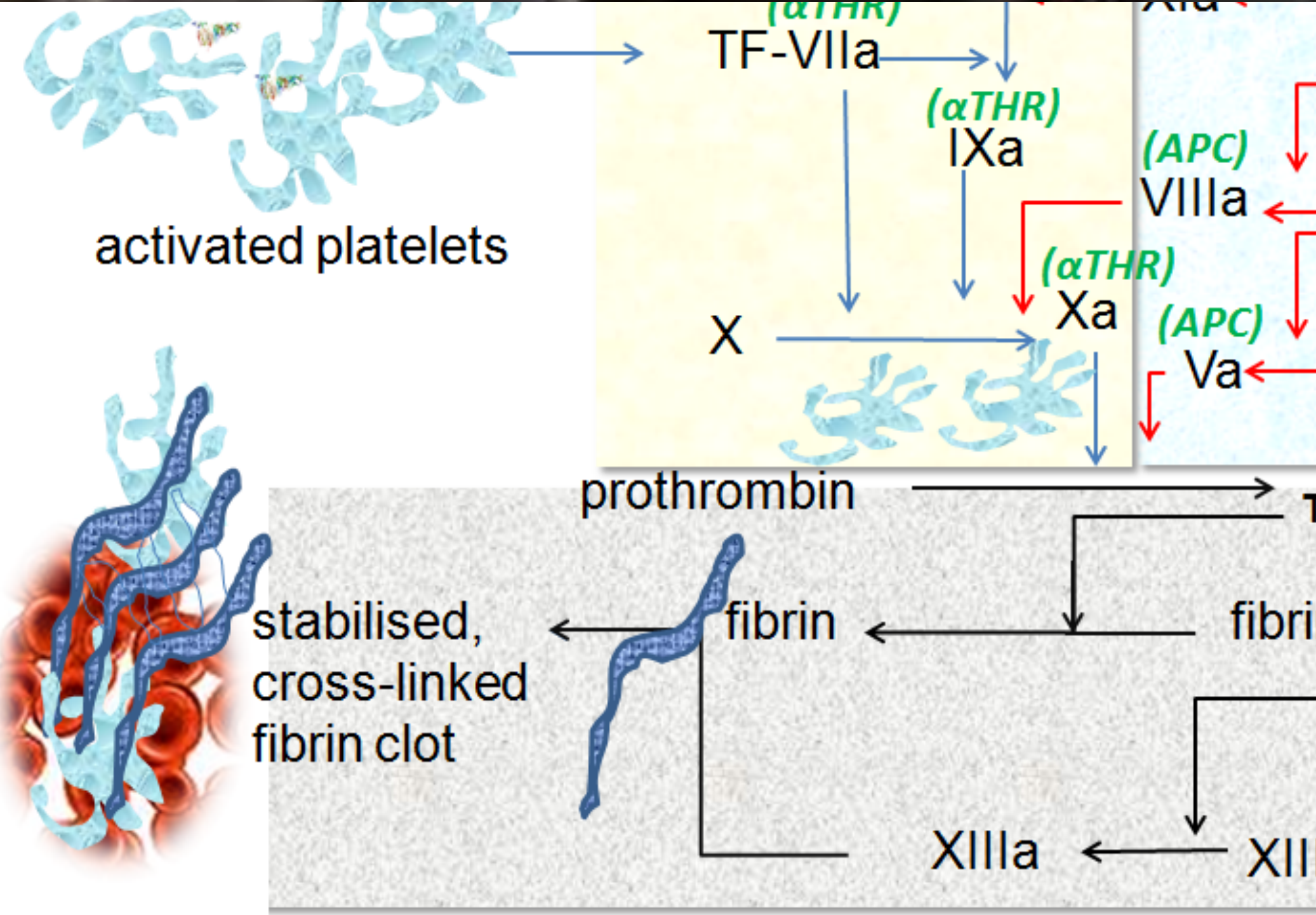
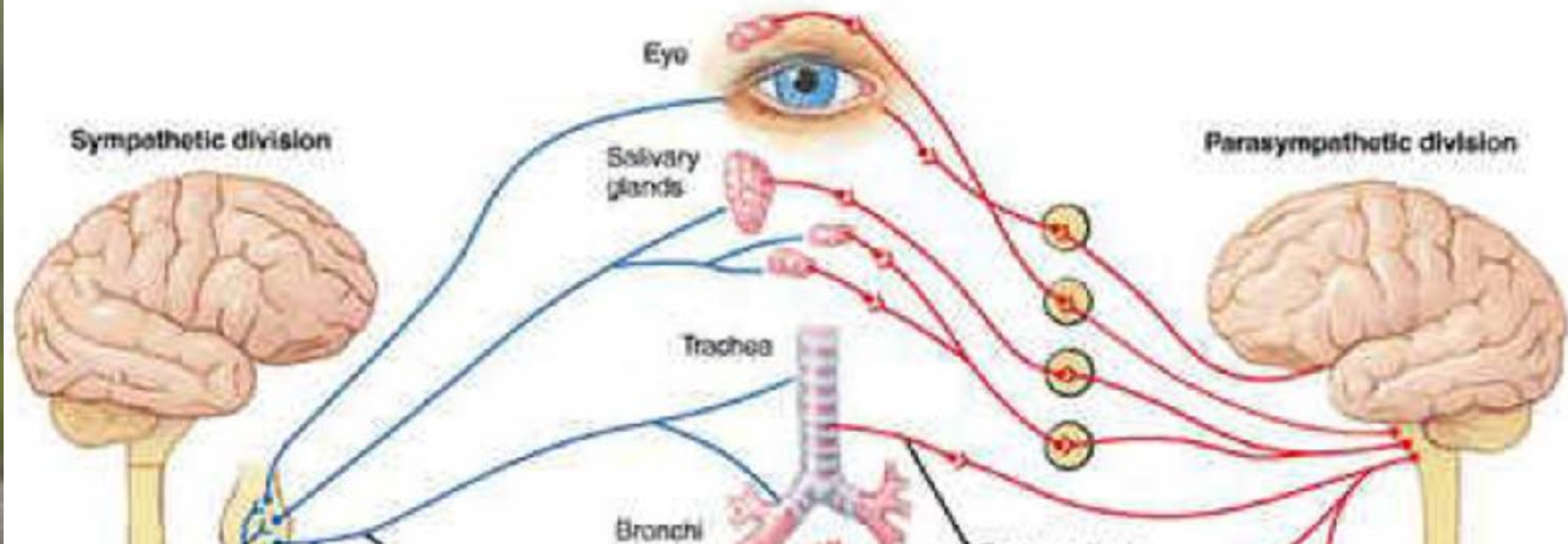
“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

Observation #1 order exists and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force

Observation #2

in this order we see: **systems** vs non-systems
life vs non-life
personal vs non-personal
relationships & communications



Observation #1 order exists and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force

Observation #2

in this order we see: **systems** vs non-systems
life vs non-life
personal vs non-personal
relationships & communications

Conclusion: this Transcendent Ordering Force must be relational & communicative

Observation #1 order exists and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force

Observation #2 order includes exquisite relationships

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

this is a rational thought process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”



this is a ration

“You may not agree with n
charge me with

and it exists cosmically everywhere

Transcendent Ordering Force

s exquisite relationships



e

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

Logical Reasoning #1

If there is a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force, it would be reasonable and not illogical to expect that RTOF to want to relate to us, communicate with us and to get that communication right

this is a rational thought process



Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array



NRAO Very Large Array and SETI Institute Collaboration

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

Logical Reasoning #2

The most extensive and expansive claim that this has happened is that this communication is the Bible. If so, it would be logical and reasonable to examine that communication.

this is a rational thought process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

Logical Reasoning #3

Examining that communication logically brings some to understand that this RTOF is a Personal Being who created the universe, communicated to us who He is, and that He wants to have a relationship with man.

this is a rational thought process

there is nothing irrational or illogical about this process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

Logical Reasoning #3 (continued)

Examining that communication also tells us of an extraordinary sacrifice made in order for that relationship to become a reality.

this is a rational thought process

there is nothing irrational or illogical about this process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

Observation #3 the empty tomb

the most compelling evidence that bridges the gap between logically seeing that a RTOF might exist and that it might all be true is the reality of the empty tomb



Conclusion: there must be a Personal Transcendent Ordering Force

Observation #3 the empty tomb

Conclusion: Jesus is who He says He is

He wants to have a relationship with us

He came, died and rose again to make that possible

this is a rational thought process

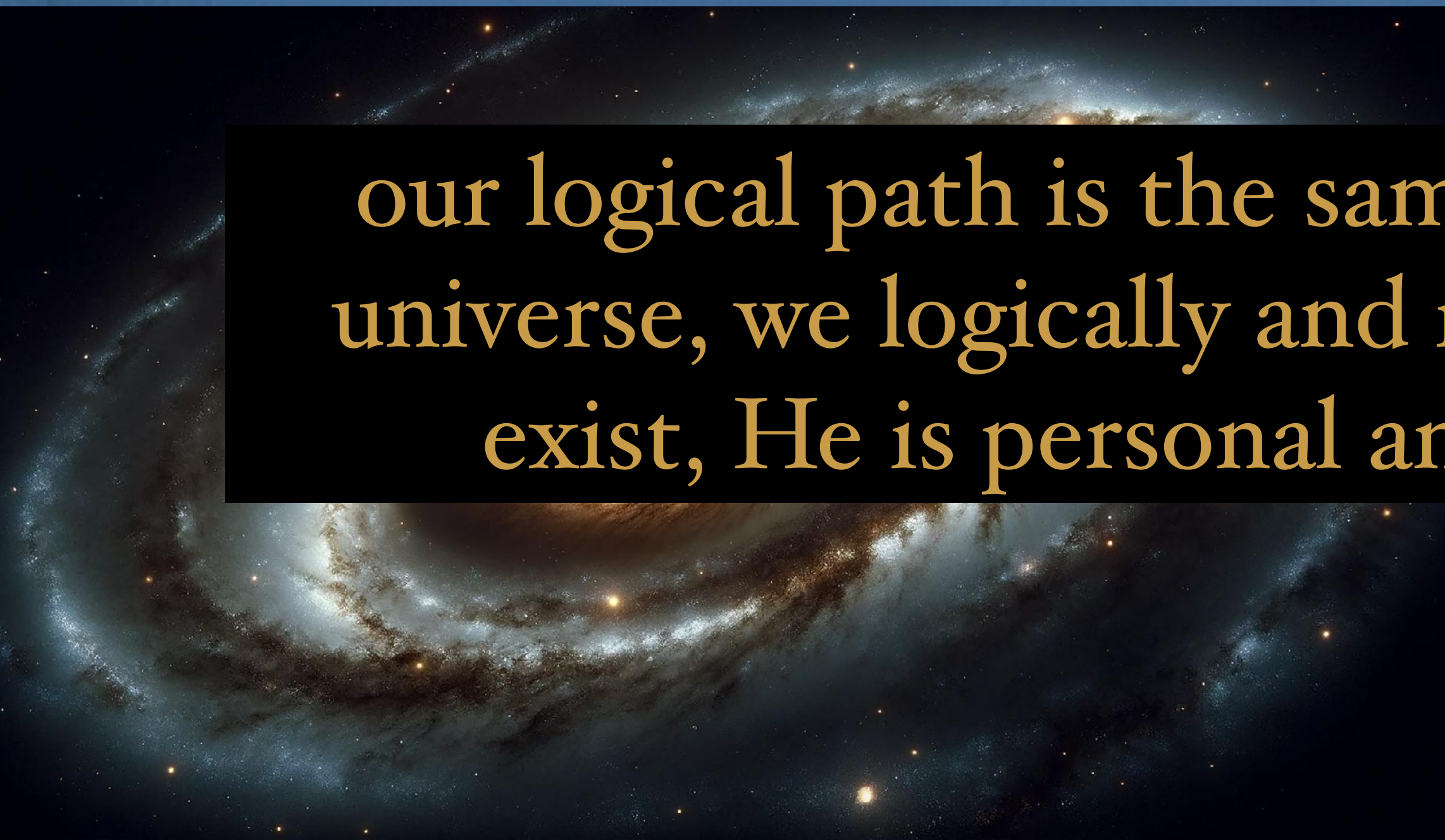
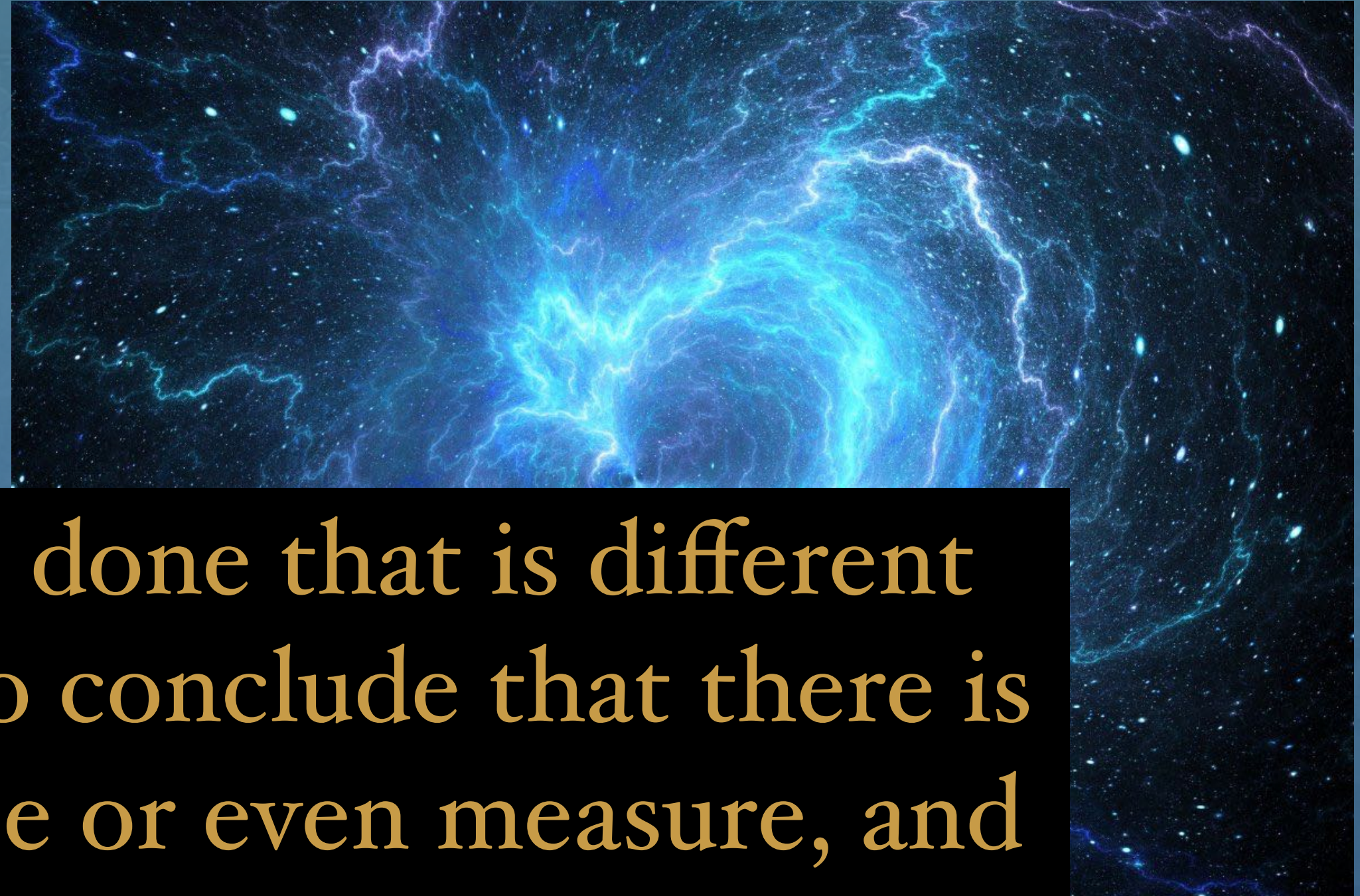
there is nothing irrational or illogical about this thought process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

bottom line

there is nothing here in what we have done that is different that the logical process science takes to conclude that there is something out there that we cannot see or even measure, and calling it “dark matter” or “dark force”

our logical path is the same and when we look at the entire universe, we logically and rationally conclude that God does exist, He is personal and He has communicated to us



final thoughts

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

the world says “seeing is believing”

the Scripture says “seeing” is not “believing”

final thoughts

though we can show our neighbor that our CWV is not irrational nor illogical, that doesn't mean faith will come merely by rational logic

many saw the works of Jesus, they saw Him raise Lazarus, they saw the man born blind healed, they saw the empty tomb, but true faith and belief comes only from God

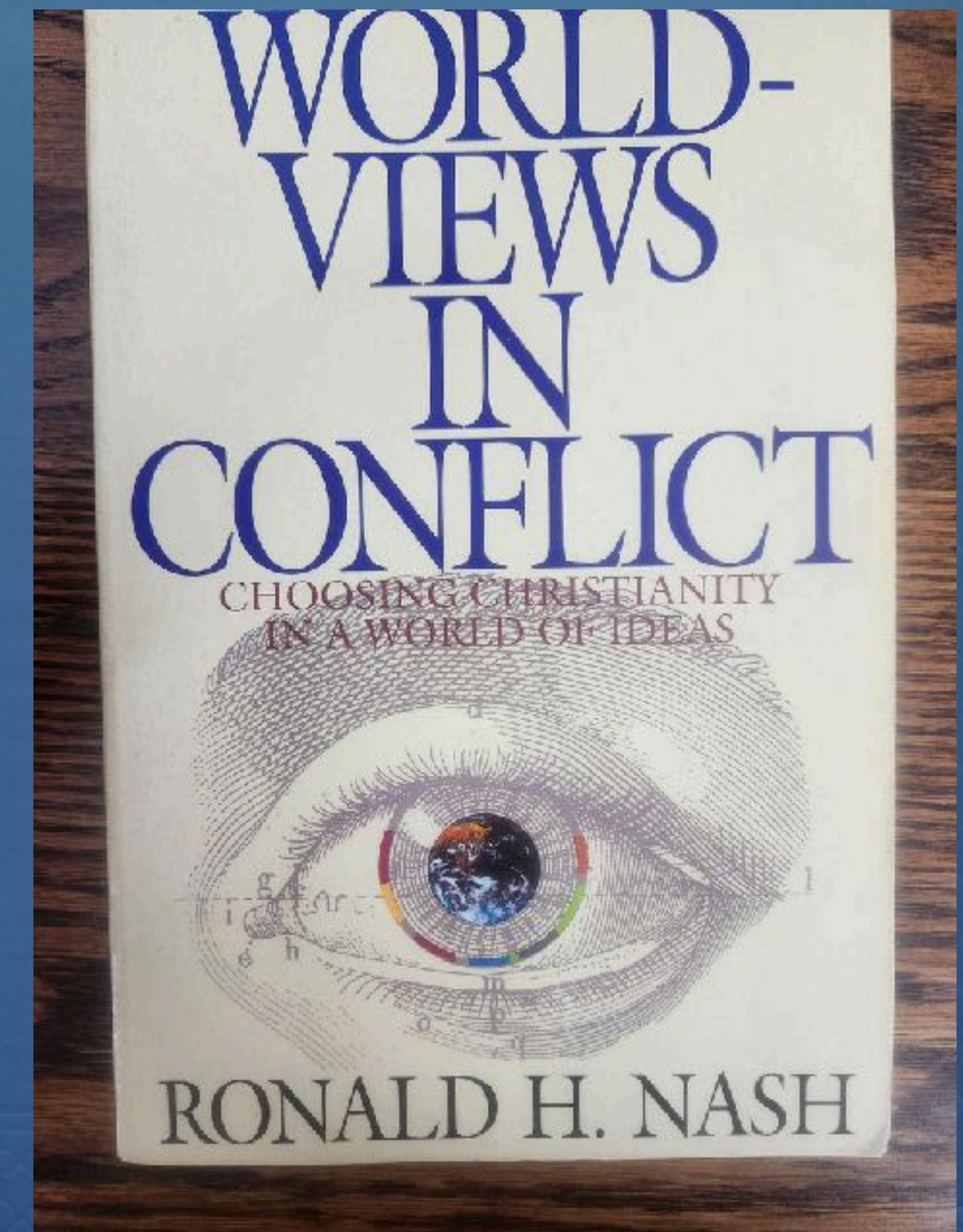
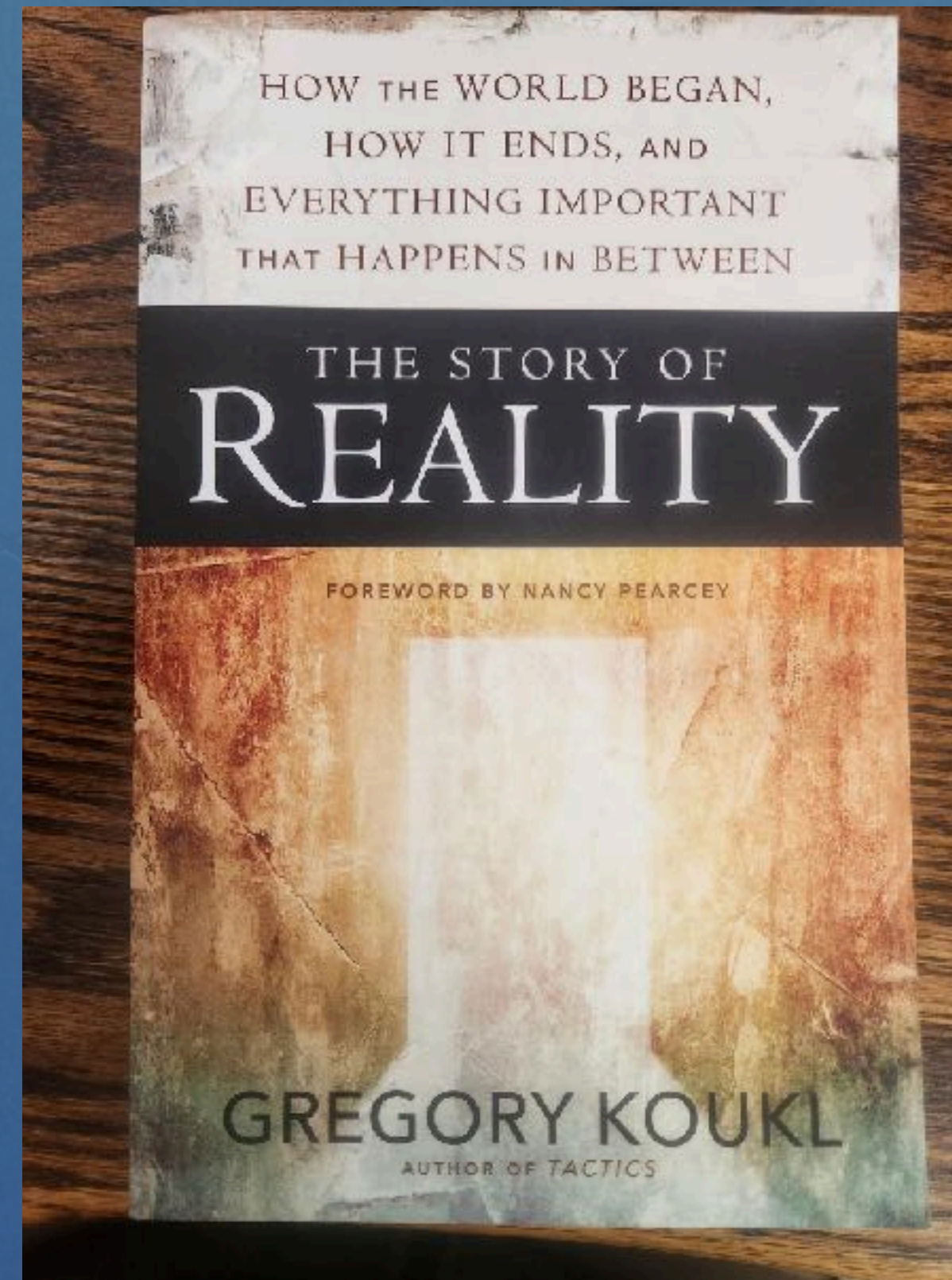
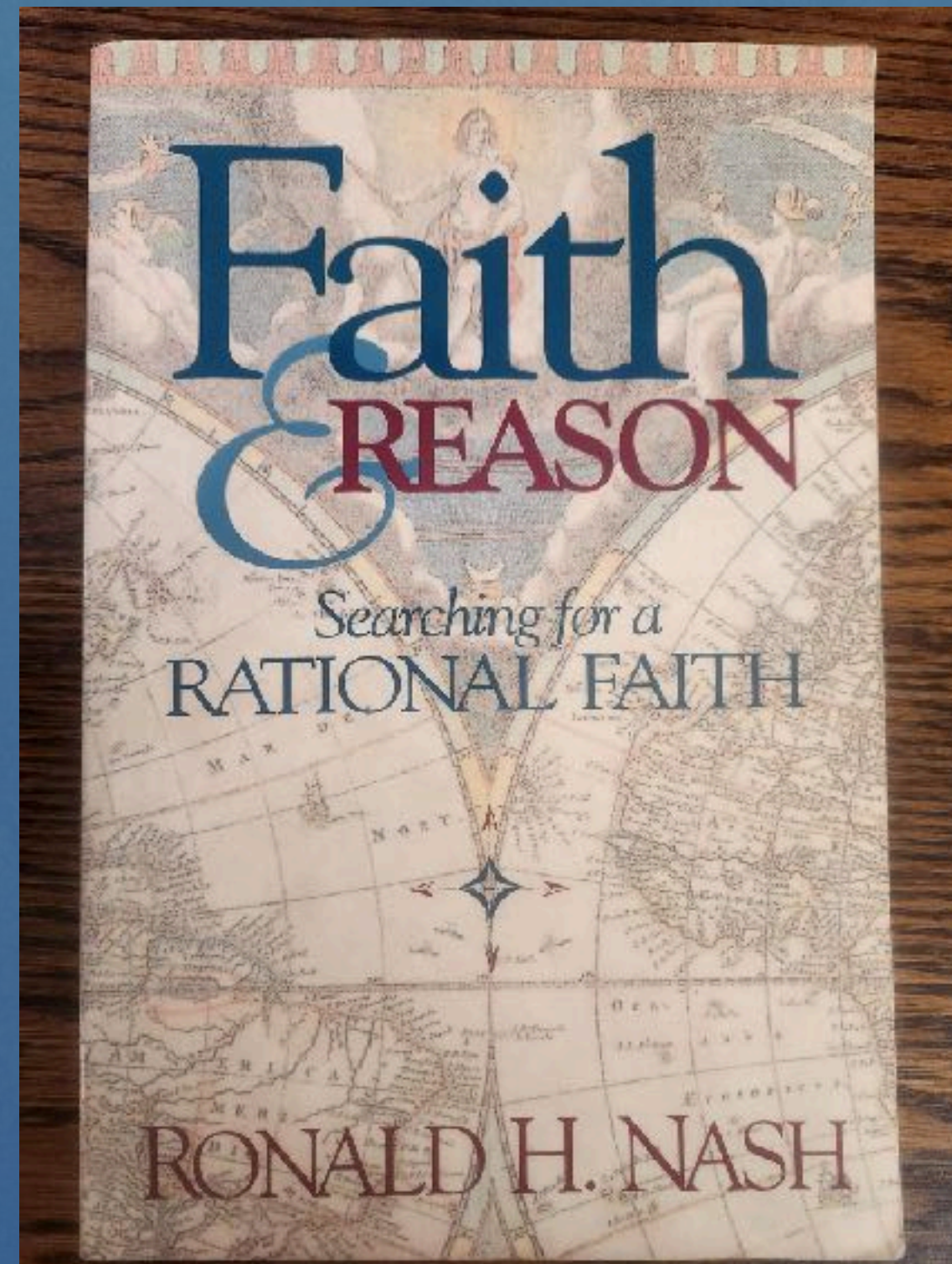
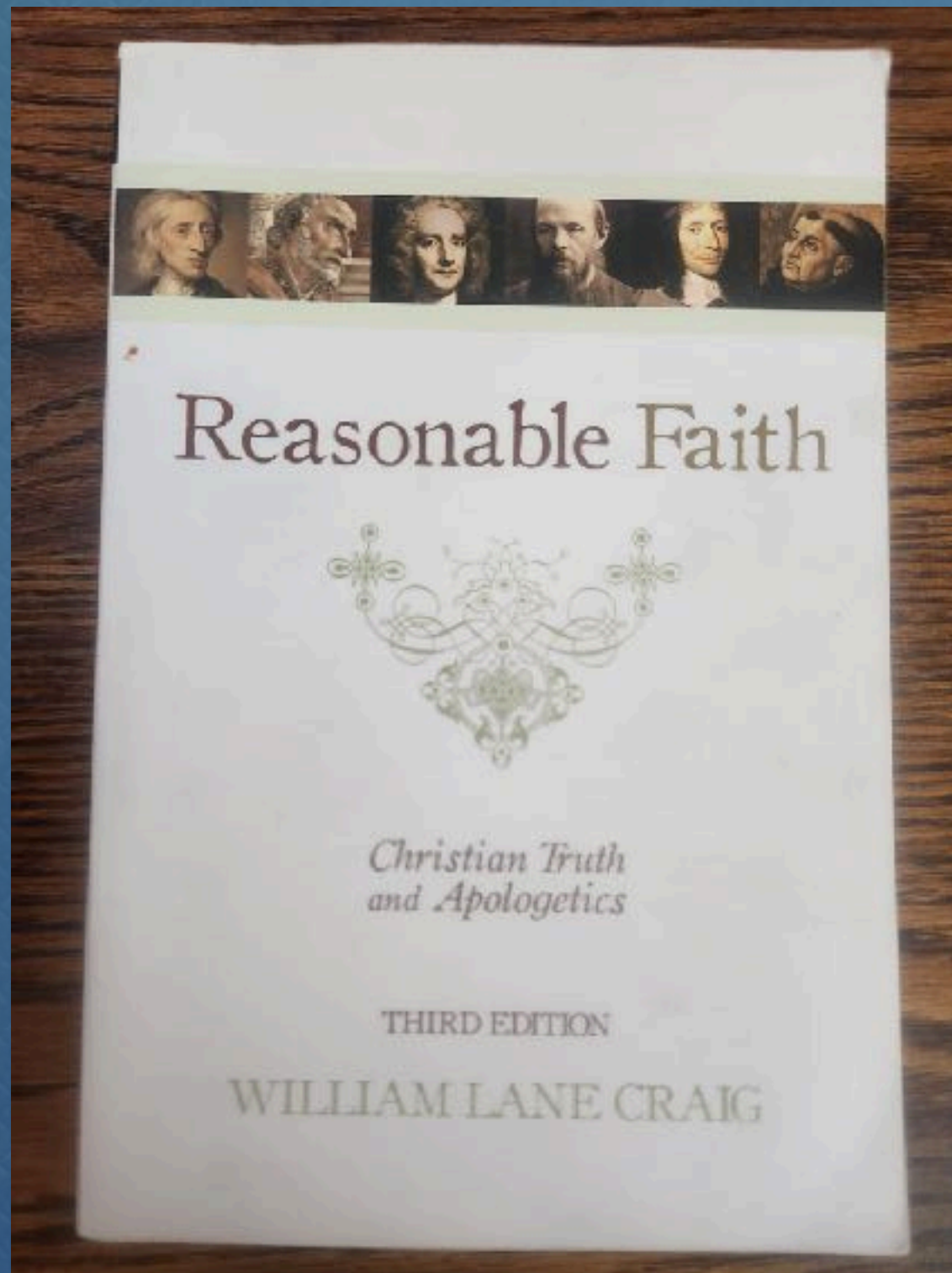
the world says "seeing is believing"
the Scripture says "seeing" is not "believing"

Neighborly Apologetics

4. Faith and Reason

Neighborly Apologetics

4. Faith and Reason



- 1. Evil and Suffering*
 - 2. Absolute Truth and Relativism*
 - 3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
 - 4. Faith and Reason*
 - 5. Free Will and Sovereignty*
 - 6. God’s Existence and Nature*
 - 7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*
 - 8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*
 - 9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*
 - 10. Miracles*
 - 11. Science and Evolution*
 - 12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*
- Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*

next →

Neighborly Apologetic
Categories: