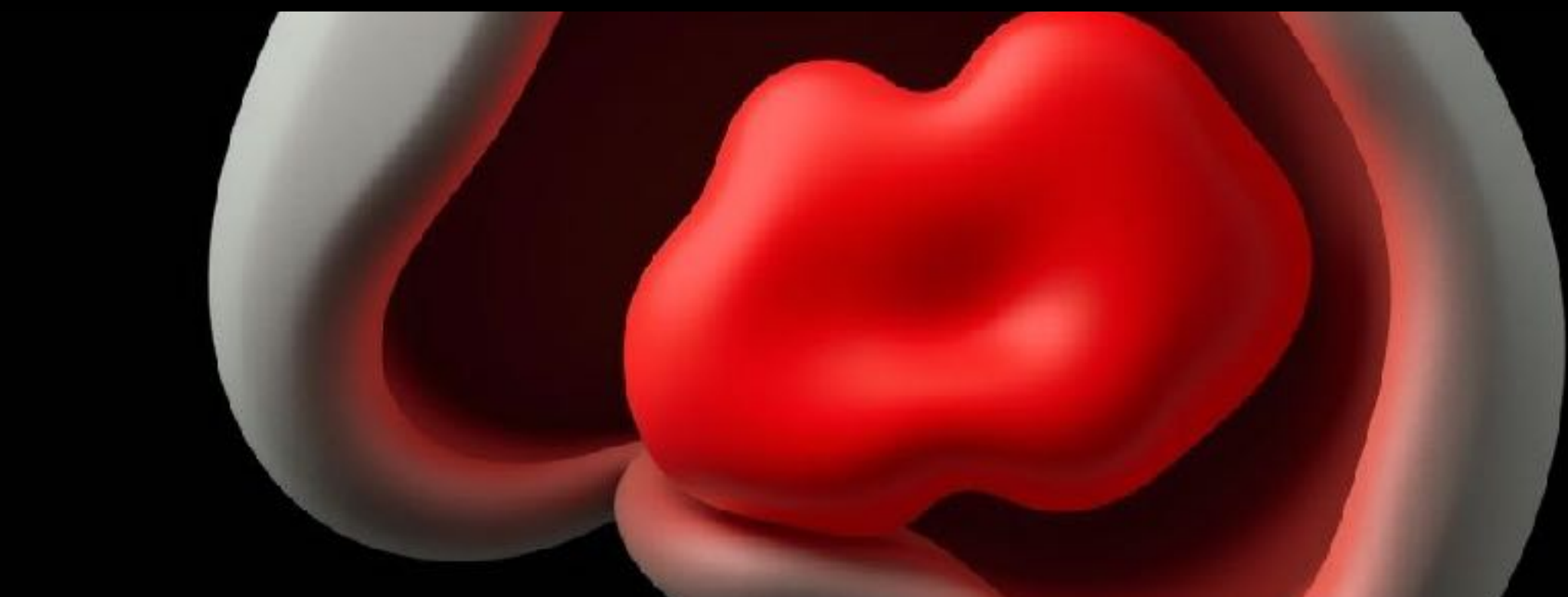




Neighorly Apologetics

6. God's Existence and Troubling Nature



Neighborly Apologetics

The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

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

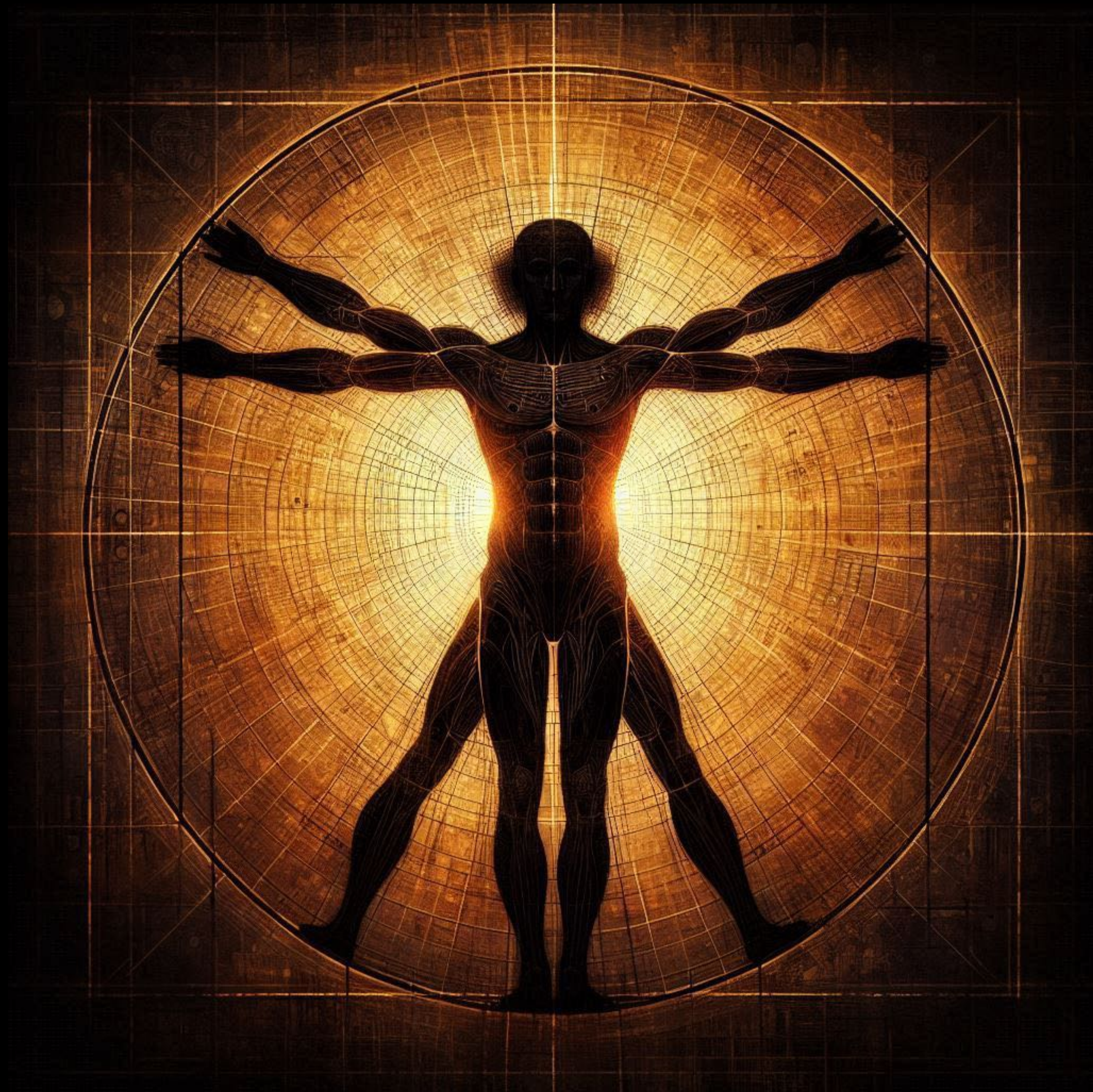
with a priestly role in our neighborhoods

Neighborly Apologetic
Categories:

today →

- 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 Troubling 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*

heart
&
mind





mind

heart

A close-up photograph of a dark, textured flower, possibly a lotus, with a woven basket background. The flower is dark brown or black with prominent veins. The background is a light-colored, woven material with a diamond pattern. The text "mind heart" is overlaid in the center of the flower.

mind
heart

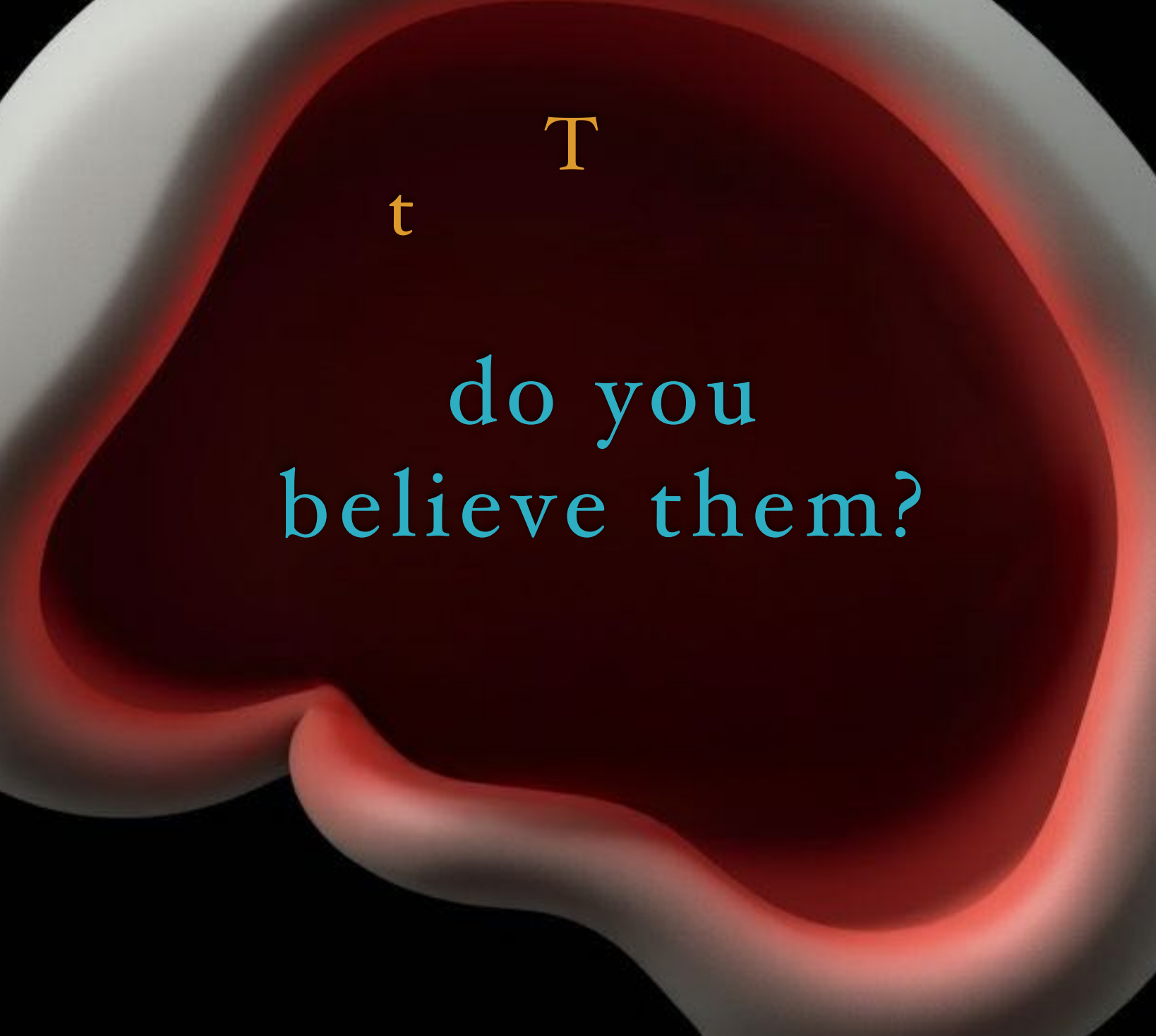
mind



heart

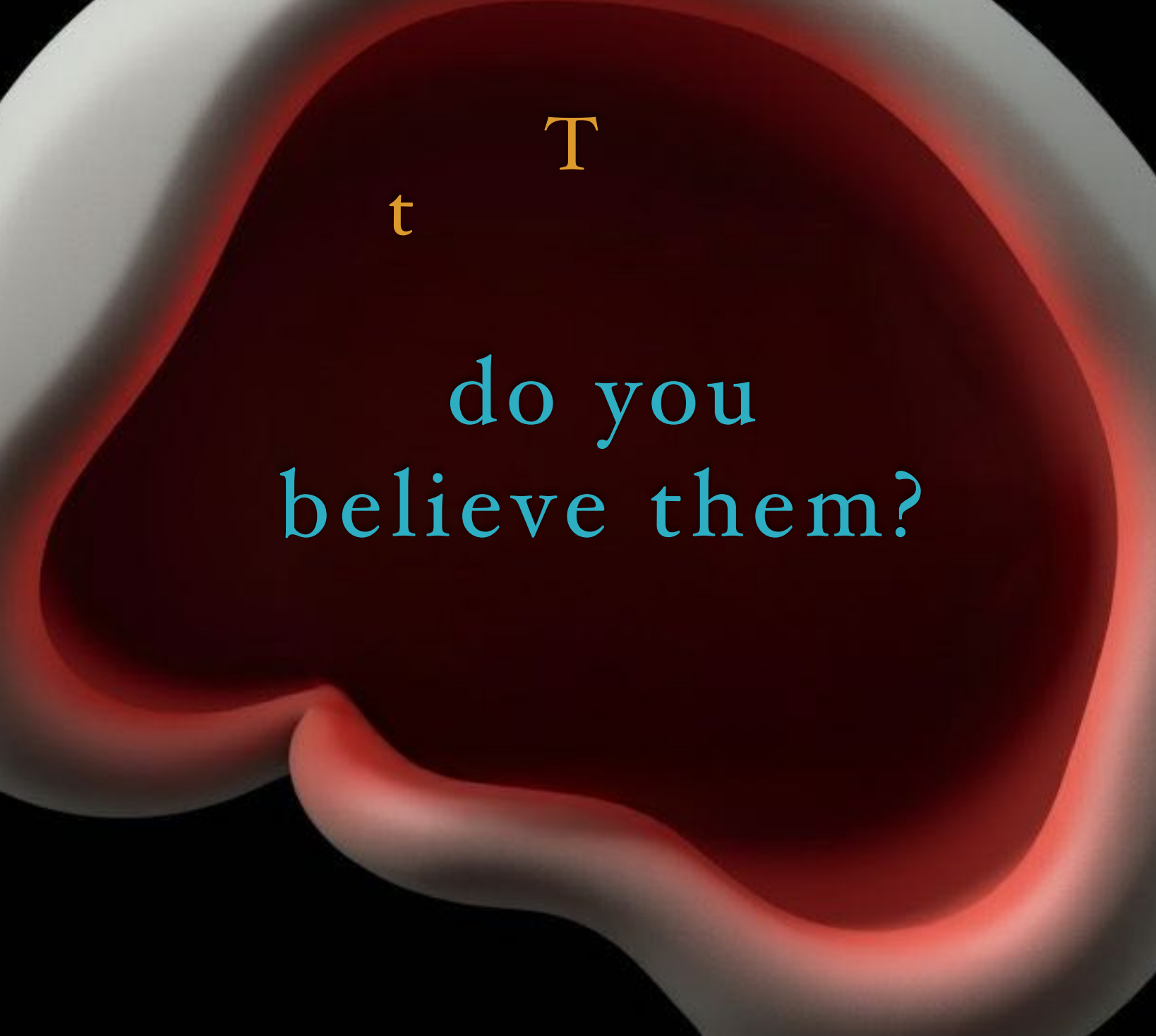
A 3D rendering of a brain, viewed from the side. The brain is white with a red, glowing internal structure. The letters 't' and 'T' are visible on the brain's surface.

A 3D rendering of a brain, viewed from the side. The brain is white with a red, glowing internal structure. The letters 't' and 'T' are visible on the brain's surface.



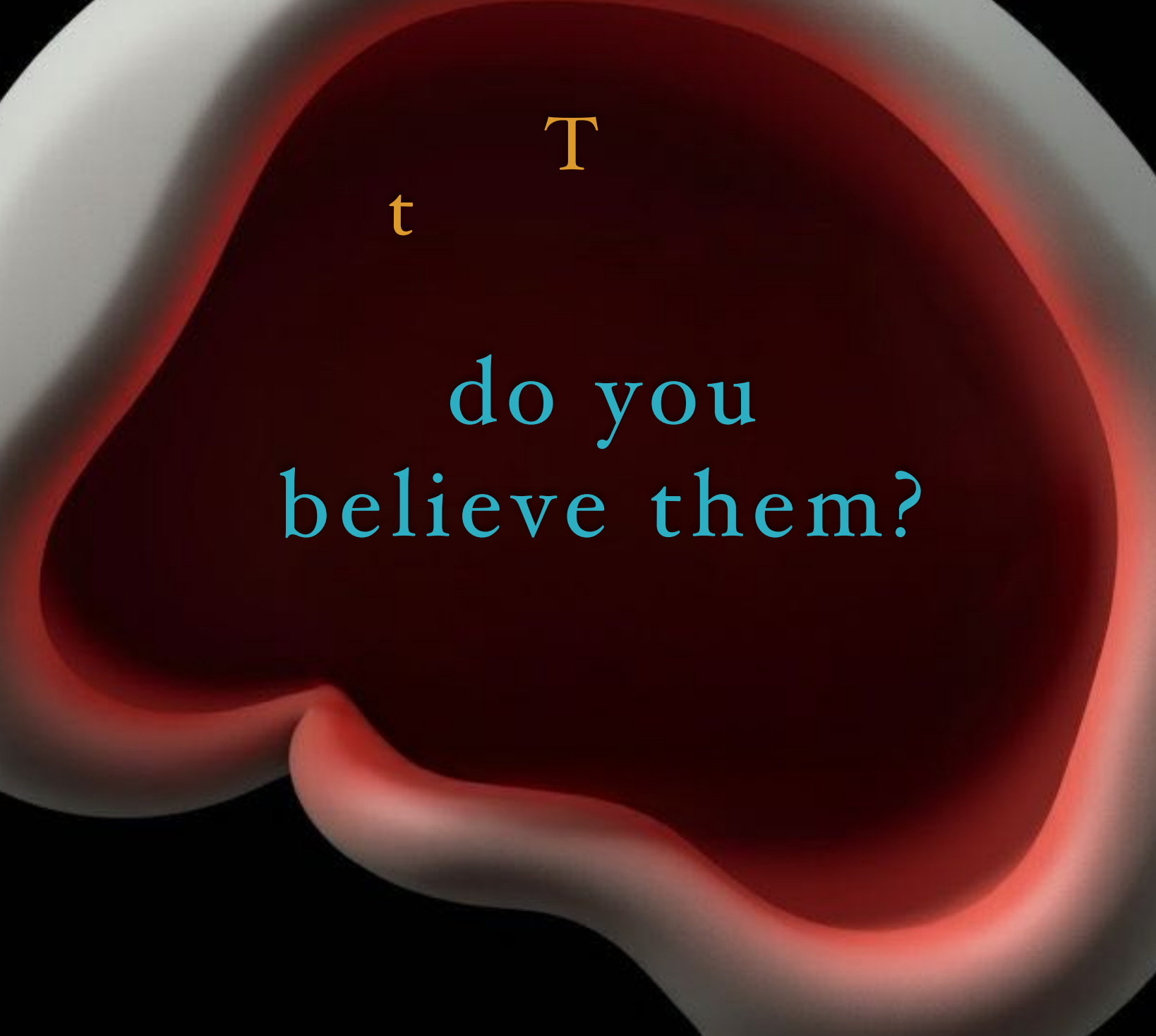
t T

do you
believe them?



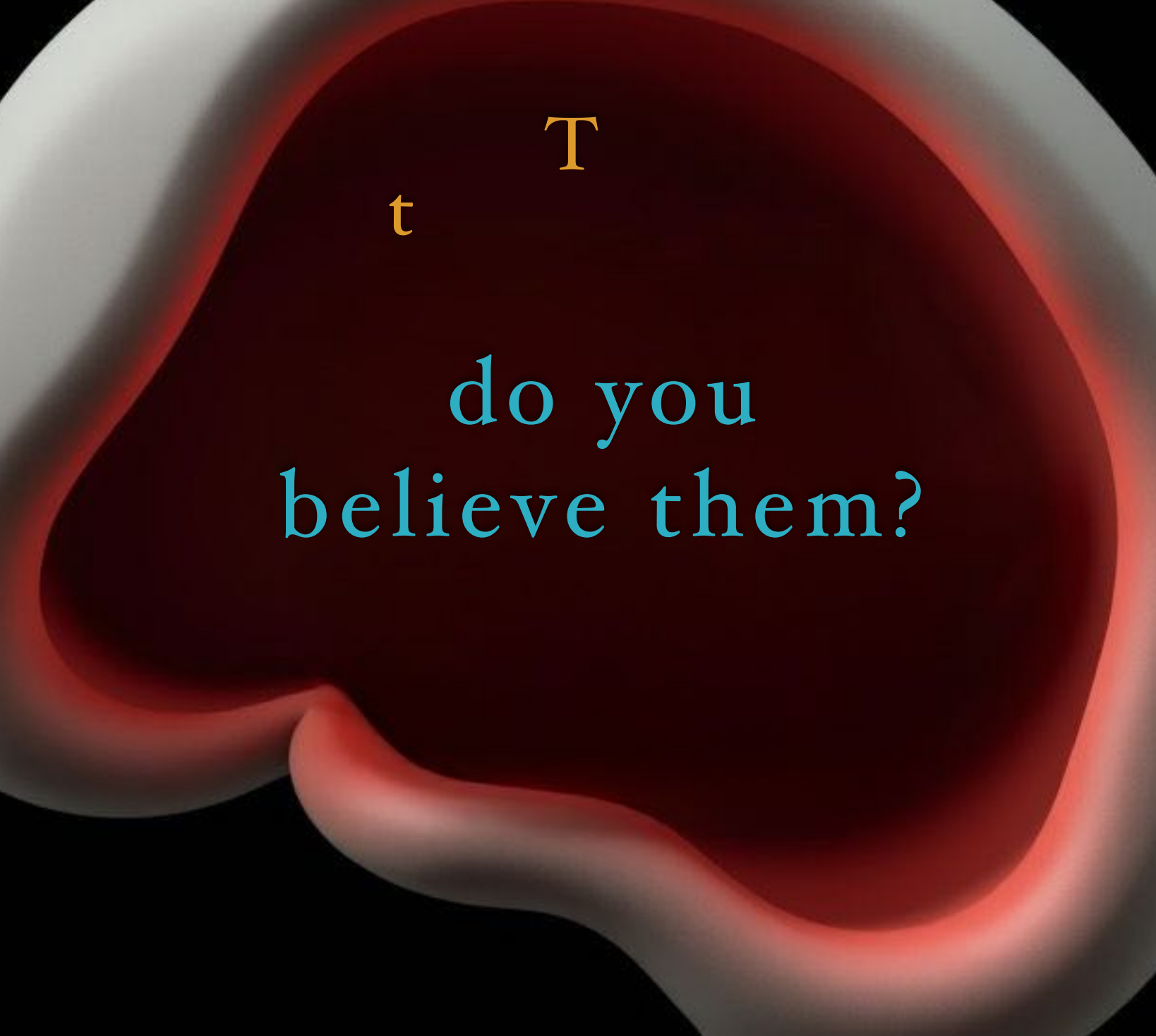
t T

do you
believe them?



t T

do you
believe them?



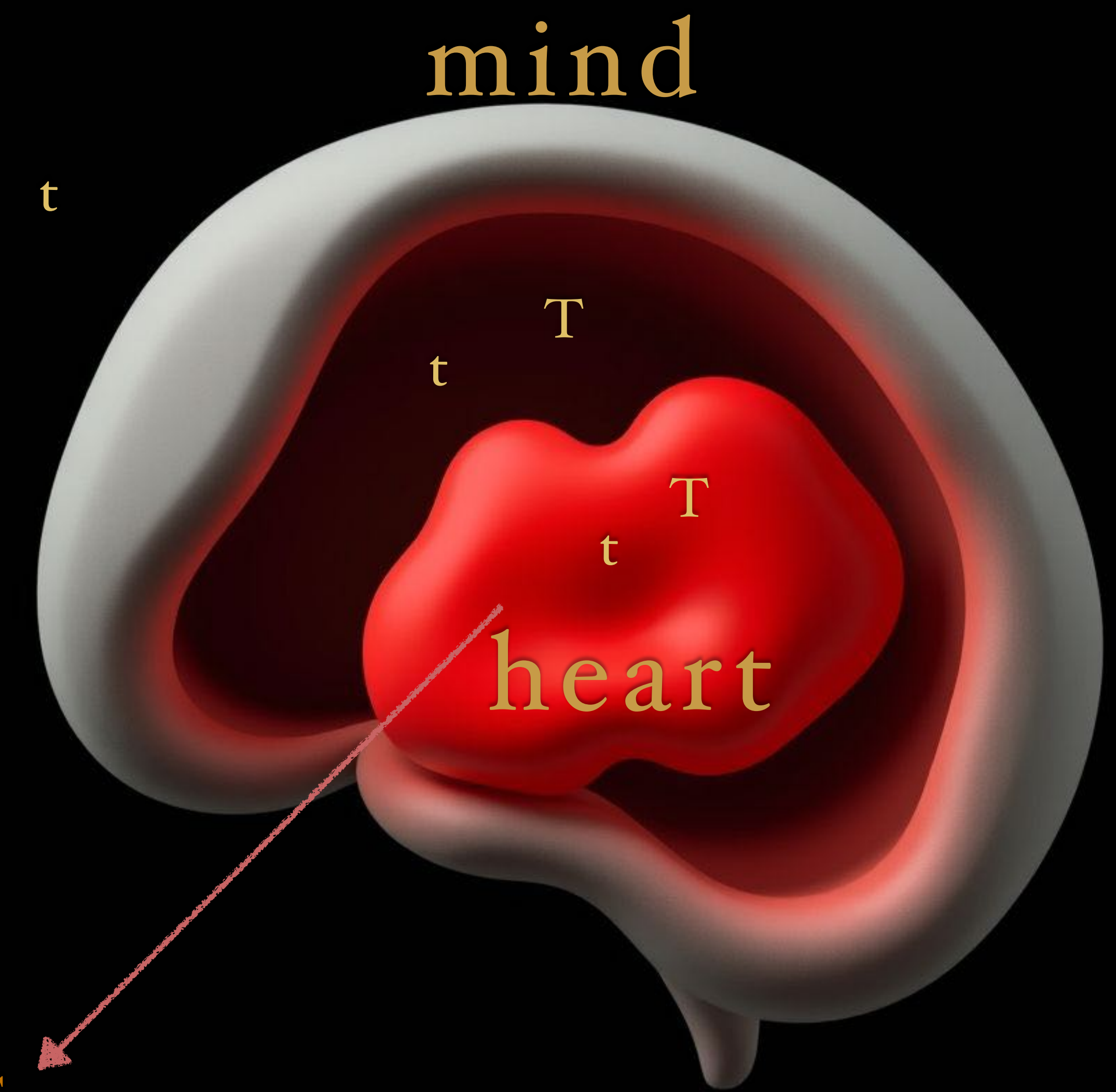
t T

do you
believe them?

t T t t T t
T t t T t
T t t

For out of the heart come evil thoughts,
murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft,
false witness, slander. *Matthew 15:19*

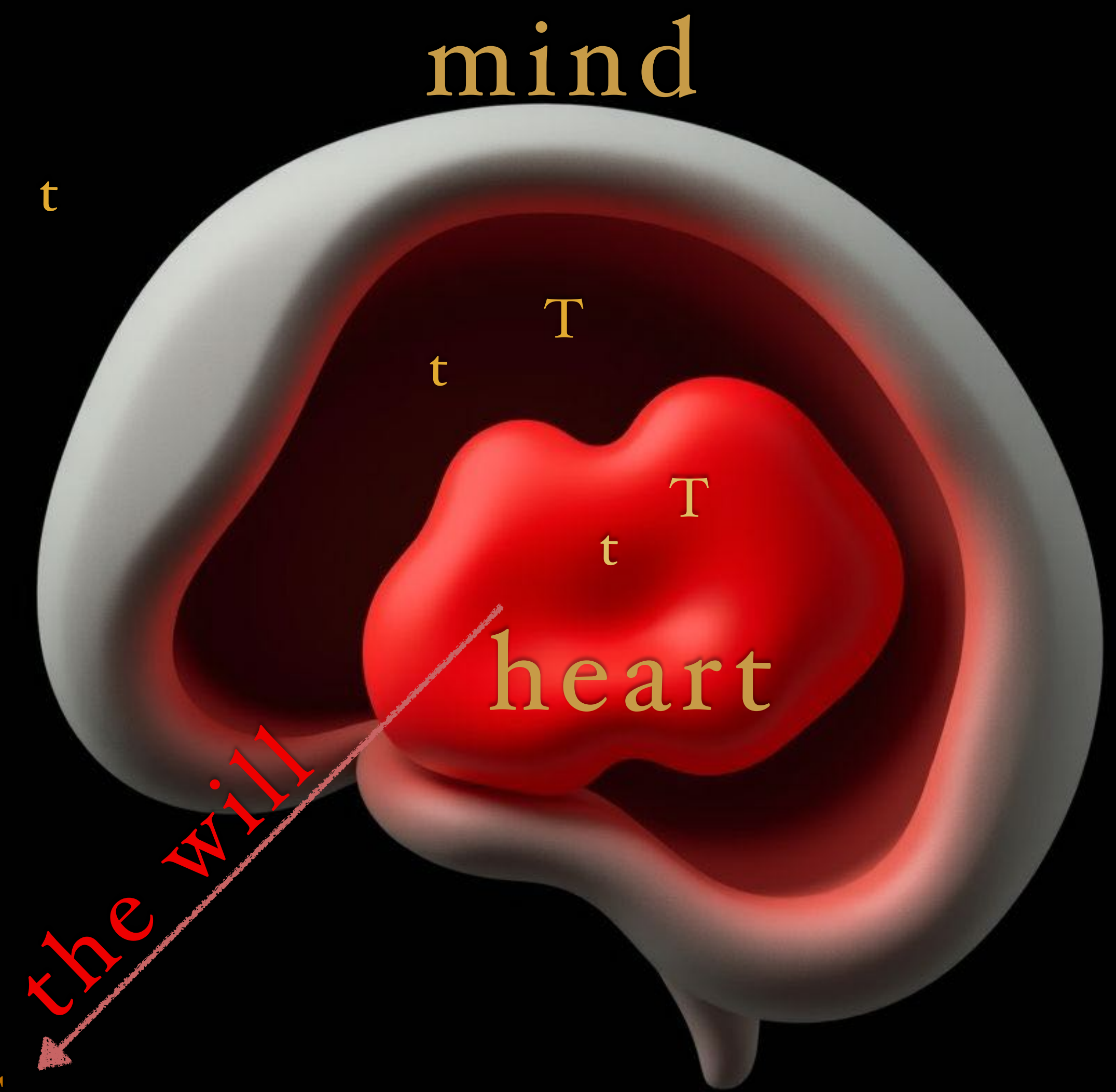
actions
emotions
thoughts



T t T t T t T t T t T t T t

For out of the heart come evil thoughts,
murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft,
false witness, slander. *Matthew 15:19*

actions
emotions
thoughts



the will

mind

“God exists!”

“God exists!”

“God exists!”

heart



topics

atheism

theism

agnosticism

biblical Christianity

cosmological arguments

design arguments

moral arguments

emotional arguments

irrational arguments

sovereignty

exclusivism

positions

atheism

agnosticism

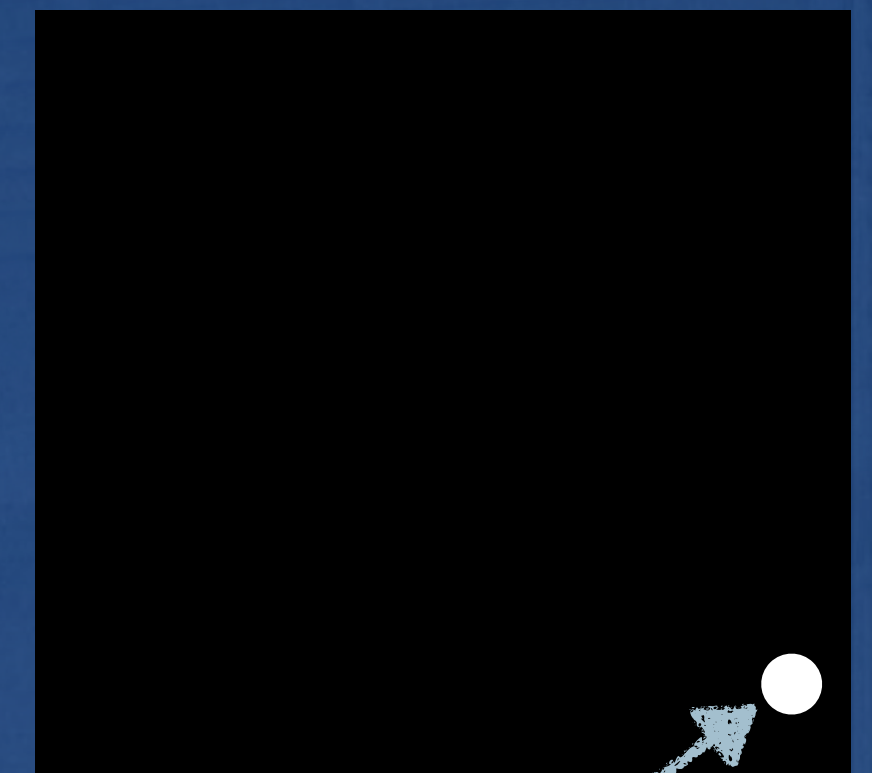
theism

biblical Christianity

unreasoned

all knowledge

knowledge of God



arguments

cosmological arguments

Kalam, Thomist, Leibnizian

the universe had to have a cause outside of itself

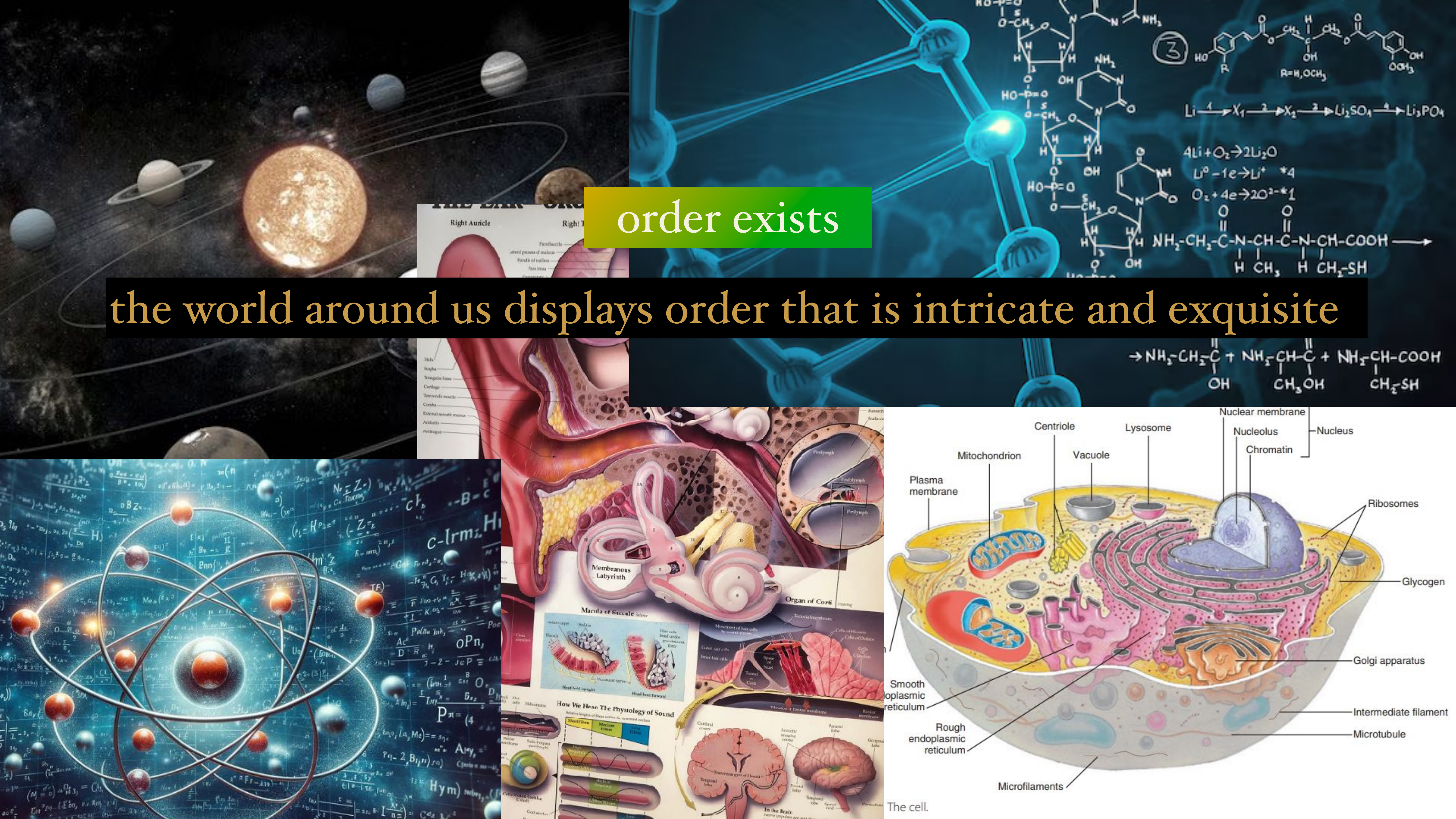
1. universe had a beginning; it is not eternal
2. everything has a cause; everything owes its existence to something else
3. why is there anything at all, rather than nothing

arguments

design arguments

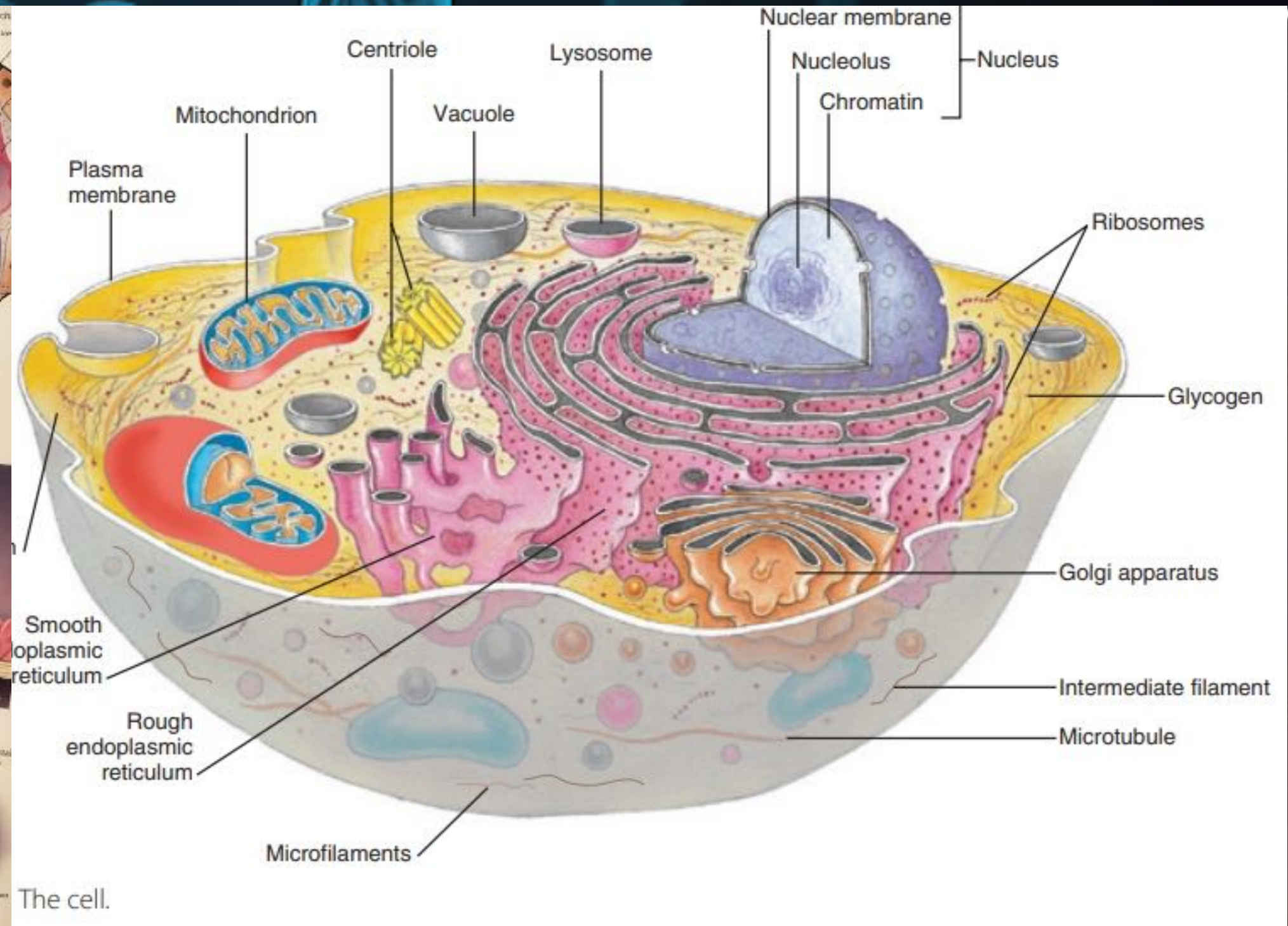
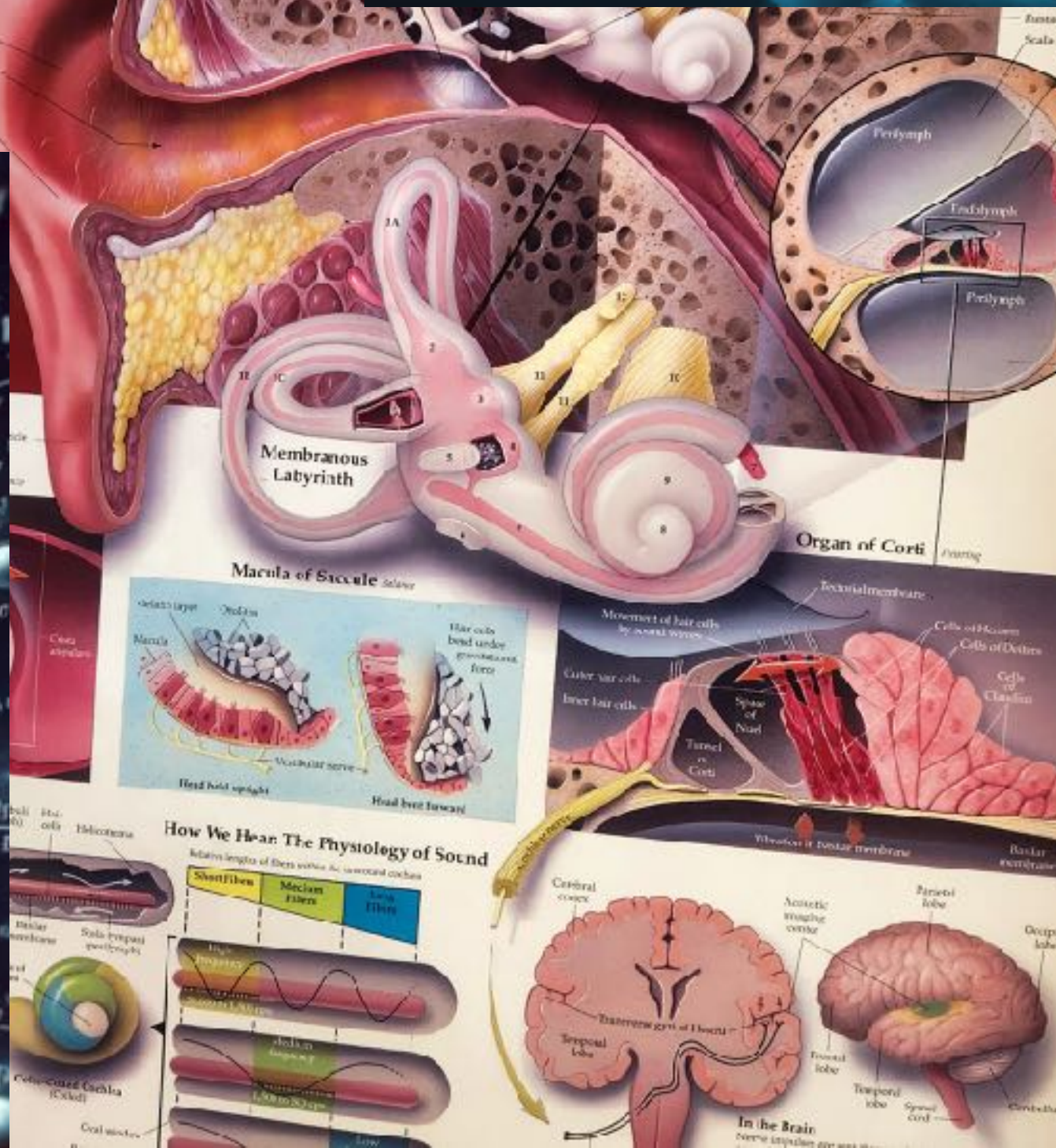
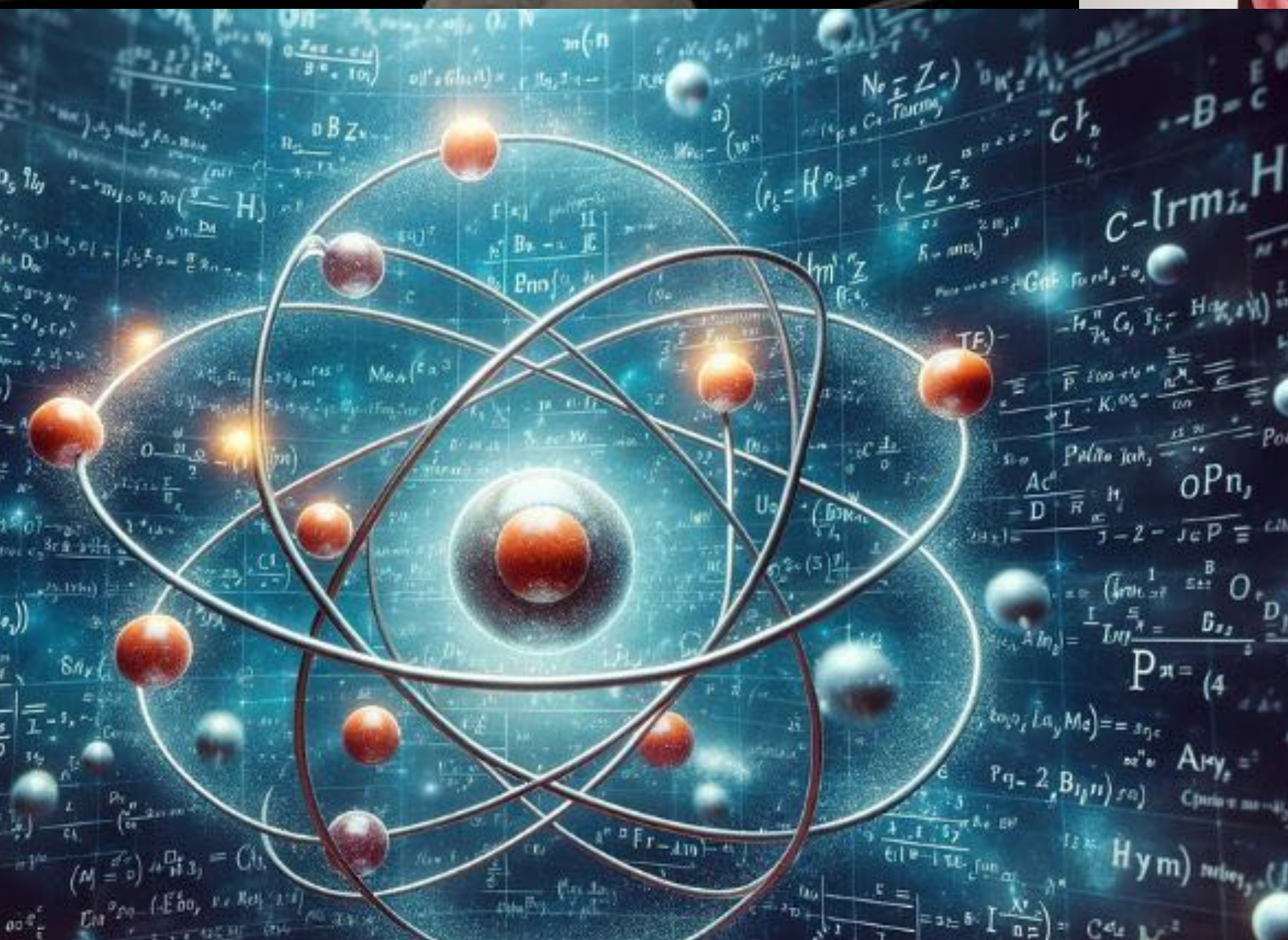
I think this is easiest argument to make with your neighbor

order exists



order exists

the world around us displays order that is intricate and exquisite



order exists

the world around us displays order that is intricate and exquisite

“kosmo” - Greek word

modern use: everything that exists

original use: “order”, “beauty”, “orderly or harmonious universe”

Do not let your *adorning* be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 1 Peter 3:3

The God who made the *world* and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man... Acts 17:24

order exists

the world around us displays order that is intricate and exquisite

“kosmo” - Greek word

modern use: everything that exists

original use: “order”, “beauty”, “orderly or harmonious universe”

that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the *world*... Philippians 2:15

order exists

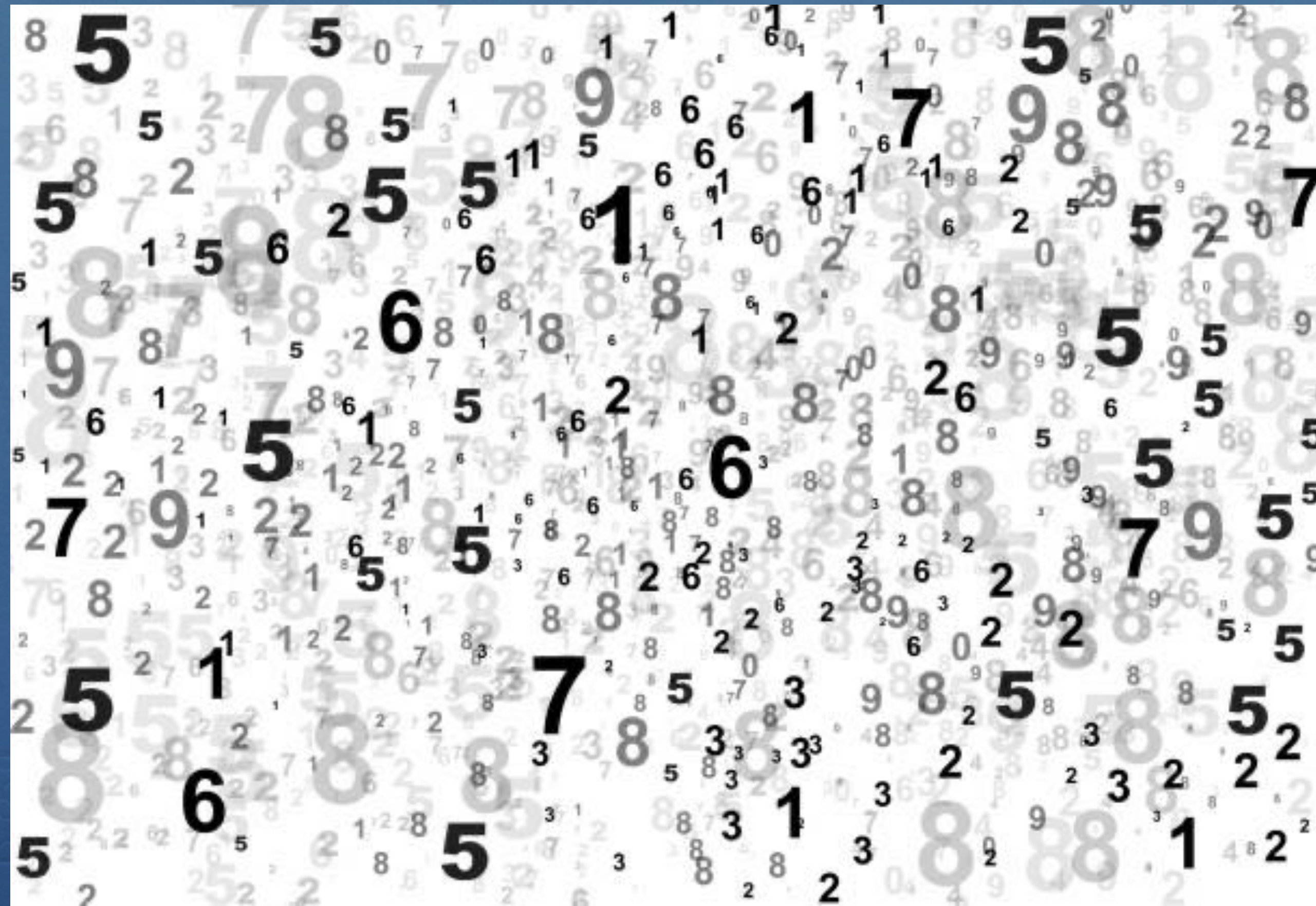
the world around us displays order that is intricate and exquisite

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

order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

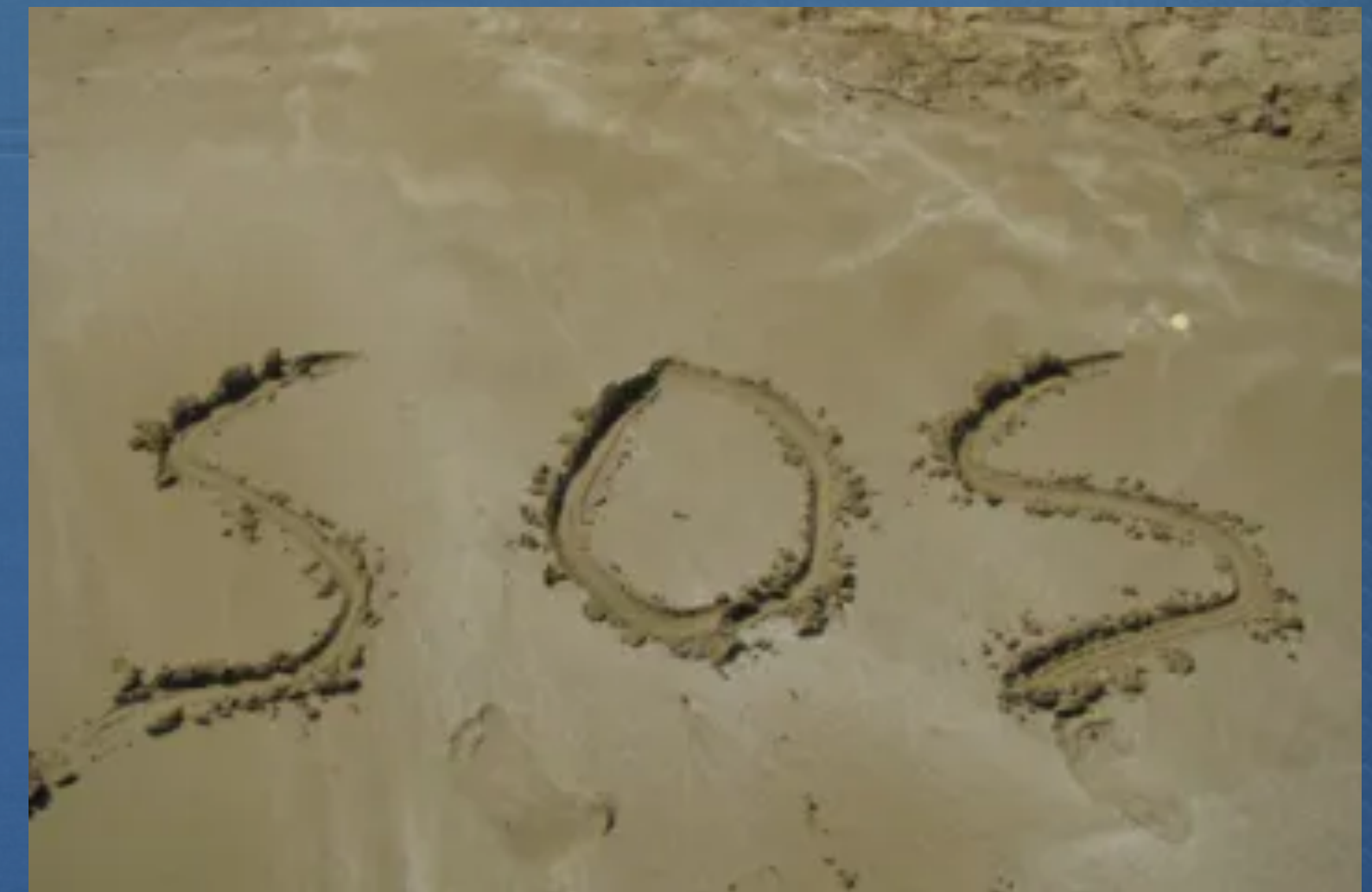
because random forces don't produce order



order exists

Conclusion: there must be an ordering cause or force

because random forces don't produce order

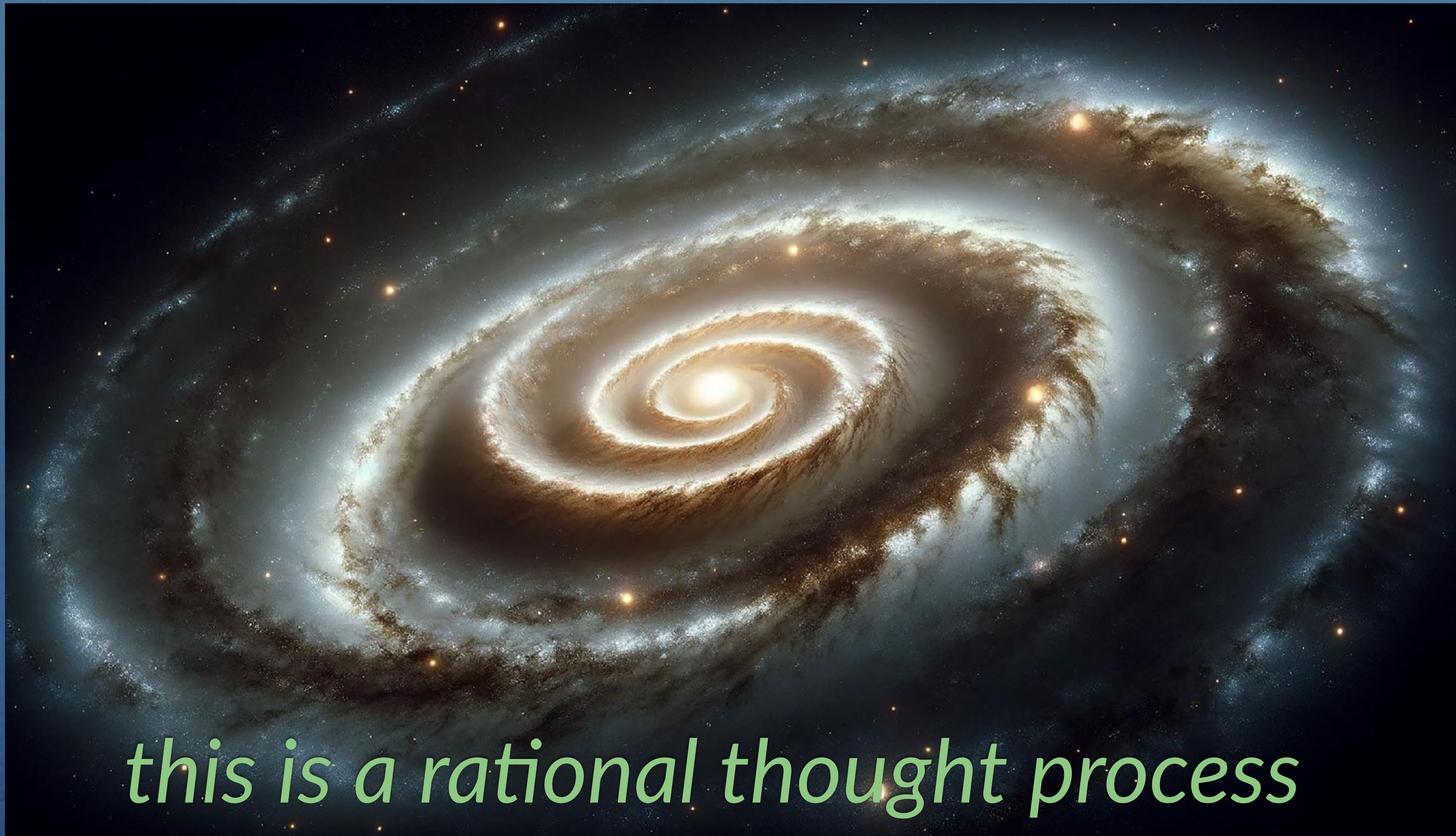


this is a rational thought process

order exists

and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force



this is a rational thought process

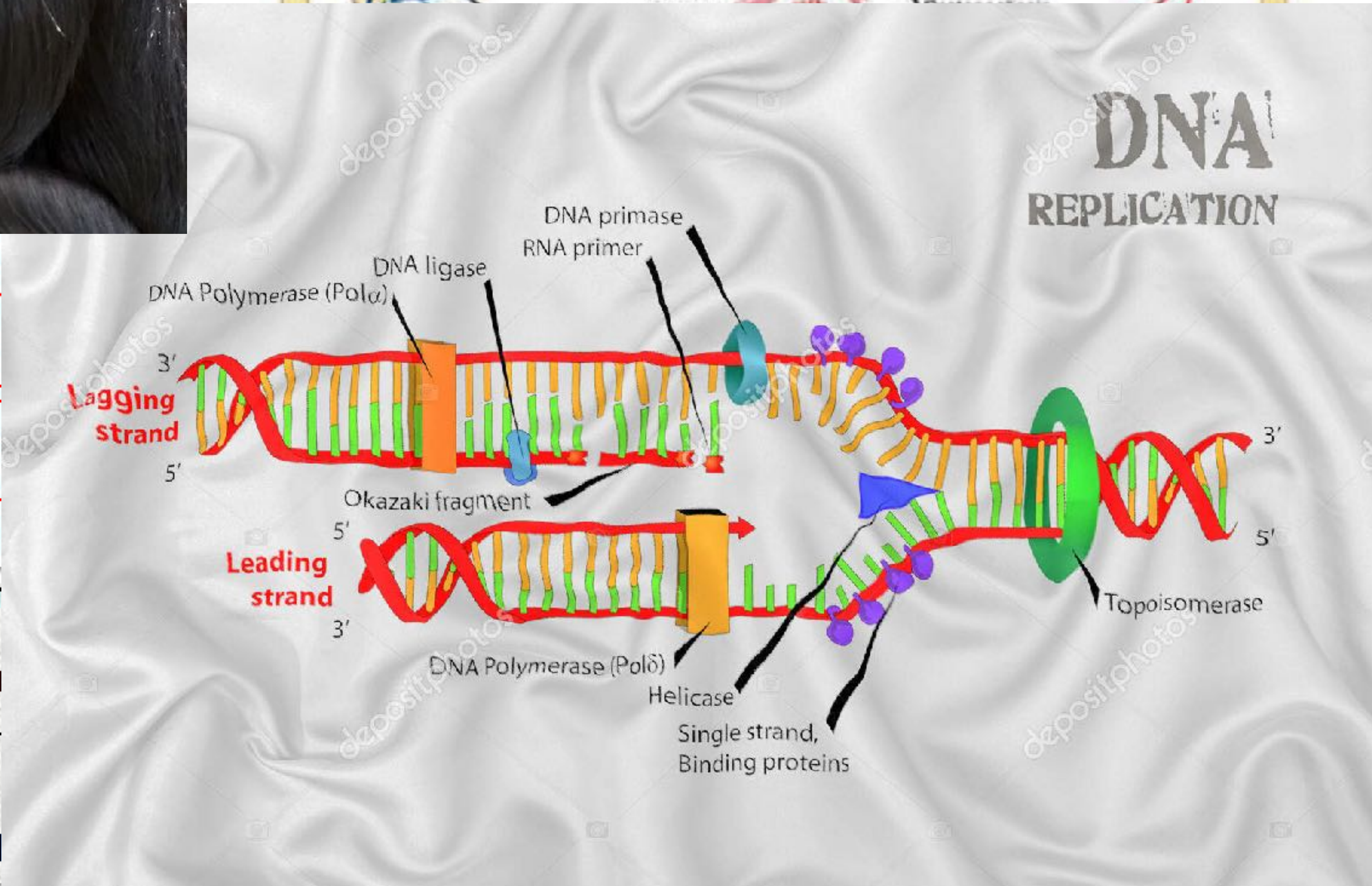
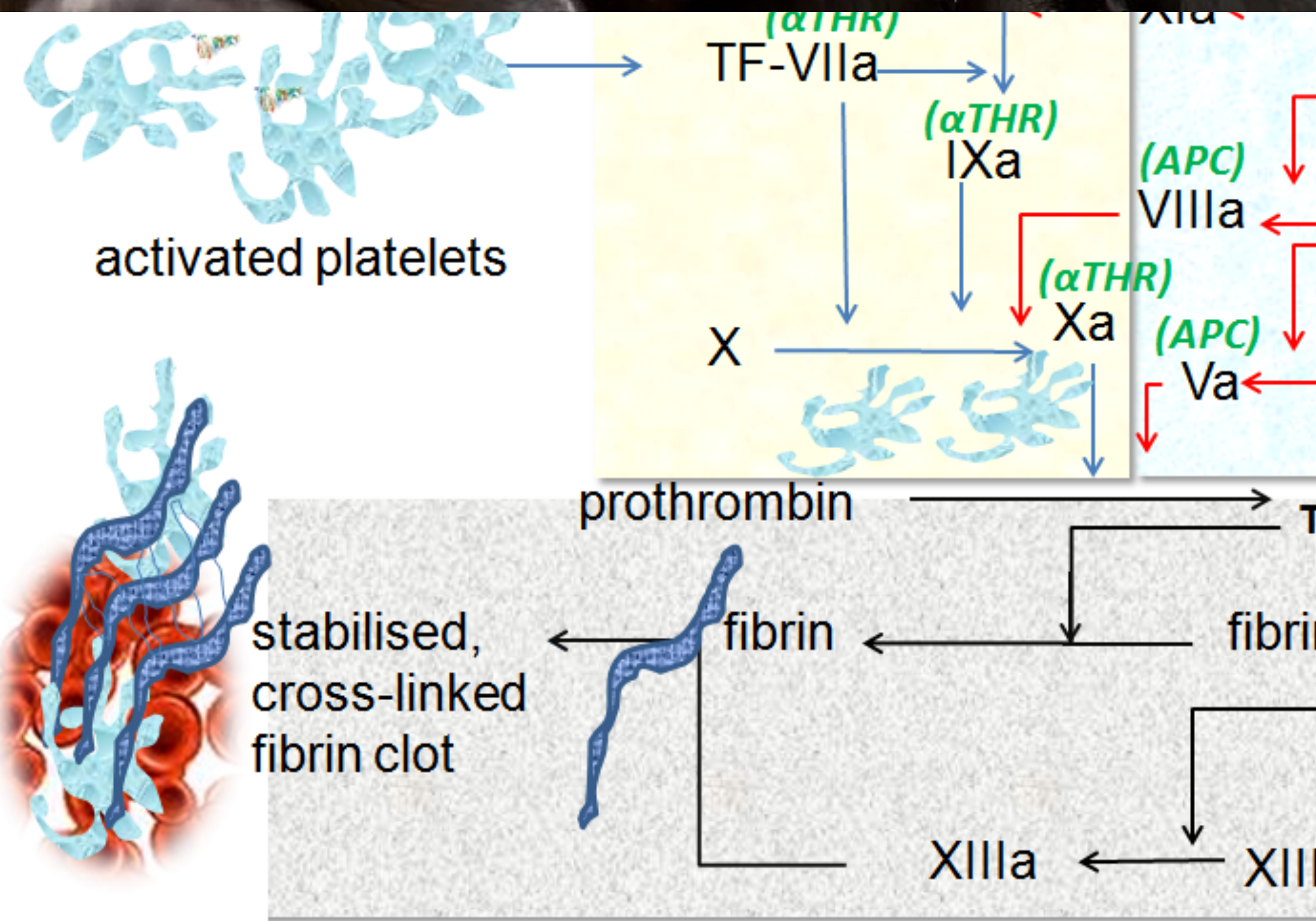
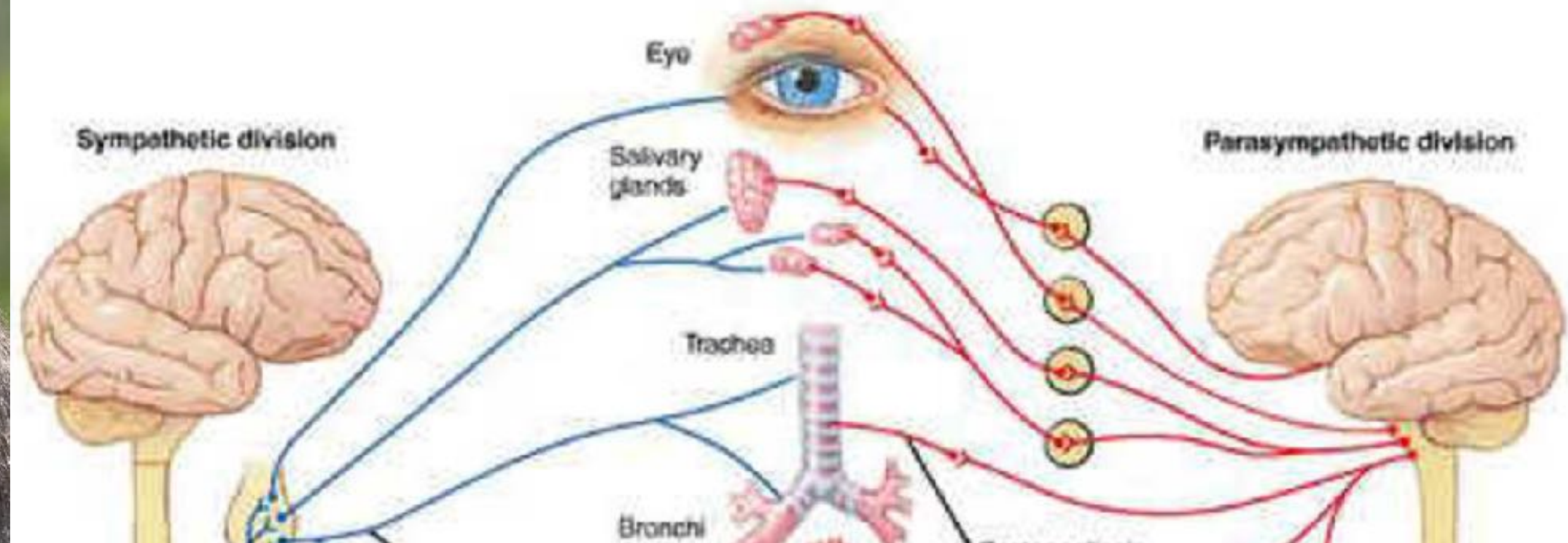
order exists

and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force

in this order we see:

- systems** vs non-systems
- life** vs non-life
- personal** vs non-personal
- relationships** & communications



order exists

and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force
who is relational & communicative

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.”

the empty tomb

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



arguments

moral arguments

Naturalism, Relativism, Conventionalism, Egoism

without a divine ethical absolute, there is no evil or good

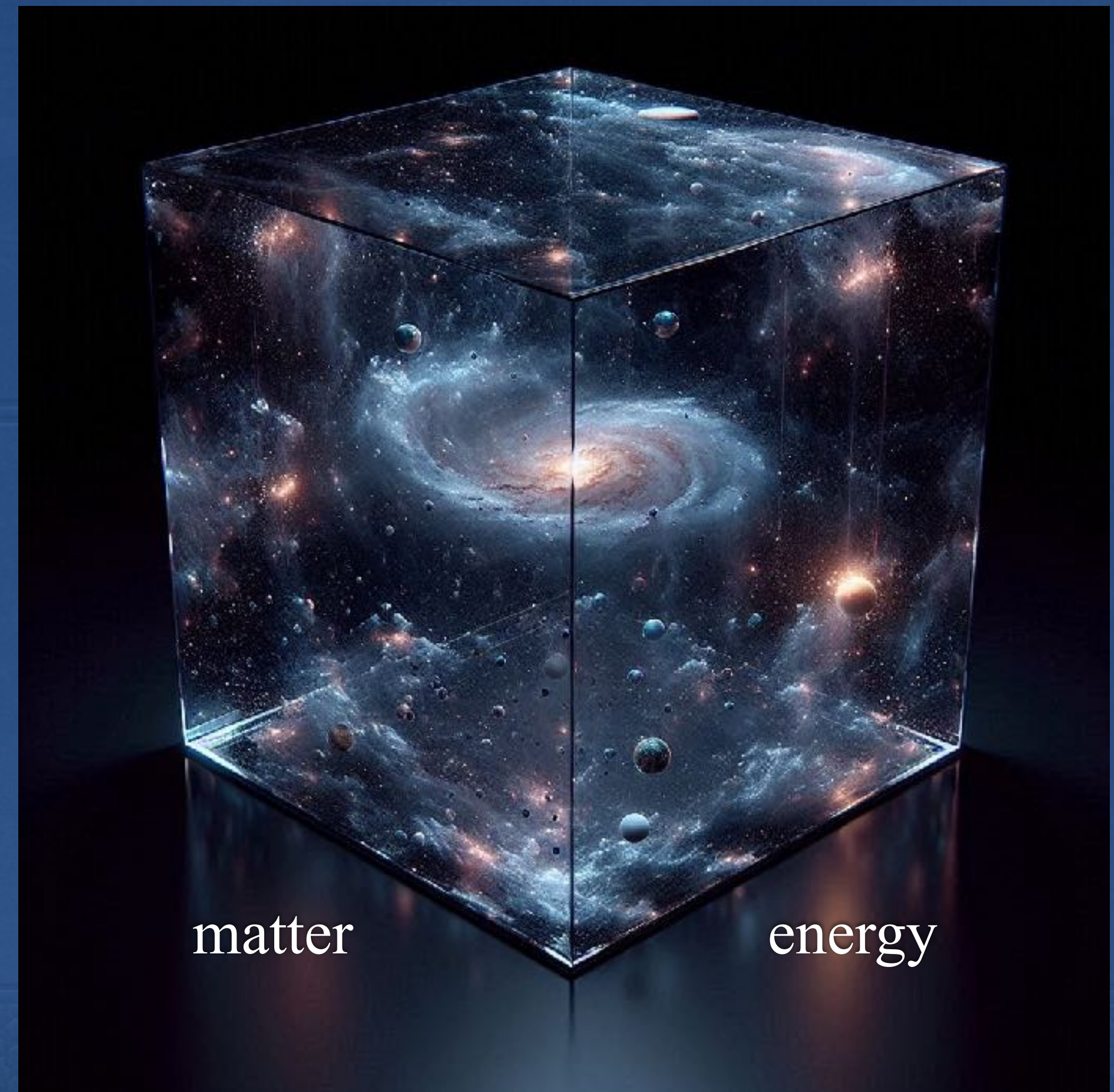
arguments

moral arguments

Naturalism

“No ultimate foundation for ethics”

Dr. Will Provine
Cornell University



arguments

moral arguments

Relativism

ethical values vary based upon the circumstances

what may be considered right or wrong for
one person may be totally different for
another person

is that absolutely true and
who made it this way?



arguments

moral arguments

Conventionalism

there are right and wrong ethical norms, but those are based upon the conventions of a culture or society and can be different from another



arguments

moral arguments

Egoism

Ethical Subjectivism

ethical norms are personal

what is true for you is true for
you and what is true for me is
true for me...

who are you to judge?



arguments

moral arguments

where do ethical standards come from?

the king? congress? the Supreme Court?

the majority vote? a social construct?

the internet?

the professor?

a book? a movie? a rock star? a quarterback?

my opinion? your opinion?

arguments

moral arguments

Naturalism, Relativism, Conventionalism, Egoism

without a divine ethical absolute, there is no evil or good

arguments

emotional arguments

mind

heart

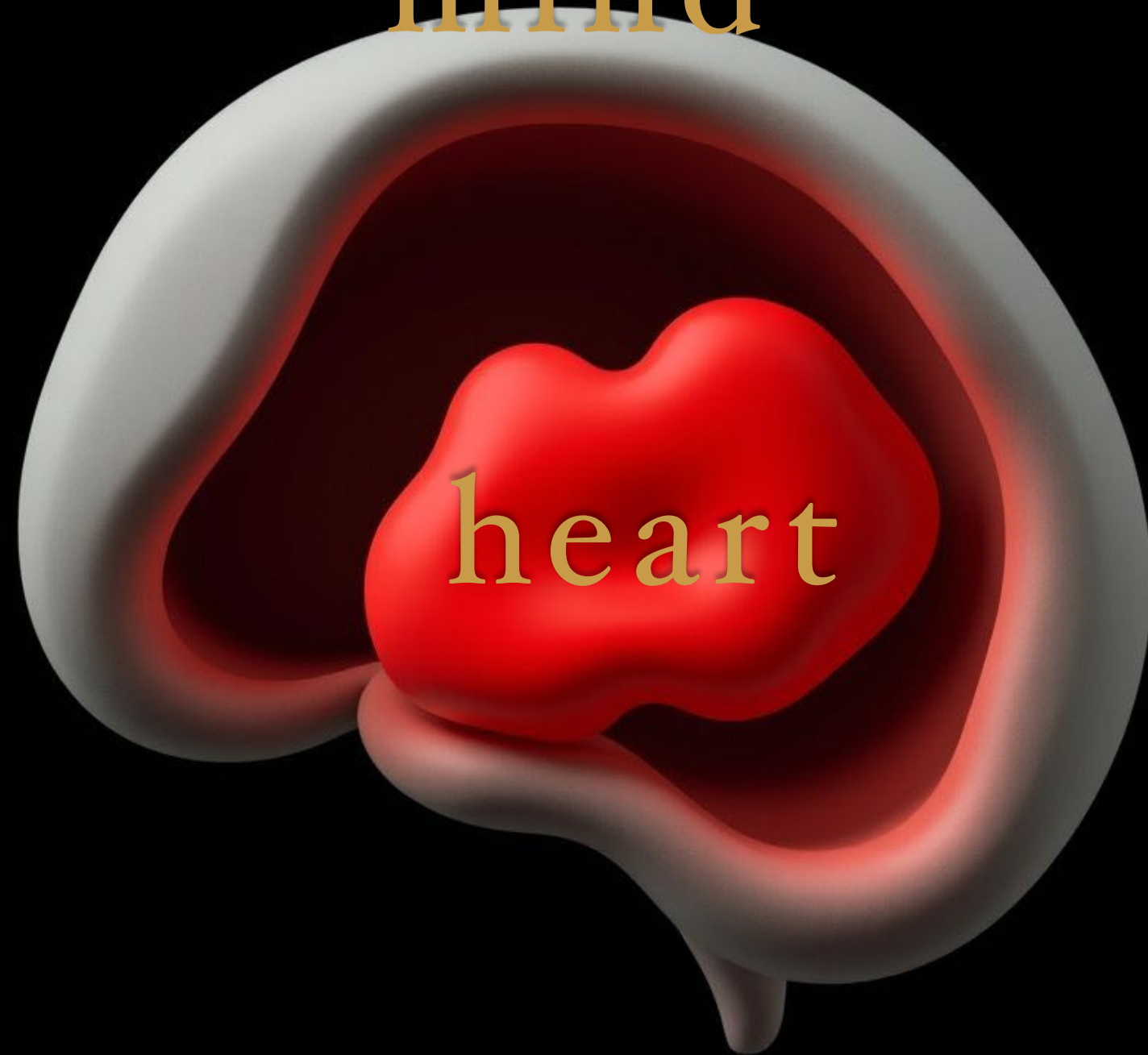


arguments

irrational arguments

mind

heart



troubling aspects of God's nature



exclusivism

problem of evil

sovereignty

God choosing

praying for your neighbor

Neighboring Apologetic Categories:

next



- 1. Evil and Suffering*
- 2. Absolute Truth and Relativism*
- 3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
- 4. Faith and Reason*
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