

What holds me back from embracing EP

Post by “Matt” of March 1, 2022 at 4:03 PM

In the last few months I've been flirting with some ideas that come out of Taoist philosophy that seem to work well with my concept of the material universe within EP and also seem to enhance my overall view of reality. Lately I feel that I sense nature's "behavior"...not in a supernatural, providential or pantheistic way, but more in the way nature and the cosmos seem to operate upon fixed processes that are very reliable in their outcomes and that nature has a will of its own independent from human will. Almost like a "behavior," Nature manifests and unmanifests, creates stars and galaxies and simultaneously destroys them, causes living beings to act according to instinct to sustain life and create more life, while simultaneously killing and destroying other life. These processes exist independently of our speculation and even our existence. In Taoism, the ineffable and apophatic aspects of nature are best understood by living in accord with them or flowing with them, as opposed to necessarily knowing them. So there is always room for some introspective awe about unknowns in nature, yet since we will live in the universe and are a part of it the best way to know nature is to live in accord with it, and we can take comfort in knowing that life operates upon certain principles that we can come to rely on. Atoms and void, and their behavior, rely upon each other to make the universe the way it is. Being and non-being "create" each other...just like up creates down, hard creates soft etc. they are concepts that we define, but they exist as aggregates in nature.

I started thinking about nature in this way a little while ago when I realized that though I have plans and desires for my life, nature has its own plans that I'm subject to. Nature operates upon certain reliable principles and the real magic is observing them and understanding that everything operates according to its will.