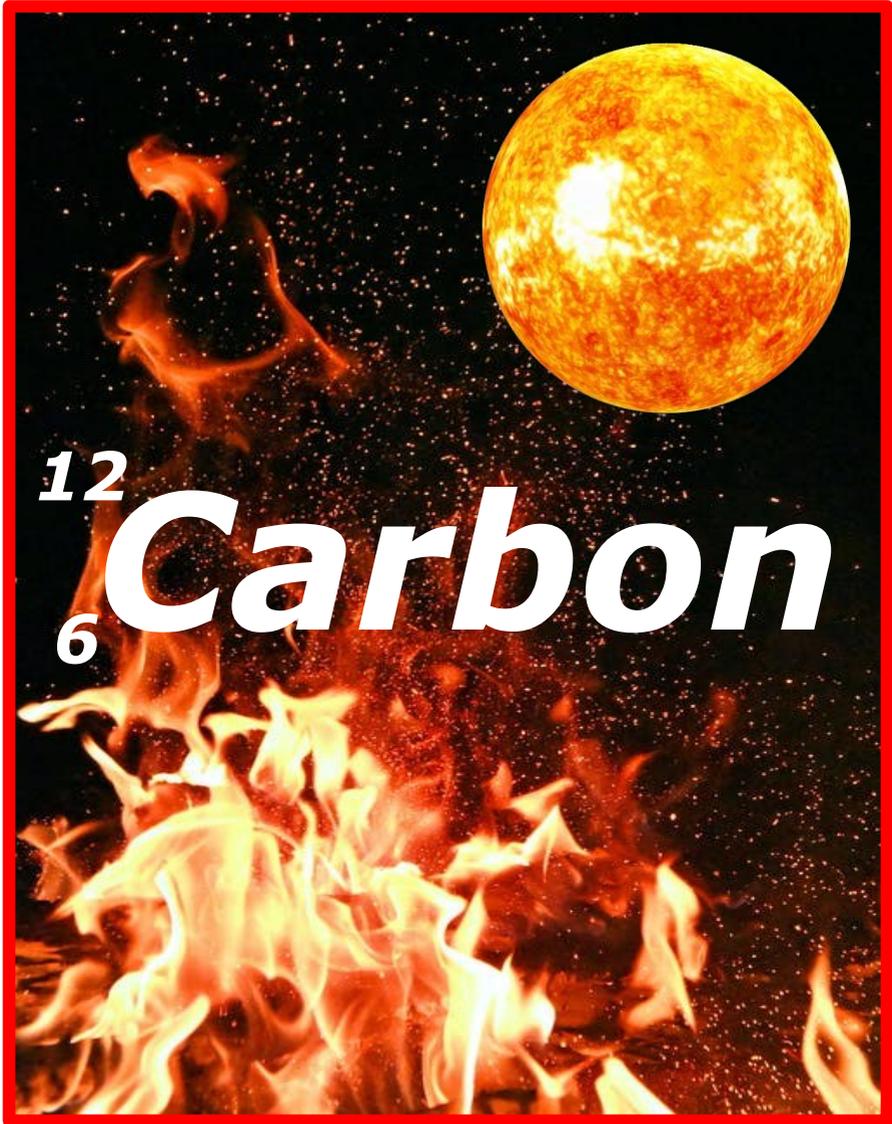


Carbonism



The Ultimate Scientific Worldview



**This book is totally
unsuitable for children!**

**This book severely challenges
faith. Proceed with extreme
care!**

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alias Mr Carbon Atom.**

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

Contents.

Carbonism. Pages 4 to 306.

1. The Carbonist manifesto, Humanism and my atheism. Pages 4 to 5.
2. So, how did I come up with Carbonology? What was my eureka moment? Pages 6 to 31.
3. My faith as a protestant child in the 20th century. Pages 31 to 39.
4. Disproval of the creationism hypothesis and proof of evolution by carbon-based natural selection. Page 40.
5. More damning evidence against creationism; the accretion disk proof. Pages 41 to 42.
6. The Big Bang, accretion disk and stella evolution. Pages 43 to 44.
7. A more detailed image of an accretion disk, the formation of a solar system. Page 45.
8. A new star ignites in a new solar system. Page 46.
9. The evolution of planets from accretion. Page 47.
10. Back to the Bible and its limitations. Pages 48 to 49.
11. Adam and Eve, a clonal myth! Pages 50 to 54.
12. Biblical structure. Page 54 to 57.
13. Creation by word and creation by combat. Pages 57 to 59.
14. A very important point about the source of religious ideas in history. Pages 59 to 63.
15. A graphical representation of the collapse of my theism. Pages 64 to 68.
16. So, in reality, religion had absolutely nothing to do with the truth. It was just where you were born. Pages 68 to 73.
17. How could the Bible be described as the good book? Pages 73 to 75.
18. Noah's farce and the maximal evil of global genocide, God's psychopathy and a lovely story for children. Pages 76 to 82.
19. So, let's check the viability of Noah's Ark. Pages 83 to 89.
20. They failed to repeat the experiment. Pages 89 to 91.
21. The appalling nature of global genocide. Pages 91 to 93.
22. The aftermath of the flood. Pages 93 to 96.
23. Noah and his family and all of the animals would have died within hours due to severe sepsis! Pages 96 to 98.
24. Squaring the circle and the evil within the character of God (Yahweh). Pages 98 to 105.
25. Original sin and punishing people for the crimes of others. Pages 105 to 113.
26. The disastrous nature of the four Gospels and the mythical figure of Jesus Christ. Pages 113 to 138.
27. The failure of the faith mechanism. Pages 138 to 140.
28. The diabolical nature of slavery in the Bible. Pages 140 to 146.
29. Contemporary writers of the time who make no mention of Jesus Christ anywhere. Pages 147 to 159.

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

30. The total and complete failure of the Ten Commandments (bronze-aged mistakes). Pages 159 to 173.
31. The words of the covenant the Ten Commandments. Pages 173 to 181.
32. A final look at biblical failures, the nonexistent Exodus from Egypt. Page 182.
33. A brief consideration of homosexuality. Pages 183 to 184.
34. Nature or nurture? Pages 184 to 185.
35. So, what about religion and the Bible with respect to homosexuality? Pages 185 to 187.
36. The universal failure of supernatural claims; the supernatural zero integral. Pages 187 to 188.
37. A quick tangent to the story so far. Pages 188 to 189.
38. Back to our evaluation of supernatural claims. Pages 190 to 194.
39. The problem of evil in religion. Pages 194 to 199.
40. So, what is the Carbonological nature of a god? Pages 199 to 207.
41. A thought experiment, imagine you are God! Pages 207 to 237.
42. So, let's get back to Humanism and Carbonology; in other words, let's get back to reasonable, justifiable, empathic, logical human thinking! Pages 237 to 249.
43. We must contemplate something strange and disturbing to bring this book towards an end. Pages 249 to 253.
44. A profound observation about the Universe. Pages 253 to 258.
45. The Drake equation and alien life in the Universe; a final thought about Carbonology. Pages 258 to 260.
46. Carbonological morality and the Gibbs equation. Pages 260 to 271.
47. The logical absolutes and Carbonology. Page 272.
48. The nature of Carbonological evidence; the method for establishing truth. Pages 272 to 276.
49. Pleasure (freedom) and religious dogma. Pages 276 to 278.
50. The Big Bang and time immemorial and the formation of atomic carbon and therefore life, from nuclear recycling (nucleogenesis; nucleosynthesis). Pages 279 to 283.
51. The Miller Urey experiment supports Carbonology as the basic pattern of life and the nature of abiogenesis. Pages 283 to 288.
52. Extraterrestrial carbon sources. Pages 288 to 290.
53. Protocells and the formation of the first cells. Pages 290 to 292.
54. The scientific method made simple. Pages 292 to 297.
55. So, here is a final summary of Carbonism and religion. Page 298 to 300.
56. Index and references. Pages 301 to 306.

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Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

The Carbonist manifesto, Humanism and my atheism.

I have been a Humanist for over 30 years and feel very passionate about human beings. Having had a very intense Christian upbringing, I became an atheist at 13 and have felt very passionate about this position over the past three decades. I am a scientist with 30 years in the scientific field (at this point) in analytical chemistry, microbiology, medical physics and theoretical and experimental biology and pharmaceutical science.

I have also taught mathematics and science for twelve years, inspiring many students to accept a Humanist philosophy and use science and reason to explain our world.

When I started to learn science at a higher level, my tendency to call myself a *naturalist* blossomed, and I am convinced that there are no gods or any form of supernatural at all. The supernatural is the consequence of the human imagination and a truly powerful phenomenon. As a result, it certainly separates humans from other animals.

We are the only animals who know that one day we will die, it is part of the human condition!

It is only through the human mind that we have the ability to imagine a different type of physics. Or a different set of physical laws and their strange predictive consequences. This is great for the human level of organisation, which is breathtakingly advanced in the 21st century.

For example, imagine gravity pushing and not pulling, repulsive, not attractive. I can do it in my mind right now, and everything is ripped apart in a huge explosion, but this is not evident in Nature. Therefore, this simply does not happen at all. The laws of physics are beautifully and blissfully constant all over the Universe.

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

We always find the same thing day-after-day, year-after-year, and no supernatural, just human imagination. And every day, humans wake up to challenge the laws of physics, and every night we go to bed without incident! It is human inventiveness with our powerful imaginations that has allowed people to invent:

Gods, goddesses, witches, wizards, fairies, vampires, werewolves, ghosts, poltergeists, imps, leprechauns, angels, devils, demons and so on...

I would have said *Big Foot* and the *Lock Ness Monster*. Only they are more likely because they have very little power and are based on life.

A large hairy human-like being living in wild woods somewhere is infinitely more convincing than a god who has maximal power and presence even though there is no presence at all, making the notion a farce and contradictory. Also, the *Loch Ness Monster* is a large aquatic dinosaur. Although outrageously unlikely, it is a more acceptable hypothesis than a god.

- **Very big claims require extensive independent demonstration and verification.**
- **Things asserted without evidence can be rejected without evidence.**

If it is a big claim, such as the existence of a god, and the evidence is ideas in an ancient book, this is the case for the Bible. This does not qualify it as an independent demonstration and verification. The problem is that you can't verify any of the content at all; it cannot be investigated and must be rejected on that basis. Any other dogma of the same type, i.e. a book, must also satisfy science and never does, has or can. **To understand *Carbonism*, we must start by looking at the *theory of Carbonology*.**

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

So, how did I come up with Carbonology?

What was my eureka moment?

So, I left this section at the start of this book. Before explaining my eureka moment details, I didn't want to confuse the reader with science. This section is designed to allow the reader to understand this prominent and extraordinary phenomenon. I am a theoretical Carbonologist with decades of experience in science, and as such, I always want to give a robust scientific argument for the things I do and the claims I make.

The best way to achieve this is to explain the *theory of Carbonology*. This is the explanation for all life in the Universe. At this present time, scientists have no idea how *abiogenesis* comes about. Abiogenesis is the scientific word for the *origins of life*. So, Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection describes what happens *after* life has formed but has no direct accurate explanatory power for how life starts or how to define what life is.

The following explanation satisfies the requirements of *abiogenesis* and explains, I think, very simply, what actually goes on and, more importantly, how we can best describe life in the Universe. The *theory of Carbonology* applies to ALL LIFE in the Universe, not just what happens on planet Earth.

So, it's a significant theory that identifies life's blueprints and mechanisms by which it comes about. To achieve this, I have found over time that the best way is to simply explain to the reader how I came up with it. Basically, to describe what my *eureka moment* was.

So, that's what I have done here. I hope this illustration will help to clarify the explanations further on. You will find that the reason for this extraordinary physiological phenomenon is very, very simple indeed. As a scientist, simplicity is fundamental, especially if you are talking to someone without a scientific education.

Humans are pattern-seeking animals (we need a *carbon blueprint*).

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

I am also going to explain the *world-view* of *Carbonism*, as this theory is so foundational to all life that it can be used to describe and understand any aspect of the living world, either on planet Earth or in the broader Universe. Basically, for life forms found anywhere else in the Universe, the process will be amazingly similar to what we find on planet Earth. So, I hope you find the following explanations useful and exciting and thought-provoking.

It all started 32 years ago when I was studying organic chemistry at college. We had our first lecture on organic chemistry, and the lecturer started by saying that organic chemistry is the chemistry of *carbon* and the basis of all life. That carbon was the key and that all life came out of this type of chemistry. He said we are *carbon-based life forms*. The first thing he did was to say that he would create an illustration of a *carbon atom* on the blackboard.

So, I thought, if carbon is the fundamental pattern of life could I see my own body in this diagram he was about to create on the blackboard? At this point, **no one on this planet could explain why we have a brain, a head, a torso, and limbs**. We needed a base pattern, a *blueprint for life*, to explain this, so my hypothesis was:

Does this illustration of a *carbon atom* match my body shape and organisation in any comparable way?

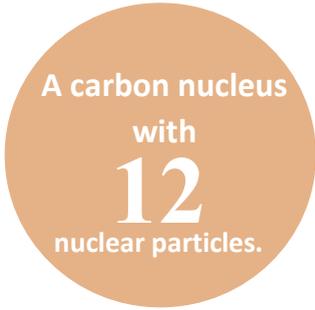
This hypothesis was my revelation, my *eureka moment*.

The lecturer started his diagram by saying that a carbon atom has a nucleus at its heart containing 12 particles called neutrons and protons. Well, straight away, I thought my head and my brain had all the properties of a nucleus. After all, it controls my body, but I also knew that the whole brain and nervous system was based on *12, yes, 12 cranial nerves*. So, straight away, the numbers matched perfectly for the brain/nucleus hypothesis comparison. He went further, saying that this nucleus is housed in an *energy level*, a region of space around the *nucleus* called the *K Shell*, and it contains two

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

particles called *electrons*. We were told this is a stable region in carbon.

Nuclei are positively charged, and so is the brain.



Lecturers diagram.

Is a brain a huge carbon nucleus?

Called the **nuclear level or nuclear protocol.**



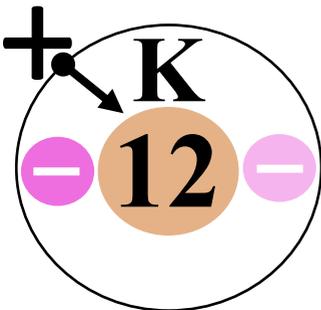
CARBON BLUEPRINT.



A human being.

I realised that I had two eyes in orbit around my brain. Could this be related to the *K Shell*? Perhaps my eyes were related to the *K Shell* electrons? I also realised my head (nucleus) was attached to my torso, which was a stable region of my body. Could my eyes and trunk be my equivalent *K Shell*? After all, my torso had two centres, the genital area and the heart (the other organs are not considered at this stage if you are wondering). The line on the symbols is a *minus sign* because electrons are powerfully negatively charged.

The nucleus is positively charged, and so is the brain.



Lecturers diagram.

Called the **ground state.**

CARBON BLUEPRINT.



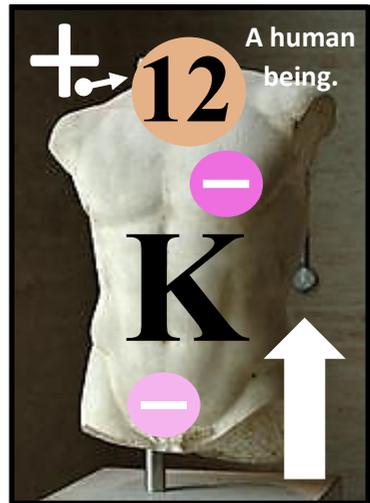
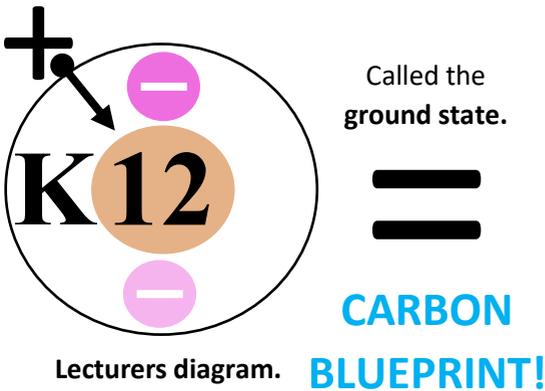
Highly stable!



A human being.

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The answer to life seemed to have been staring at us for the past hundred years of atomic physics. Commonly, the simplest explanation for a natural phenomenon is right in front of us, and yet we can't see it no matter how hard we try. In this case, it seemed very clear to me what life was really all about and why we look and function in the way we do. We call ourselves *carbon-based life forms*, so why shouldn't we get our anatomy and physiology from the humble yet amazing carbon atom?



A highly stable state!

The lecturer told us that around the K Shell was a broader region of space called the L Shell, also known as the *valance shell*.

My colleagues and I were informed that this region contained four electrons which form bonds with four other atoms, and I realised I had four limbs which allowed me to bond with my environment in much the same way.

Again the four bonds for the carbon atom and the four limbs on my body were a perfect match, everything was falling into place, and the

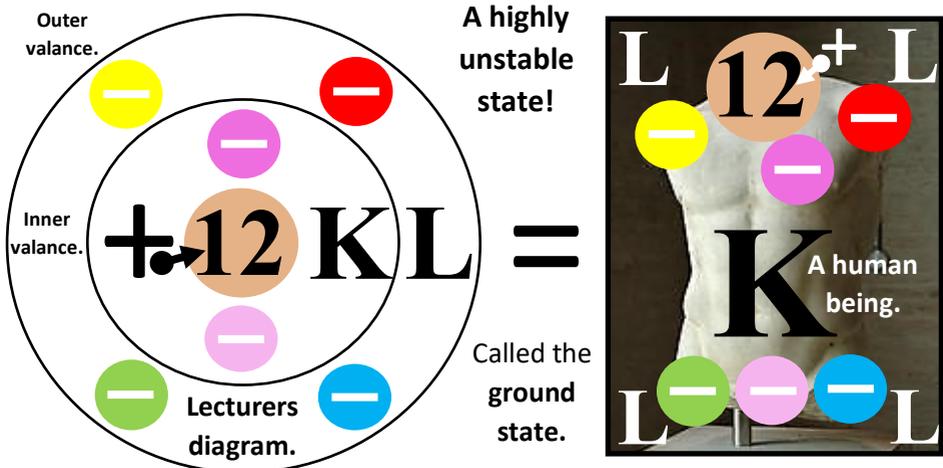
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symmetry was terrific. This condition forms the *ground state* in carbon (the torso in a human).

I noticed that if my arms were substantial covalent carbon bonds, then it should create *sharing bonds*. Of course, if you think about it, that is clearly what my arm and hand do. When I hold something in my hand, I bond with it, and the bond is a sharing bond which is what we find. Limbs, hands and feet are simply enormous covalent bonds (the *Electroweak Standard Model*).

This amplification effect occurs due to covalent bonding in carbon-based reactions. So, the physical nature of life appears to have its fundamental origins in carbon and its astonishingly breathtaking properties. It makes perfect sense that this explains life in full!

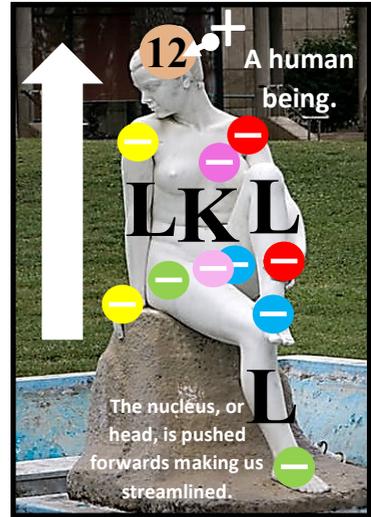
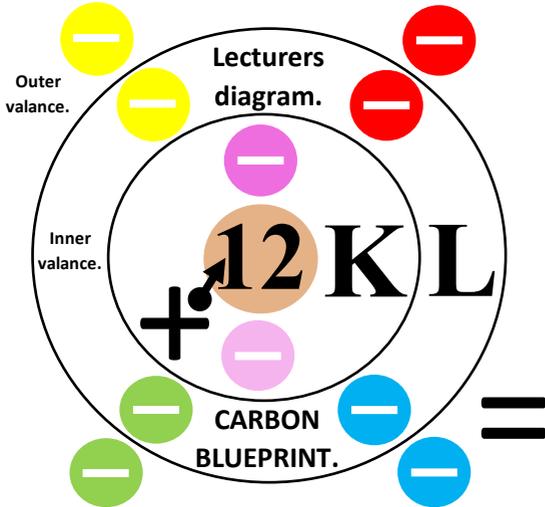
So, we don't find huge *protons* or *neutrons* or *electrons*. Instead, what we see are vast numbers of these particles working in conjunction with each other. Also, because of the abundance of carbon in the Universe, the Universe is teeming with life (the *Drake equation*).



CARBON BLUEPRINT.

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Then the lecturer told us that the *L Shell* (valance shell) could hold 8 electrons by bonding to four other atoms giving an *octet*. I realised that my limbs had two components, the upper and lower segments, which added up to 8, again a perfect match!



The pattern fits any animal or plant.

12
 6 *Carbon*

Z⁺ ¹²**Carbon**
₆
Equus caballus

K Shell
n=1

L Shell
n=2

The L valance shell.

L Shell
n=2

The nucleus in the animals is the brain, both carbon atom and carbon animal have a major factor of 12 in them!

The image features a white horse in profile, facing left. Overlaid on the horse are several elements: a 'Z+' symbol near the head; the text '12 Carbon' and 'Equus caballus' in the upper right; a 'K Shell n=1' label with a large 'K' and 'n=1' in the center, surrounded by five colored circles (yellow, pink, red, blue, green) with minus signs; an 'L Shell n=2' label with a large 'L' and 'n=2' on the left, with two colored circles (yellow, red) with minus signs; another 'L Shell n=2' label with a large 'L' and 'n=2' on the right, with two colored circles (blue, green) with minus signs; and the text 'The L valance shell.' in the lower center.

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¹²₆ **Carbon**

Shoots

L Shell
 $n=2$

L Shell
 $n=2$

K Shell
 $n=1$

L Shell
 $n=2$

Z+

L Shell
 $n=2$

Roots

The seed is the nucleus in the plants.

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$^{12}_6\text{Carbon}$

The image features a wooden mannequin with several colored circles and text labels overlaid on it. The circles are: a red circle on the right hand, a yellow circle on the left shoulder, a purple circle on the right shoulder, a red circle on the right elbow, a yellow circle on the left hand, a green circle on the left hip, a purple circle on the right hip, a blue circle on the right hip, a green circle on the left leg, and a blue circle on the right leg. Text labels include: Z^+ on the head, L Shell $n=2$ on the right arm, L Shell $n=2$ on the left arm, K Shell $n=1$ on the torso, and L Shell $n=2$ on the legs. Each circle contains a minus sign.

Z^+

L Shell $n=2$

L Shell $n=2$

K Shell $n=1$

L Shell $n=2$

Even technology is Carbonological!

Designed to fit around naturally occurring carbon-patterns.

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

¹²₆ Carbon

So, the recipe for all life (blueprint), such as animals, plants and technology, is found all over the Universe. Carbon is the 4th most abundant element in the entire Universe (mass). This makes life very probable all over the Universe!

Brain 12
Z+
Body 6

L Shell
n=2

2

47

L Shell
n=2

K Shell
n=1

The numbers and colours represent the different relative strengths of carbon bonds. I can curl (arms) 50 pounds and squat (legs) 300 pounds. That is a 1:6 ratio identical to a carbon atom's bond strength ratio.

5 6
38

L Shell
n=2

L Shell
n=2

All the variations in life come from slight changes in 6 numbers 1, 2, 5, 6, 38, and 47.

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Deuterostomes have a reverse distribution of carbon bond energies.

Nucleus

Brain 12

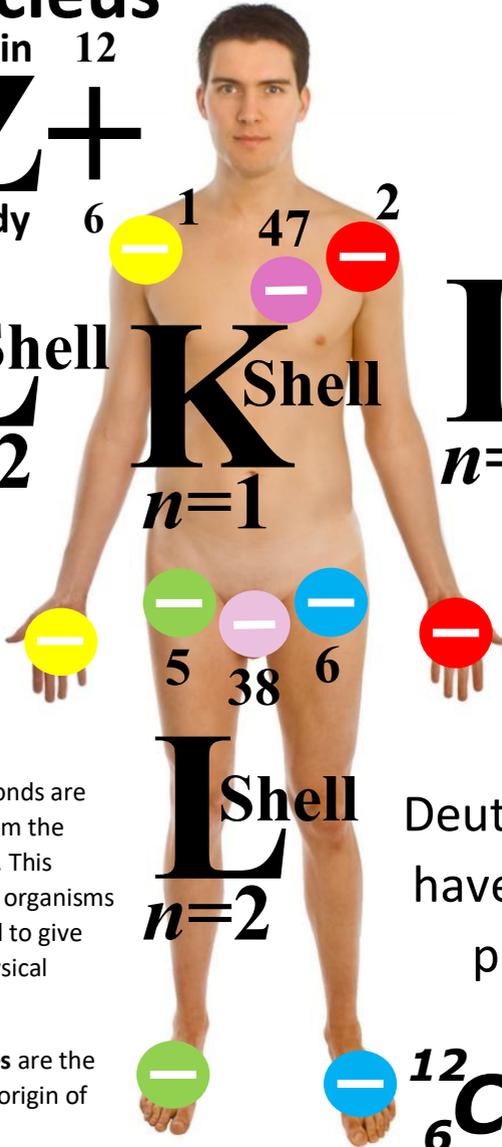
Z +

Body 6

L Shell
 $n=2$

K Shell
 $n=1$

L Shell
 $n=2$



The strongest bonds are further away from the nucleus or head. This inversion allows organisms to get larger and to give them better physical control.

The **Protostomes** are the inverse and the origin of this effect.

Deuterostomes have a **spin up** protocol.

$^{12}_6\text{Carbon}$

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Mark Andrew Janes is presented below as his alias **Mr Carbon Atom**, an educational tool for demonstrating the **theory of Carbonology**.



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With a comprehensive understanding of natural scientific law, I find accepting any claims of supernatural phenomena physically impossible. I have seen the power of the scientific method in all its extraordinary and highly demonstrable ways and find great comfort in my breathtaking honesty and beliefs. Below is the definition of *Humanism*.

Humanism is a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasises the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally prefers critical thinking and evidence (rationalism and empiricism) over the acceptance of dogma or superstition. The meaning of the name *Humanism* has fluctuated according to the successive intellectual movements identified with it. The term was coined by theologian Friedrich Niethammer at the beginning of the 19th century to refer to a system of education based on the study of classical literature (*classical Humanism*). Generally, however, Humanism refers to a perspective that affirms human freedom and progress. It views humans as solely responsible for promoting and developing individuals and emphasises a concern for humanity concerning the world. In modern times, Humanist movements are typically non-religious extremely peaceful movements aligned with secularism. Today, Humanism typically refers to a nontheistic, often atheistic, antitheistic, or agnostic life stance centred on human agency and looking to science rather than revelation from a supernatural source to understand the world.

Secularity is derived from the word *secular*, which comes from the Latin *saeculum* meaning *worldly, of a generation, temporal*, or a span of about 100 years. It is the state of being separate from religion or not being exclusively allied with or against any religion. Historically, the word *secular* was not related or linked to religion but was a freestanding Latin term relating to any mundane endeavour. The idea of a dichotomy between religion and the secular originated in the *European Enlightenment*. Furthermore, since *religion* and *secular* are both Western concepts that were formed under the influence of Christian theology, other cultures do not necessarily have words or concepts that resemble or are equivalent to them. In many cultures, little conceptual or practical distinction is made between *natural* and *supernatural phenomena*. And the very notions of *religious* and *nonreligious* dissolve into

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unimportance or nonexistence, especially since people believe in other supernatural or spiritual things irrespective of belief in gods.

Conceptions of what is and what is not religion vary in contemporary East Asia as well. The shared term for *irreligion* or *no religion* with which the majority of East Asian populations identify themselves implies non-membership in one of the institutional religions (such as Buddhism and Christianity). But not necessarily non-belief in traditional folk religions collectively represented by Chinese *Shendao* and Japanese *Shinto* (both meaning *ways of gods*). In modern Japan, religion has a negative connotation since it is associated with foreign belief systems. So many identify as *nonreligious* (*mushukyo*), but this does not mean they have a complete rejection or absence of beliefs and rituals relating to supernatural, metaphysical, or spiritual things.

One can regard eating and bathing as examples of secular activities because there may not be anything inherently religious about them. Nevertheless, some religious traditions see both eating and bathing as sacraments, therefore making them religious activities within those world views.

Saying a prayer derived from religious text or doctrine, worshipping through the context of religion, and attending a religious school are examples of religious (non-secular) activities.

The *secular* is experienced in diverse ways, from the separation of religion and state to being anti-religion or even pro-religion, depending on the culture. For example, the United States has both separation of church and state and pro-religiosity in various forms, such as the protection of religious freedoms. France has a separation of church and state, and Revolutionary France was strongly anti-religious. The Soviet Union was anti-religion. In India, people feel comfortable identifying as secular while participating in religion. And in Japan, since the concept of *religion* is not indigenous to Japan, people state they have no religion while doing what appears to be religion to Western eyes. A related term, *secularism*, involves the principle that government institutions and their representatives should remain

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separate from religious institutions, their beliefs, and their dignitaries. Many businesses and corporations and some governments operate on secular lines. This contrasts theocracy, **a government with single or multiple gods as its highest authority.**

In my opinion, Humanism can be simplified dramatically into a straightforward identity:

Humanism = Carbonism = A life of brutal honesty!

A tendency to embrace critical thinking, the scientific method and a complete lack of reliance on *faith* for anything; **rejection of lies.** Humanists have very good reasons for what they believe in and are fundamentally peaceful and loving by nature and reason. And now we have Carbonology to add abiogenesis to the Humanist worldview, by extension, to Carbonism.

The following are some statements and pronouncements I make about Humanism and Carbonism. I have presented them as statements of my beliefs and hopes for the future of humanity on planet Earth.

- 1. As a Humanist, I would take an uncomfortable truth over a comfortable lie any day of the week!**
- 2. As a Humanist, I want to experience as many true things as possible in my life and as few false things as possible. This is the Humanist mantra!**
- 3. I want to look to science to answer all our questions, solve our problems, and produce a beautiful future for all humanity!**
- 4. I want to live in a completely peaceful world where things are so good that we want to bring more people into this world as a result! No barbarism and a philosophy of peace and love.**
- 5. This is the only life you know you'll get, so make the most of every second, celebrate every day you have, don't waste a minute, and live and celebrate humanity and carbon life!**

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

- 6. Amplify the extreme beautiful and sublime goodness in the human carbon condition, but never ever forget the bad!**
- 7. The truth is that most of the carbon human race loves their families and friends; they work hard and live decent lives and deserve basic respect!**
- 8. Humans deserve all the freedoms and opportunities possible.**
- 9. We must share space together and cooperate!**
- 10. As a Humanist, I see no race, colour, creed, religion, or gender, just carbon human beings, and that is enough for me!**
- 11. I will tentatively treat all carbon humans (Homocarbonoids) with the same respect and grant trust tentatively!**
- 12. I would fight for people's right to believe whatever they want to. Therefore I would fight for people's right to religion!**
- 13. Things are either likely or unlikely!**
- 14. Belief is not and has never been a choice, you are either convinced by something or you're not!**
- 15. How you act on your beliefs produces judgment from your peers!**
- 16. The right for me to swing my arm ends at your nose, and we must respect space and act peacefully to promote carbon growth!**
- 17. This is the most exciting century ever. Revel in that fact. What a time to be alive in the 21st century, what change we will see and enjoy! Coronavirus has reduced these opportunities.**
- 18. The following human enemies unite everybody: Poverty, hunger, thirst, parasites, pathogens, war, pestilence, natural disaster, ageing, death, cancer, and Coronavirus are our true universal enemies, not each other. That's preposterous!**
- 19. When I do good things, I feel good; when I do bad things, I feel bad. I don't like feeling bad! This is the only moral algorithm I need to live my life.**
- 20. Nothing fails like prayer! You are talking to yourself!**
- 21. Knowledge is a subset of belief.**

Carbonism - The Ultimate Worldview.

- 22. The supernatural is unfalsifiable and untestable. So, no one can know it; it isn't true and cannot be a rational justifiable belief.**
- 23. The plural of anecdote is not and has never been data.**

I think this is why people of faith do not like Humanists, and as such atheists, we are far too honest about the nature of reality for someone with an empty, baseless, ignorant faith-based position. Humanists embrace reason and evidence to explain the world we live in. Humanists believe in the scientific method and derive great comfort from the unbiased, true view of the natural world. A Humanist also holds no belief in any supernatural phenomenon for the simple reason that there has never been a validated demonstration of any supernatural claim ever made.

It seems strange that billions of people today embrace something so demonstrably false about Nature as absolute truth. Humanism is growing fast as the emergence of the Internet has educated people on the lack of truth associated with supernatural and theological claims. Science is discovering new things every day, and our scientific understanding of Nature is quite literally breathtaking. We can explain most things in Nature today, and with the emergence of Carbonology, we now have a natural explanation of how life comes about. I genuinely feel that Carbonology is the ideal addition to Darwinian Evolution, giving Humanists a purely scientific explanation for how life can form anywhere in the Universe. Humanists can benefit from this discovery as it explains abiogenesis, which until now has not been fully resolved. We need a better, more detailed biochemistry pathway to finish abiogenesis.

Humanists can look to Carbonology as the last piece of the life puzzle explaining how life comes about and its origin, with only pre-Big Bang explanations still missing. There are, however, many explanations for this, such as the Big Bounce. I believe in the Big Bounce idea because when a universe dies (ours has trillions and trillions of years left in it), it reaches thermal equilibrium, and when a universe comes into being, it also starts with *thermal equilibrium*. It is believed that when a universe dies, it is just above *absolute zero* and is full of dilute heat photons.

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So, *no clocks* in that universe, and Einstein's field equation changes as there is no gravity in that universe and, therefore, no space-time curvature, just photons that have no change in time. It is possible that such a dead universe may instantaneously contract and compress into an infinitely dense singularity which momentarily equals zero, no energy, no time, no space, and no laws of physics. Then it explodes into a new universe with the laws coalescing into space and time, establishing the fundamental constants.



A Humanist perspective is, by nature, not racist, not sexist, and not biased to any other label. It is a position of pure peacefulness at one with carbon humanity, and it makes us think clearly about the world.

$^{12}_6\text{Carbon}$

**This planet isn't
special or unique, it's
probably very
common in the
Universe.**

**We aren't the centre
of a god-based
universe, we are
quite alone in this
universe!**

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Initially, we find thermal equilibrium as a special condition that lasts very briefly before inflationary mechanisms kick in to allow matter to form from pure energy. It is worth mentioning that the singularity idea has been adopted and then dropped from the early Universe. It is also worth pointing out that the instant at which a dead universe becomes literally *nothing* is in keeping with our understanding of our universe, where all energy adds up to zero. Positive energy comes from electromagnetic forces, and negative energy comes from gravitational forces. When we add it all up, it comes to zero, so a universe needs no energy to come into being, which leads to an interesting paradox about the nature of existence. The paradox is as follows:

The paradox of existence = everything we know is actually nothing!

Our investigation into atoms has clearly demonstrated this bizarre effect of Nature. Atoms are mostly empty space, and in fact, they are:

>99.99999999% empty!

The total energy of the Universe = zero

To me, the Big Bounce makes a lot of sense as it is a hypothesis at the moment, although ideas such as *String theory* may give us a better understanding of this important point. A life, death, life, death process infinitely driven for the wider Cosmos seems a reasonable hypothesis. The thermal equilibrium condition appears at the end. This makes sense as it is a continuous oscillation on a Cosmic scale. Universes may have gender properties which explain polarisation in existence and fusion and fission events again on a Cosmic scale. It is also very important to state that at no point has science ever claimed to understand *pre-Big Bang* phenomena. We simply don't know the answer to this problem yet, and it remains the one area where we have no complete explanation. We continue to explore, but we can account for the Universe just a fraction of a second after the Big Bang

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and explain matter formation by nucleosynthesis (nucleogenesis) and inflation to condensation by bombardment and accretion into galaxies, planets, moons, etc. ***This leads to life on Earth at our position here.***

It may be that the quantum fluctuations that make the Universe heterogeneous kick in very early on in the Universe and stop the Universe from being perfectly symmetrical which would be very beautiful but would not produce the complex and diverse Universe we all observe. Perhaps as one universe dies and starts another universe, the Cosmos itself may need a fee of one *Planck constant of energy*. It could be that just a small amount of energy is required at the beginning of a universe to stimulate quantum fluctuations and differentiation into complex galaxies. It is also worth stating that at no point in the history of scientific enquiry have we found any suggestion of formulating *intelligence* behind it. We see an inanimate universe appallingly challenging to all life, where over >99% of the Universe is totally hostile to life. The sheer size of the Universe is so breathtakingly massive that to think that planet Earth is the centre is poposterous.

It is very likely through the *theory of Carbonology* that life probably exists all over the Universe and maybe one of the most common phenomena in the Universe. It is also important to realise that although I personally believe the night sky has life in all directions, we may never realise this because of the size of the Universe. Life exists on little islands where planets have liquid water on their surface and long periods of stability over billions of years.

Another aspect of the Universe is time and the vastness of time. Everywhere we look in the Universe, we see time stretching out like a blade, everything from geology to biology to astronomy all point to billions of years in time.

This completely eliminates the 6 to 10 thousand-year claims made by creationists, which is a completely unjustifiable and nonsensical position to hold. We can easily disprove the creationist's position by looking at our sun and its life. Physicists can measure the amount of fuel in our sun and calculate the rate at which it eats through its hydrogen fuel. When they run

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the models, it predicts that our sun alone has a few billion years left on its clock.

We also know for an absolute fact that all the heavier elements, including carbon and, therefore, life, are manufactured in dying stars.

So, based on this logic, if a sun has to live and die to make all the elements in my body, and we have calculated that our sun has billions of years left in it, we can conclude that suns or stars live for billions of years. So, if a sun had to live and die to make me, billions of years must have passed before I was born. Ergo, the Universe is billions of years old, not 6 to 10 thousand years old. This is a non-trivial error and shows how wrong classical theism is when describing Nature accurately, particularly time itself.



The heavy elements including carbon are made when a star goes supernova.

A star must live and die in order to make me, and suns don't come close to living for thousands of years!

The Bible is an excellent example of ancient literature, but it isn't a historically factual account of the past. This is the first Christian scam I bought into as a child! My mother has always been a very religious, wholly devout Christian, morally sound, philanthropic, charitable individual of great ethical substance. As a result, I had a rigorous and extensive religious upbringing, being involved in the Church and applying it to us at school. I became a reader, I was confirmed and took the Holy Communion each week,

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I was also a server and altar and choir boy, so my experience was extensive. I said my prayers every night and never gave it much thought. At this point, I believe that the vast number of devoutly religious people are pious and humble in their dedication to their beliefs. In other words, I do respect their position, but it's the 21st century, and these systems make huge claims. People are inherently good for the most part, and it is always sad when someone like myself doesn't agree with their position and feels the need to criticise them. Faith is very tentative because, by its definition, *faith* is a position based on really bad evidence, and people's hopes and dreams of a heaven where they can meet up with their loved ones is unjustifiable. I don't want to shake anyone's faith, which is why I support people's right to freedom of religion and thought. I don't wake up worrying about the *Church of England* and its followers because they cause no obvious harm. However, other religions cause harm and have their world views dedicated to the hatred of others who are simply different. I have seen perfectly pious, dedicated, sincere theists dedicating their lives to their beliefs and spending large amounts of their time and money on this cause. However, these good, decent, honest, loving people, when asked:

“Do atheists deserve to be tortured forever because they are physically incapable of believing in an empty, vapid, vague belief system with poor to no evidence?” These loving people will say, **“Yes, they should be tortured forever!”** This is a terrible state of affairs; it poisons their minds and makes them quite evil.

- So, when people say this is the word of God, well, God doesn't appear to have ever requested it. **Where does it say this?**
- Also, Marcion of Sinope was the first individual to suggest the creation of a cannon and a bible, a book by committee with centuries of editing and manipulation. No eyewitnesses, nothing.
- This is not the word of a god, and this is a purely human activity. Things were voted in and out, and humans made all of this up.

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So, even though these people are sincere and apparently peaceful, their religion makes them behave in an appalling set of very evil ways. Ideas that they don't think are evil and harmful and instead feel that they are inclusive and necessary. If you are embracing faith as a pathway to the truth, you cannot differentiate between any religion, and in theory, you should believe in all of them. If faith can take you down a true or false pathway, then what use is it in finding the truth of our existence? Faith is the excuse I used as a child when I had no good reasons for my beliefs. Looking back, I was gullible, but I was also a child then, and when I became a man, I put away these childish things. For me, religion was the first thing to go once I was given a choice, and I am glad my mother gave me this choice at 15.

Another unfortunate consequence of this worldview is that it builds up false hope and forces people to ignore the truth of Nature and instead adopt a very violent and hateful set of ideas created by uneducated, terrified peasants from the Bronze Age. By the way, they don't think their beliefs are violent, harmful, evil, or anything bad. They have been brainwashed to such an enormous degree and are told not to question to such an extent that they accept diabolical doctrines. I always had a problem with the source of these ideas, even as a child, and couldn't understand how people could use the word *love* in the context of the Bible. How can a loving person say yes to the idea of people being tortured forever, and how do these people live like slaves in this way? Why is this satisfying to anyone?

Another very sad aspect of this affair occurs when diligent pious believers say, "As an atheist, how do you get through the day?" They will say they couldn't get through the day without *Jesus*. What an incredibly depressing and sad state of affairs to think people cannot find meaning in their everyday lives without the *profoundly pitiful magic man in the sky wishes*.

As I did as a child, these people fail to realise that people are the best reason for getting up and living their lives. Humans are real, and they are completely demonstrable. Most people get through the day with human contact and don't need totally indemonstrable religious views that offer no hope to get through the day.

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This is why Humanism and now Carbonism is so important in a world where religion is causing so much harm. For example, people in Africa would not be killing their children because a witch doctor told them to do so because they are supernatural witches. The Catholic Church has been telling uneducated Africans in AIDS-ridden areas not to wear condoms which is diabolical and makes Catholicism into a criminal enterprise promoting suffering in the name of Jesus. This is another terrible component of the victim-abuser Christian relationship. The extensive child abuse in the Church is absolutely foul, with the Church moving paedophile priests from one area to another so they can keep raping children and not hurt the reputation of the Church. This makes the Catholic Church, in particular, a criminal organisation that cares more about the Church's image than the raping of children. The amount of suffering that has come from religions is well documented and continues today. Humanists can't even begin to get their heads around such breathtaking ignorance and evil in the name of Jesus and other deities, dressed up as love but imposed by barbaric threats of torture. **It is so sad.**

This is why Humanism needs to grow rapidly in the modern world as we need a level head with people whose philosophy in life is to love and embrace human beings, and to reject any form of supernatural claims completely. We need rationality to grow as much as possible in the new world of the 21st century and encourage all religions to abandon their failed positions. I class myself as an anti-theist; I hope that religion completely dies during the 21st century. I also class myself as a:

***De facto* atheist. Very low probability, but short of zero. I don't know for certain, but I think gods are improbable, and I assume they are not there. However, the concept of a god can be understood.**

This is on the Richard Dawkins scale of atheism, and if he had a non-integer scale (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 is an integer scale), I would be something close to a 6.9 on the scale. I am convinced there are no gods for many reasons that I will discuss later in this book. So, for now, I am a six on his scale and hope more and more people join this movement of extraordinary honesty. As atheists, we are not saying there are no gods. We are just rejecting the poor evidence