

Division 1

Hello! Let me introduce myself! I am the Element! Let me clarify something. I am a deity in the Universe. I am one of the great ones, and I was around at the moment of the Big Bang! I am not the only deity and, quite honestly, this is not the only Universe! There are many of them! How are you reading this? Since the beginning of Time, I have had a hand in shaping what the Cosmos looks like! I took nebulae and condensed them! I created stars, and I formed galaxies! Has it occurred to you why humans use signatures to seal documents and make them legally official? It's because each human is unique! Like fingerprints, each signature has its own characteristics! As a deity in our Universe, shaping galaxies is no different! I have a particular slant in the way I'd like them to wind up! There were other deities at the moment of the Big Bang, and they did their own things! Some went in opposite directions, and others were side-by-side next to me! Some of them I liked, while others got on my nerves!

You can think of a nebula as a large wall in a bustling city. Buildings are popping up here and there. As a city grows, wealthy people are attracted to it! Who doesn't want something that's new? Who doesn't want to be part of something that's vibrant and full of optimism? People flock in, they become part of their community through a city hall and local newspapers, and they pass laws, ordinances, and regulations! They create a culture! They're proud of what they've done, and decades start to pass! More buildings pop up! There is overcrowding and urban decay! Somewhere in the distance, there is a brand new city barely tasting the limelight! In your city, things are breaking down! Rich people leave to join a suburb, or they join that brand new city in the distance! There goes the neighborhood! As the rich people leave, poor people move in to use up, dilapidated houses! Apartments pop up instead of two-story homes! It's a vicious cycle, and crime becomes part of everyday life!

We were talking about thinking of a nebula as a large wall in a bustling city, though! As cities physically decay, regard for social norms and customs also decay! That huge white wall on the side of a building? Somebody decides, "That wall would look much better if I spray paint my name on the side of it! Maybe I'll even scribble in something clever and funny so I can bring my friends here! They can have a great laugh!" So pretty soon everybody gets the same idea! They paint their names on the same wall, and they add graphics which might be profound or funny. At the beginning of urban decay, the authorities might try to fight it! They might come along during the day and paint over the names and designs! It's a beautiful

white wall again, and the local newspapers might publish new laws from city hall about curbing graffiti! This doesn't stop the phenomenon, though! As a city experiences more and more poverty and wealthy elites flee, the graffiti happens more often to the point that city hall stops trying to fight it!

A nebula is like a large wall in a city because it starts off as a clean slate! Over time, somebody comes by and gives it some personality! They spray paint their name, but that doesn't mean they own the wall! Others come by! Some write mundane things while others create true works of art! Though illegal by city hall standards, they create murals they believe the public would appreciate! They believe their work will stand!

I have travelled around this great Universe of ours, and I've taken blank slate nebulae here and there, and I've put my stamps on them! I can't control what becomes of them, though. Other deities are out there, and they want to have their own say! "Clapton is God" was painted in the Islington neighborhood of London in the mid sixties! People loved it, and others painted it elsewhere! So there's a karma factor in this whole process! You can paint your name on the side of a wall, and can return the next day and somebody might've added "is a fag" next to your name! People have different senses of humor!

For billions of years, I've preferred to be the first to ascribe my figurative name to the different blank slates across the Universe. That got old, though. I learned to roam around and appreciate other deity's work! I'd only add my name to a blank slate if I liked the vibe, and if I wanted to stick around. My favorite galaxy so far is the Milky Way! I did not start this one! I was happy to come along and put my own touches on it! Somebody formed your Sun, and they shaped your Earth! My contribution? I created the Moon! That's right! That was me! I made it the perfect size, and I'm proud of my work! It took a long, long time for fish to evolve flippers which became appendages which became legs, and there was no creature which could yet appreciate what I've done, but my Moon created a cycle of tides. Once animals "carried their own ocean" in the form of blood, they lived off shore and developed more. The best animals were adaptable to sea and land. Dolphins and whales gave up on the land altogether, and returned to life in the ocean. Humans, though? They are special! They lived along the waters, and they could swim as well as walk! They could peer into the sky and appreciate the Moon I hung above their heads! I made it the perfect size so it blocks out the Sun every few years, and the Earth perfectly blocks out my Moon as well!

My point isn't to talk in length about astronomy here, though. We can discuss the Cosmos more at a later time. I am the Element, and I wanted to introduce myself! Have you heard of David Bowie? He also went by Ziggy Stardust, but that's not his birth name! He wasn't Bowie nor Stardust! He was born David Robert Jones in 1947! We take on names by our peers. I created the Moon as a contrary action to whoever created the Sun. If I had to name myself, I would call myself the Contrarian! I hovered over colugos and tree shrews, and I protected them! I guided them! The status quo for millions of years was reptiles! Giant ones! Dinosaurs! They dominated Earth, and only some of them remain today! There are still snakes and crocodiles! My vision was different, though. I allowed the tree shrews to grow to larger sizes. I inspired macaque monkeys to waddle upright in Borneo! I helped humans develop their larynx and gave them opposable thumbs! I was truly Contrarian from the time I entered the Milky Way! I selected groups of humans who inspired me over the centuries, and I helped guide them through their trials. I don't want you to run off just yet, because this might be the first time you've heard these crazy things. This might be quite disturbing to think about if these are brand new ideas to you. Humans created religion to explain my behavior, but I told you I'm not alone. The creator of the Sun? That is Surya. And before Surya, there was Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. The Milky Way, also known to us as Akashganga, was created when Vishnu walked across the Heavens, then Brahma came along and washed his feet. He collected sacred fallen waters in a pot called a Kamandalu. These are technical things we don't necessarily need to expand on just yet, but our galaxy sprung from this. Different deities had their own motivations and methods. Perhaps you have heard this lyric from Breakdown by Guns N' Roses:

If the evil spirit arms the tiger with claws

Brahman provided wings for the dove...

This lyric came from a seventies movie, actually, but that's also a tangent we don't need to get into. The point I need to get across is that there is no supreme deity. Many people are taught that there is, but to the best of my knowledge, there is not. There are a bunch of deities bouncing around, each trying to accomplish something different. We have our favorites. We protect some, and smite others. We have our own tendencies. Brahma likes to create things, and Shiva loves to come along and break shit apart!

I call myself the Contrarian because I love to change directions when I think status quo is not working! If I see a herd of cattle stampeding toward the edge of a cliff, I try to steer them away or stop them! Like I

said, Shiva is out there, and he loves destruction! He whispers in their ears to stampede along! It's so much fun! Why stop a good thing? So I don't always win, but sometimes I do, like with humans. There was a group in the early twentieth century who were doing quite well by society's standards. Another group came along, likely led by Shiva, and told them to create the Federal Reserve in the United States of America. It was a path to World Domination. Customs and norms were destroyed, so I gave hope and solace to a group of rebels who didn't go along with the World Domination plan! This group took on my spirit. They dubbed themselves the Hueristic Order of Lacramose Contrarians. They dubbed me the Element.

I want to mention one final thing. This might sound like common sense, but the Bible did not float down from Heaven and land in somebody's hand. Jesus did not walk around with a Bible in his hands. This was not a common thing until centuries later long after the printing press had been invented. Rather, the Bible was written by multiple authors in multiple languages across multiple centuries. Jesus was a reincarnation of Dhruva who was a disciple of Vishnu. Holy books don't float down from Heaven, though. They are written by humans who listen to the voices of deities. How are you reading this? I have selected my own guy. His name is Brick Jayne. He listens to what I have to say, and he writes it down. If there's a message in this all, it's that everything is deities do isn't meant to be in a church. Most if it's not even good enough for a Barnes & Noble. But if you have time for a Contrarian story, it might be good enough for you.

bubbles in sea

brick jayne as vessel

random vs deliberate