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## The Symphony of the Universe

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When I was fifteen years old, I came to the realization that my religion did not fit my beliefs anymore. I did not believe in a sovereign that ruled over every living thing on the universe, nor in afterlife, not in angels and not in hell. It was very much of a chock, I felt almost groundless. Shortly after my “religious revolution”, I started an intense process of research for an ideology that would fit me. After months of research I decided I did not belong to church anymore, I was an atheist.

However, a question still disturbed me: If there was no maestro to conduct the universe, how was our symphony still playing?

While reading *The Emperor's Handbook*, written by the great Marcus Aurelius, I stumbled across this passage:

40. “Never forget that the universe is a single living organism possessed of one substance and one soul, holding all things suspended in a single consciousness and crating all things with a single purpose that they might work together spinning and weaving and knotting whatever comes to pass.” (Book Four, page 49)

The first idea we get from the passage is that everything in the universe has a purpose. From the quarks inside our atoms, to the gravity that holds the core of our planet together, there is a reason for everything to exist and an objective for everything to fulfill. Their “telos” as Aristotle would say. Enthralled with the thought that everything has a purpose, is the idea that the universe is a living thing, with a mind and a consciousness of its own, so it has the power to unite everything in harmony. The universe does not *need* a ruler because it can rule itself. The passage also suggests that everything connects and works together in one way or another. The things that have happened and the things that are still to happen are winding in a thread that holds the universe together. A timeline of the whole existence of the universe, with as many threads as imaginable connected to it.

Never had I thought of the universe like this. I had the misguided idea that someone, something need to be in charge, that things can't run their course without a leader to guide them. I never had the idea of the universe as a conscious being with one mind and one purpose. I always felt the need to have someone or something responsible for us, maybe

someone I could blame when things went wrong. I came to the understanding that I got the analogy all backwards. The universe was not the orchestra that lacked the maestro, the universe was the maestro; and it conducted all of the sections together to make the symphony that governs the universe.