Is Dark Energy Universal Consciousness?

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Universe has only 5% visible matter. The rest 95% which we cannot see is called dark matter and dark energy. Scientists still do not know what the composition of this dark matter and energy is, why they exist and how they were formed.

However accepted theories suggest that dark energy is the property of space and vacuum and it is this energy which is the cause of expanding universe at an accelerated pace. This fact flies against the accepted gravitational theory of Einstein, which predicts that the expansion of universe is steady, and should slow down for it to collapse for another cycle of big bang and inflation.

Thus some scientists think that there is a flaw in the gravitational theory and a possible correction in it might be able to explain some of the phenomena (though not all) associated with dark energy and expanding universe.

Whatever may be the reason of dark energy's existence; it is the holy grail of physics because its knowledge may explain how gravity works and may even unite the quantum mechanics and gravity and thus provide a Theory of Everything (TOE).

A possible explanation for dark energy could be that the Universe is expanding so that dark energy is converted to visible matter. How long will that continue is not known presently. Since the dark energy constitutes 70% of total universe will it continuously produce matter until it is exhausted or what portion of 70% will remain when the expansion stops and the universe starts contracting; are areas of speculation.

According to ancient Indian philosophy, everything has come from Universal Consciousness and ultimately everything devolves into it. Maybe dark energy is Universal Consciousness.

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Thus according to Adi Shankaracharya as written in his book Vivekachudamani, Akash (or space) is Universal Consciousness from which the Universe is formed. Similarly, sage Patanjali in his yoga sutras says that the Universe exists so that the Universal Consciousness may experience it and get "satisfied". Thus the existence of field or space from which universe is produced and evolves is an accepted fact in Indian philosophy and agrees in some ways with what we know of dark energy.

Similarly, according to Sankhya philosophy (another part of ancient Indian thought) the interaction of Purusha and Prakriti produces matter and the worlds. Purusha is described as omniscient, omnipresent and indivisible entity. Prakriti (nature) which is always active interacts with Purusha to produce worlds. Purusha and Prakriti can be thought to be analogous to space and time respectively.

Sankhya also says that this production of worlds continue until the exhaustion of space takes place since Purusha has experienced and has become satisfied. It appears this line of reasoning and thought is similar to the accepted theories of dark energy, which is supposed to be making the universe expand and assist in the formation of new galaxies.

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