

# Choices in Conceptualizing Our Existence

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## What We Know

We know that we exist together with everything else in the infinite web of material and energetic change. We know that even as a species we are an insignificant speck in this enormous overall universe/multiverse picture. We know there is intelligent extraterrestrial life – even if we are afraid to admit it.

## What We Do Not Know

We do not know the goal/intent/purpose of this infinitely changing web. So, we can not answer the questions of why we exist and if we contribute in some way to this unknown “outcome.”

## What Do We Do In the Midst of This Dynamic?

In this context, we have three major options: 1) retreat into religious beliefs which claim constants and independent purpose and reject the uncertainty of infinite change, or 2) retreat into existentialism and focus at a much smaller scale of existence where we can set our own goals and assess whether we are behaving so as to achieve them, or 3) retreat into the view that the optimum choice is to dwell in the cognitive condition of unification within infinite change.

## Evaluation

None of these options provides an answer to the great WHY question, and the number 1 and 2 retreats have significant secondary potential consequences – some quite negative socially and/or ecologically. #3 avoids these problems, but leaves us with the challenge of establishing just what the cognitive condition of unification is and how we get there collectively while being able to sustain ourselves materially. #1 denies objective reality and can be hugely divisive. #2 accepts objective reality but allows humans to arbitrarily define and limit the goals of existence. #3 asserts that subjective/spiritual reality is of primary importance but unrealistically assumes that humans will be guided by these subjective principles as they pragmatically engage objective reality.

## My Personal Solution

I will take a combination of #2 and #3 as the best and most realistic choice – a focus on an expanded version of social and ecological reality from existentialism guided and supported by the input of unification awareness. In this context, answering the Big WHY question can be retained as the ultimate goal while recognizing that achieving that goal is a very long-term, reality-wide adventure.