

## 2.2 Creation. How did the universe start?

### A Hindu creation story

#### **The First Word** (*A Hindu creation story*)

Although in the very beginning there was darkness and emptiness, there was also a warmth, dampness and soft breathing. This breathing grew until it filled all of space. It formed into the first word 'Om'.

This word created a deep ocean at the bottom of which was a seed. After years the seed gradually floated to the top of the ocean and became a golden egg, which was rocked by the waves. The light from the egg shone out into the world.

The word 'Om' could be heard everywhere and it created Brahma, the Creator of Worlds, within the egg. The egg cracked open and Brahma was born. He made the sky from one half of the shell and the earth from the other, with air to keep them apart.

Brahma created lots of different senses, mixed them together and created all kinds of living beings from them. He gave plants touch and the power to remake themselves; birds, animals and fish were given touch, taste, hearing, sight, smell and the power to remake themselves and to move. There was joy everywhere – but nothing possessed the ability to think.

He roamed all over the earth on a swan, a peacock or a lotus boat. Eventually he made a being from within himself. She was the beautiful Sarasvati. They married and gave birth to the first human being, Mani. He had all the gifts, and most importantly the gift of thought.

### A scientific account of the origins of the universe

The most popular scientific explanation of the origins of the universe is that everything started with a big bang. All matter was condensed into a very solid mass, smaller than a pin head. For an unknown reason, it began to get bigger (expand) about 15,000 million years ago. This is known as the 'Big Bang'. This mass expanded in an orderly way although it had the speed and force of an explosion. It has gone on expanding ever since. Our Earth, and all the planets, stars and matter in the universe, are made from the cooling and collecting together of matter sent out by the big bang. Small cells changed into more complicated ones and became the first sea creatures. These developed the ability to fly and go on land and so we had dinosaurs, birds and animals. This changing is called evolution. Out of some of these early cells, man developed.

### A postmodern account of the origins of the universe

All was quiet and dark. There was nothing, just blackness. But there was a Force (rather like electricity) or Being around, as invisible as air. It breathed on the blackness and began to make it into a very small solid shape. This suddenly expanded and grew; this was the big bang. The Force or Being controlled this expansion and made sure that gradually all life developed from simple cells, even people. The Force is within all natural life.

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	<b>How did creation take place?</b>	<b>Who/what was involved?</b>
Christian/Jewish		
Hindu		
Scientific		
A possible Postmodern idea		

	<b>Who/what was involved?</b>	<b>By what process did creation take place?</b>	<b>What was the sequence of events?</b>	<b>What function did the different elements have?</b>
Christian/Jewish				
Hindu				
Scientific				
A possible Postmodern idea				
My evaluation				