

**Across the Cosmos June 2026:
Astrobiology, Astrotheology, and Astroanthropology**

I'm excited to announce the publication of a new book, *A Handbook on Astrobiology, Astrotheology, and Astroanthropology*, that examines a broad range of topics at the intersection of science, religion, and ethics from an equally broad range of viewpoints and perspectives. The book is edited by Carolina A. Sanz de la Feunte, an ethicist working at the intersection of computer science, philosophy, and theology; Arvin M. Gouw, who works in theology and science at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Divinity; and Ted Peters, emeritus professor at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and CLP member.

The *Handbook* is organized into four parts. Parts I & II explore how astronomy, astrobiology, and anthropology inform and interact with theology and ethics. Part III considers how science and religion approach the subjects of extraterrestrial intelligence and unidentified anomalous phenomena, and Part IV examines extraterrestrial life and the future of religion. I am pleased and honored to have contributed the first chapter after Ted Peters' introduction to Part I of this book!

My chapter begins by taking a look at the history of developments in astronomy and astrobiology that impact our current understanding of the Universe, as well as the prospects for finding, and possibly communicating with, extraterrestrial life. I argue that the value we place on extraterrestrial life is apt to reflect how we value both human and nonhuman life on Earth. I ask what it might mean to become 'conscious co-creators', working with, rather than attempting to dominate and control, nature. I explore how confirmation bias is likely to affect how individuals interpret the plenitude or rarity of life in the Universe. Finally, I end my chapter speculating on whether the concept of a phase transition in physics might be useful in thinking about transformations in society and envisioning a cosmic Christian eschatology.

A Handbook on Astrobiology, Astrotheology, and Astroanthropology will be available in late September through ATF Press.¹ The breadth of religious perspectives presented should make this book an invaluable resource to a wide variety of faith communities.

Until next month,

Grace

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