Gods

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The gods were. Maybe they always had been but they didn't have any such memory. They just were. They existed in a place where nothing changed or moved. Maybe it wasn't a place at all. There wasn't any way to know.

It isn't possible to measure change in a place where nothing changes. Maybe things don't exist in such a place. Then, one of the gods moved away from its accustomed location, just a little. Because of that move, the place had fundamentally changed. The one god had created the first attribute, distance. Then, the one god moved back to it's accustomed location. The first move and the second move had not been simultaneous. That initiated the second attribute, duration.

The one god saw that the place had changed. The other god also noticed the change. The place was the same as before, but different. The one god moved closer to the other god, slowly, softly, until it touched the other god. Something happened. They exchanged information. The two gods were the same, but different. The one god had moved, and had a memory of it. The other god had not moved, but knew of the event. The difference in their individual experiences initiated the third attribute, identity.

The gods pondered their observations. Between them there was distance. It wasn't constant. It could be changed. They wondered if there could be distance beyond them. They wondered, if so, then how far did it go? Could the place be infinite? As the one god moved back and forth, communicating with the other god, they pondered the duration between the moves. They wondered if duration might go both before them and after them. Could the place be eternal?

Then, the one god touched the other god, but less cautiously and, inadvertently, they interpenetrated, just a little. It was a change from communication. It was a strange, new sensation. They separated. The one god moved back to its accustomed location. A strange thing happened. A portion of the other god separated and moved a short distance away. The other god stayed in its accustomed location, from which it had never moved. The one god moved to contact the new thing and learned that it was a new god. Thus was initiated the fourth attribute, increase. The one god communicated to the third god all known information, and then communicated the new development to the other god.

The gods multiplied. The community of the gods expanded. If the place was infinite and eternal, then the community of the gods could expand endlessly and forever. The gods ventured out into the place. Billions upon billions of gods, in all directions. Then, a god moving into the void encountered a god coming out of the void, a thing that had never before even occurred to any of the gods. If it had ever occurred to them, even as a speculation, then it would have been assumed to be impossible. The traveling gods who had encountered one another communicated and learned that they were of the same community. Thus the fifth attribute came into existence, limitation.

The attribute of limitation revealed that the place was boundless, but not infinite. Like the simplest analogy, a circle, it could be traveled forever, without end. But it was finite. A circle, though boundless, has a finite length. Word of the new attribute spread but the community of the gods continued to grow. The behaviors of endless time don't change easily and, anyway, there didn't seem to be any urgency in the situation. The unoccupied expanse of the place was vast.

Eventually, the leading edge of the community of the gods approached what might be viewed by analogy as the antipodes of the point of origin. The point of origin had been and, incidentally, still was, occupied by the one god and the other god. The one god had never moved far from its accustomed location and the other god had never moved at all.

As the leading edge of the explosively expanding community of the gods approached the antipodes, it imploded into the remaining unoccupied part of the place. Then, the leading edge no longer existed. It had disappeared when there was no longer any unoccupied part of the place. The community of the gods no longer had a boundary. It began to be compressed. The gods were forced not only together, but into one another. That, of course, caused unintended reproduction, an unanticipated consequence. The compression continued. At the instant when identity itself, the third attribute, was on the point of being extinguished, when the billions upon billions of gods were about to be squeezed into a single entity, the place was rent asunder. A sixth attribute came into existence, physics. At the point of origin, opposite the antipodes, all forces and vectors cancelled. At that location, survival was possible. The one god and the other god, in their accustomed locations, survived.

The one god and the other god observed a different place than the previous place. No explanation for it was ever discovered, but it seemed to have been, in some subtle way, beyond the original place. The lifeless fragments of the billions upon billions of gods, shattered by the event, moved away into the new place. The one god and the other god recognized their ignorance. Did the new place have the same attributes as the previous place? They would need to be cautious. The new place was like the previous place, but different. It contained the shattered remains of billions upon billions of gods. The nature of those remains, or the results of their presence, were unknown. The gods knew that they would need new tools and new methods. They communicated. They considered.

The gods devised a plan. The one god touched the other god, once, gently, and then moved back to it's accustomed location, where he waited. The other god spoke. She said, "Let there be light" and light became the seventh attribute.

At the opposite end of the place, at the antipodes, as at the point of origin, all forces and vectors had cancelled. At the antipodes, as the place had been rent asunder, survival had been possible, and one other god had survived. Later, that god gazed with fell ambition upon the new and glowing place.

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