Series: Ready to Answer

Lesson: 7 - Why is the Universe So Friendly to Life?

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The Amazing Discovery

It turns out that if the laws of nature do not have very precise, interconnecting values, not only would humans not be able to exist, but as far as we can tell, no life of any kind would be possible.

The Cosmic Radio

The Universe is This Radio

A Little Detail The following examples are just a few of those surveyed by John Leslie, *Universes* (Routledge, 1989)

First, according to Einstein's theory, the universe will either be expanding or contracting. Ours is expanding. But strangely, almost all the ways of "setting" the laws of the universe would cause the universe to collapse or expand too quickly for life.

Second, out of those few possible universes that avoid catastrophic expansion or contraction, almost all will be devoid of steady, long-burning stars like our Sun.

Third, out of those few possible universes that contain life-sustaining stars, most would be devoid of the stable, complex chemistry that even the simplest life requires.

What Should We Conclude

The SETI researchers are still scanning the skies, but physicists have found an intelligent signal built into the fundamental laws of nature.

Somebody sent us that signal, and the day is soon coming when society will have to face up to that fact.

There is Somebody out there, and more importantly, that Somebody was powerful enough to shape the laws that make the universe.