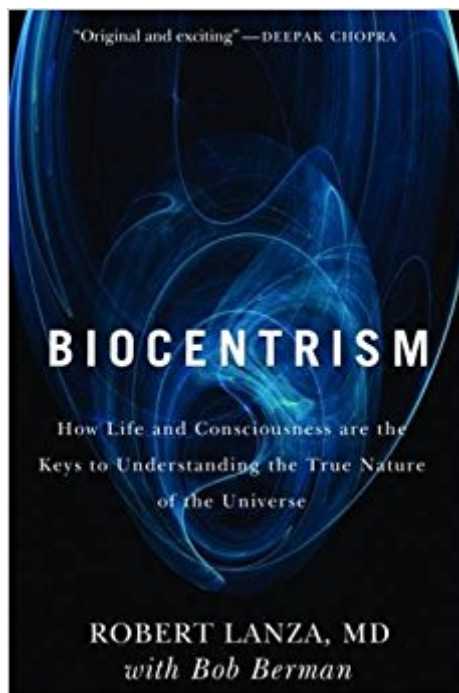




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# Biocentrism: How Life And Consciousness Are The Keys To Understanding The True Nature Of The Universe



## Synopsis

Robert Lanza is one of the most respected scientists in the world; a US News & World Report cover story called him a "genius" and a "renegade thinker," even likening him to Einstein. Lanza has teamed with Bob Berman, the most widely read astronomer in the world, to produce *Biocentrism*, a revolutionary new view of the universe. Every now and then a simple yet radical idea shakes the very foundations of knowledge. The startling discovery that the world was not flat challenged and ultimately changed the way people perceived themselves and their relationship with the world. For most humans of the 15th century, the notion of Earth as ball of rock was nonsense. The whole of Western, natural philosophy is undergoing a sea change again, increasingly being forced upon us by the experimental findings of quantum theory, and at the same time, towards doubt and uncertainty in the physical explanations of the universe's genesis and structure. *Biocentrism* completes this shift in worldview, turning the planet upside down again with the revolutionary view that life creates the universe instead of the other way around. In this paradigm, life is not an accidental byproduct of the laws of physics. *Biocentrism* takes the reader on a seemingly improbable but ultimately inescapable journey through a foreign universe; our own; from the viewpoints of an acclaimed biologist and a leading astronomer. Switching perspective from physics to biology unlocks the cages in which Western science has unwittingly managed to confine itself. *Biocentrism* will shatter the reader's ideas of life; time and space, and even death. At the same time it will release us from the dull worldview of life being merely the activity of an admixture of carbon and a few other elements; it suggests the exhilarating possibility that life is fundamentally immortal. The 21st century is predicted to be the Century of Biology, a shift from the previous century dominated by physics. It seems fitting, then, to begin the century by turning the universe outside-in and unifying the foundations of science with a simple idea discovered by one of the leading life-scientists of our age. *Biocentrism* awakens in readers a new sense of possibility, and is full of so many shocking new perspectives that the reader will never see reality the same way again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“I found the attack on physics to be pretty compelling ... Lanza’s theories [are] certainly worth debate.” —Houston Chronicle’s Eric Berger, SciGuy blog “What makes this book both interesting and worth the effort of reading it; is the unique perspective Lanza brings to the subject matter as a physician. ... From the way [Lanza] chooses to present his arguments, it’s clear he has a solid grasp of esoteric disciplines like quantum theory, special relativity and particle physics. And what makes his presentation more compelling than other efforts I’ve encountered is his ability and willingness to weave personal experience into the thoughts and ideas presented. His style is conversational and warm which tends to pull you along through the exposition gently. And his sense of wonder and befuddlement at shop worn enigmas like the double slit experiment, Bell’s theorem, non-locality and Schrödinger’s cat is as infectious as it is delightful ... I very much like what Lanza has to say in Biocentrism.” —Midwest Book Review Endorsements for Robert Lanza’s essay on which Biocentrism is based: “For several days now I have read and reread your article and thought about it. Like a brief history of time, it is indeed stimulating and brings biology into the whole. Any short statement does not do justice to such a scholarly work. Almost every society of mankind has explained the mystery of our surroundings and being by invoking a god or group of gods. Scientists work to acquire objective answers from the infinity of space or the inner machinery of the atom. Lanza proposes a biocentrist theory which ascribes the answer to the observer rather than the observed. The work is a scholarly consideration of science and philosophy that brings biology into the central role in unifying the whole. The book will appeal to an audience of many different disciplines because it is a new way of looking at the old problem of our existence. Most importantly, it makes you think.” —E. Donnell Thomas Thomas was awarded the 1990 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine. He is Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington and Director Emeritus of the Clinical Research Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. “It is genuinely an exciting piece of

work. I am very familiar with some of the things you say. The idea that consciousness creates reality has quantum support, as you suggest, and also coheres with some of the things biology and neuroscience are telling us about the structures of our being. To put what you are doing in a larger context, it exhibits a dramatic new Copernican reversal. Just as we now know that the sun doesn't really move but we do (we are the active agents), so you are suggesting that we are the entities that give meaning to the particular configuration of all possible outcomes we call reality. I think this is a great project.

—Ronald Green

Green is the Eunice and Julian Cohen Professor for the Study of Ethics and Human Values, and Director of Dartmouth College's Ethics Institute. Professor Green is a well-known religious studies scholar and former Chairman of the Department of Religion.

—Robert Lanza, a world renowned scientist who has spanned many fields from drug delivery to stem cells to preventing animal extinction, and clearly one of the most brilliant minds of our times, has done it again.

—A New Theory of the Universe

—takes into account all the knowledge we have gained over the last few centuries, and correlates them to our own beings, placing in perspective our biologic limitations that have impeded our understanding of greater truths surrounding our existence and the universe around us. This new theory is certain to revolutionize our concepts of the laws of nature for centuries to come.

—Anthony Atala

Atala is an internationally recognized scientist, and the W.H. Boyce Professor, Chair, and Director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

—As an astrophysicist, I focus my attention on objects that are very large and very far away, ignoring the whole issue of consciousness as a critical part of the Universe. Reading Robert Lanza's work is a wake-up call to all of us that even on the grandest scale we still depend on our minds to experience reality. Issues of quantum weirdness do have a place in the macroscopic world. Time and space do depend on perception. We can go about our daily lives and continue to study the physical Universe as if it exists as an objective reality (because the probabilities allow that degree of confidence), but we do so with a better awareness of an underlying biological component, thanks to Dr. Lanza. I cannot speak for NASA or other NASA scientists, but personally I look forward to hearing a more detailed explanation of this biocentric view of the Universe from Dr. Lanza.

—David Thompson

Thompson is an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. His contributions include the building and flying of prototypes of EGRET, which was launched by the Space Shuttle Atlantis in 1991. He is currently with the Astroparticle Physics Laboratory, and has received both the Goddard Space Flight Center & NASA Group Exceptional Achievement Awards.

—Yes, it is appropriate to ask whether our perception of space and time is a consequence of our particular

neurophysiology. Yes, it is appropriate to ask how it happened that the conditions worked out to be just right for life to appear somehow on earth and then to evolve from the archaea through the eukaryotes to us. ... I'll bet the book gets a good audience. And I like to see books published that challenge my own ideas and thoughts in ways that make me think, but not ones that simply throw dogma at me. The essay is definitely of the former kind.

**R. Stephen Berry** Berry is James Franck Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago. Professor Berry is a member (and recent Home Secretary) of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. He was also former Vice President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and MacArthur Prize &#147;Genius &#147;Fellow. &#147;Science has a token of freedom that motivates scientists to study all logical possibilities that may explain the world. Robert Lanza has come up with an innovative approach to investigate reality from the viewpoint of biology. His article demands an answer to the question of whether scientists have exhausted all possible tools for studying nature. Can science bring biology into grand unified theory? A solution is suggested that involves a new concept, biocentrism. Lanza goes beyond the individual human attribute calling for interconnectedness among all living creatures forming the fundamental basis for understanding reality. A book that expands upon this unique approach is warranted, not only to alert society, but to call on it to test this novel new hypothesis.

**Gunther Kletetschka** Kletetschka is a geophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. He is also a Research Professor of Physics at Catholic University of America and leading scientist working on the James Web Space Telescope. &#147;It's a masterpiece&#151;truly a magnificent essay. Bob Lanza is to be congratulated for a fresh and highly erudite look at the question of how perception and consciousness shape reality and common experience. His monograph combines a deep understanding and broad insight into 20th century physics and modern biological science; in so doing, he forces a reappraisal of this hoary epistemological dilemma. Not all will agree with the proposition he advances, but most will find his writing eminently readable and his arguments both convincing and challenging. Bravo.

**Michael Lysaght** Lysaght is Professor of Medical Science and Engineering at Brown University and Director of Brown's Center for Biomedical Engineering.

Praise for Robert Lanza's essay "A New Theory of the Universe," on which Biocentrism is based: "Like A Brief History of Time, it is indeed stimulating and brings biology into the whole.... The book will appeal to an audience of many different disciplines because it is a new way of looking at the old problem of our existence. Most importantly, it makes you think." E. Donnall Thomas, 1990

Nobel Prize winner in Physiology and Medicine "It is genuinely an exciting piece of work.... The idea that consciousness creates reality has quantum support ... and also coheres with some of the things biology and neuroscience are telling us about the structures of our being. Just as we now know that the sun doesn't really move but we do (we are the active agents), so [it is] suggesting that we are the entities that give meaning to the particular configuration of all possible outcomes we call reality."

— Ronald Green, director of Dartmouth College's Ethics Institute "Robert Lanza, a world-renowned scientist who has spanned many fields from drug delivery to stem cells to preventing animal extinction, and clearly one of the most brilliant minds of our times, has done it again. 'A New Theory of the Universe' takes into account all the knowledge we have gained over the last few centuries ... placing in perspective our biologic limitations that have impeded our understanding of greater truths surrounding our existence and the universe around us. This new theory is certain to revolutionize our concepts of the laws of nature for centuries to come."

— Anthony Atala, internationally recognized scientist and director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The information in this book coincides with my own world view at which I have arrived after many years of study and thought. It was wonderful having my views more or less confirmed by someone with the credentials of Robert Lanza. I love this book; however, I found one problem with it: even though his writing is very interesting, and in places very colorful, I found it hard at times to follow along. And this is not because of the subject matter. He made that easy for this layman to understand. My confusion was caused by his writing. I had to read many passages over several times to understand what he was talking about. Now, I have been an avid reader for the past fifty plus years so I know a good writer when I read one. And I am certainly no one to be giving him advice, but perhaps his future books would benefit from his reviewing the basics of how to write a paragraph. Putting the occasional lack of clarity in his writing aside, the subject of the book is wonderful. It was hard for me to put down. I look forward to reading more of his work.

Quantum Physics, the new religion? Perhaps not a new religion as much a possible scientific explainable of, what the famous French artist Paul Gauguin. Gauguin inscribed the original French title in the upper left corner of a painting of his: "D'où Venons Nous / Que Sommes Nous / Où Allons Nous", or in English; "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?" I would first suggest that before reading this book that you find a primer of Quantum Physics

in layman's terms. Dr. Lanza does a good job of explaining many of the theories of Quantum in none mathematical ways. This link may be of use; <http://www.higgo.com/quantum/laymans.htm> Here are some suggestions you may wish to peruse prior to deciding to purchase this book. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biocentric\\_universe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biocentric_universe) <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/31393080/#.VHkLi sINdxYI> hope I have helped you.

This is an extraordinary book that I will think about for years to come and reread many times! It is rare when a book can radically change the way a person views the world - this is such a book. A good starting point for understanding the main thesis of this book is an open mind and that we have very limited understanding of consciousness and the nature of the universe. The authors have done a wonderful job of merging philosophical and scientific thought with understandable justification. Intellectual hunger will not be satisfied - just the opposite - your hunger will increase and in my opinion that is a very good thing. Fasten your seatbelt - the authors are not shy about taking corners on two wheels.

I am currently reading the author's follow-up book to "Biocentrism"... "Beyond Biocentrism"... which has not yet been released to the public. So let me say that if you are not at all familiar with the weird world of quantum physics, I think you would be best off waiting a few weeks for the release of the author's 2nd book, "Beyond Biocentrism," and reading that book first. The author spends more time describing quantum weirdness in plain English in his second book than he does in the first book. If you already know a little bit about the quantum world...(you don't need to know a lot,) you will enjoy "Biocentrism." The author has a wonderful sense of humor which adds spice to the science. In fact one of the funniest things I have read in a long time is in this book. It has to do with the Ishihara Color Test. It completely cracked me up. There are a lot of books out there now related to this subject matter, and many of them are not worth your time... just authors cashing in on the latest theory of everything. But I am careful about choosing books. And Robert Lanza is a highly respected scientist specializing in the field of stem cell research, so I trust this guy. And Lanza is also quite frank in stating that much of his thinking on this subject is pure theory... not to be confused with scientific fact. The subject matter is not exactly new, but new ideas sometimes need to hang out there in the realm of possibilities for a while before they gather momentum. I remember first hearing about the beginnings of this theory from the writings of David Bohm, winner of the Nobel Prize in physics back in the 1970s; and here it is about fifty years later and it is beginning to catch intellectual fire. If you are willing to keep an open mind, "Biocentrism" will give you lots to think

about. Like ... what happens when we die? Does our consciousness stop, or does it just keep going on? Enjoy.

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