

# GOD, GAIA AND US

Moving towards  
a new form of  
Mysticism.

**The world itself God has put into the human mind,**  
**but in such a way that people cannot discover,**  
**from beginning to end, what it is that he has done.**

**Ecclesiastes: 3:11. (c. 300 BCE)**

# The Intellectual Adventure Of Ancient Man

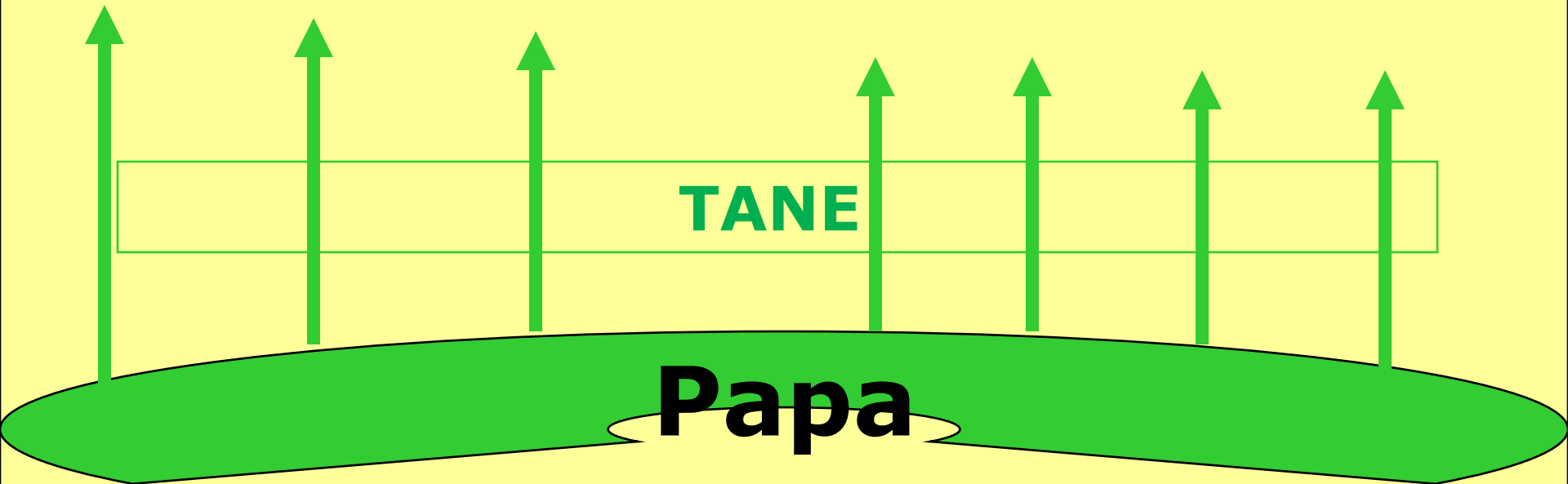
Frankfort, Frankfort, Wilson,  
Jacobsen and Irwin.

# Ancient World-View

- The whole universe is alive.
  - Nothing is lifeless.
- Humans relate to world in the I-Thou mode.
  - Natural phenomena are willed
    - by personal forces (gods and spirits).

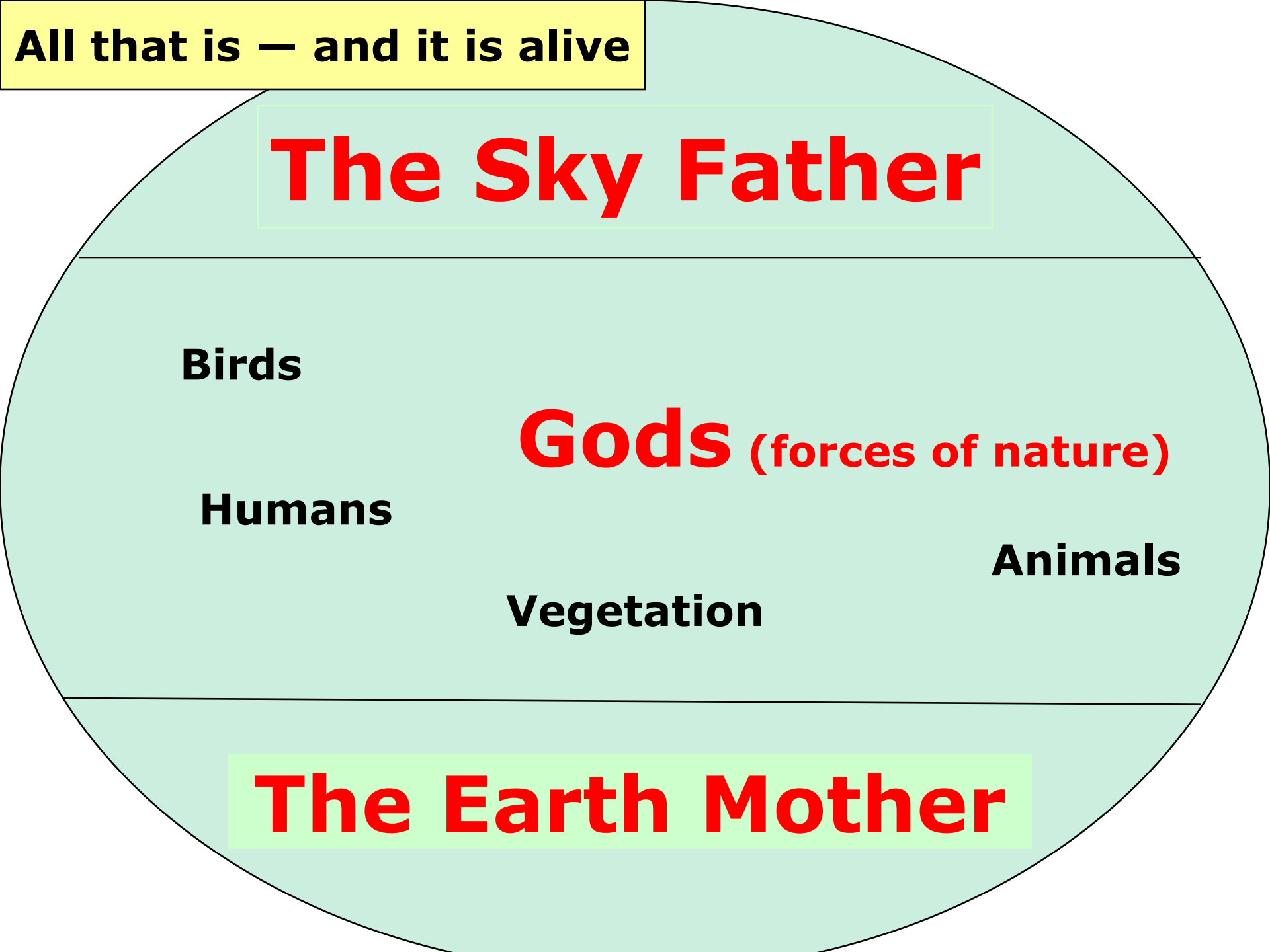


**Rangi**



**TANE**

**Papa**



# The Great Transformation

The World in the time of Buddha,  
Socrates, Confucius and Jeremiah.

Karen Armstrong,  
Atlantic Books, 2006

# Changes at the Great Transformation

1. The emergence of the It-world.
2. Transition from polytheism to monotheism.
3. The supremacy of the Sky God.
4. Immanence gave way to transcendence,
5. Emergence of the dualistic universe.



All that is-  
And it is alive

The Sky Father

Birds

**Gods** (forces of nature)

Humans

Animals

Vegetation

The Earth Mother

**All that is**

**God the Father in Heaven**

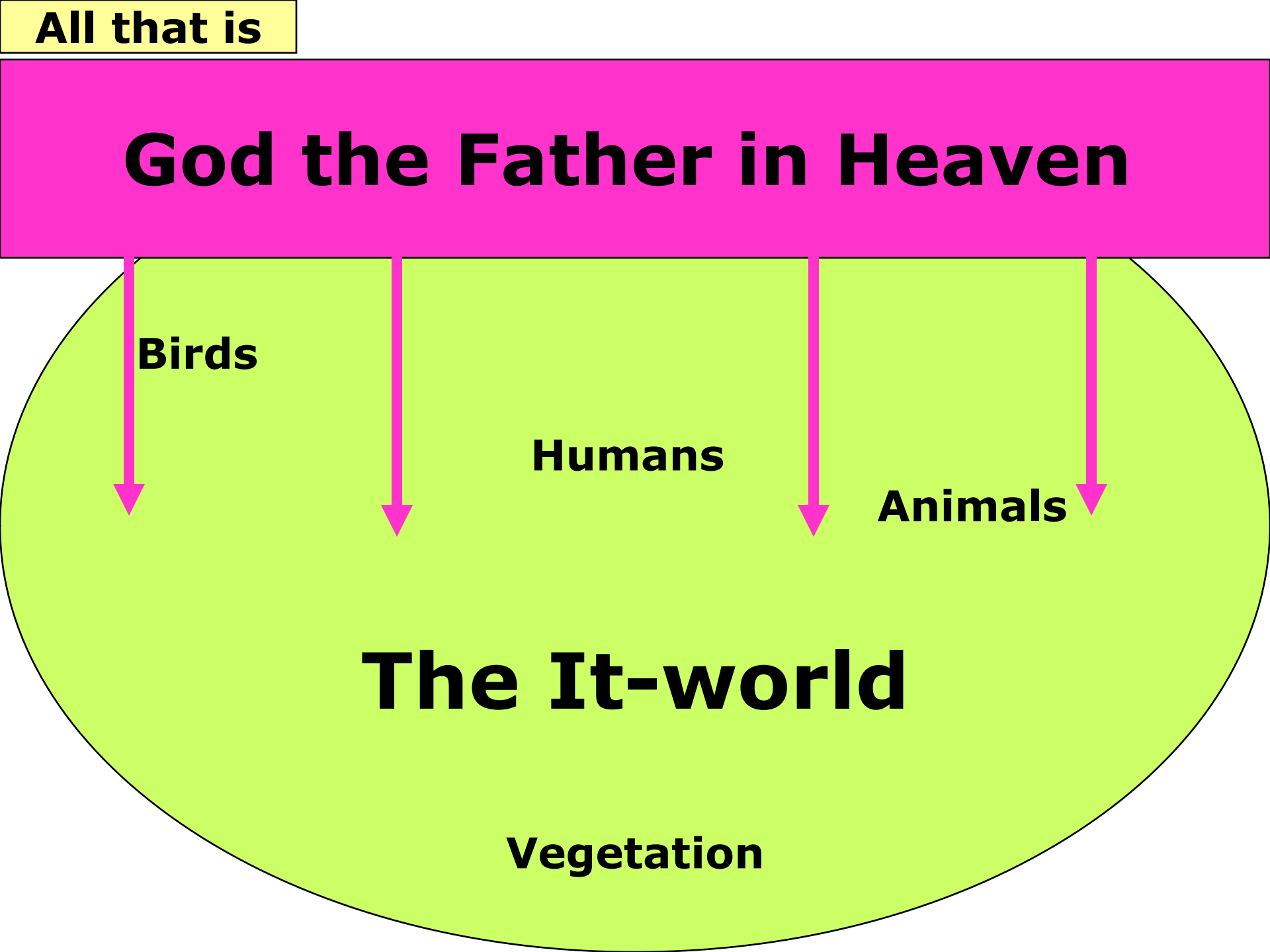
**Birds**

**Humans**

**Animals**

**The It-world**

**Vegetation**



# The changes.

The earth becomes an It-world (materialistic, non-living)

The disappearance of the gods.

Natural phenomena are under the control of one God.

‘I form light and I create darkness.

I bring health and I create disease.

I, the LORD do all these things’.(Isaiah 45:7)

Unusual natural events are ‘acts of God’ (miracles).

The transformation of the sky into a new spiritual world.

The transcendence of this eternal, spiritual world.

**All that is (c. 1400 AD)**

HEAVEN

**GOD**

Angels, Saints, Church triumphant

**Purgatory**



**EARTH**

**Purgatory**

Hell

**Satan**

**The devils and the damned**





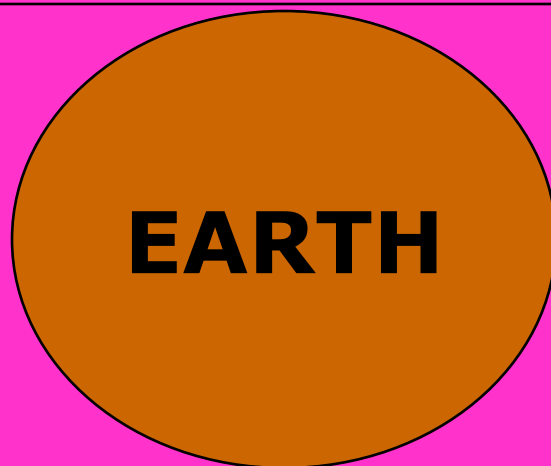


**'All that is' for Protestants (c.1550 AD)**

HEAVEN

**GOD**

Angels, Saints, Church triumphant



**EARTH**

Hell

**Satan**

The devils and the damned

**All that is for Protestants (c.1880 onwards)**

HEAVEN

**GOD**

Angels, Saints, Church triumphant



**EARTH**

**All that is, for many. (c. 1950 AD)**

**GOD**



**EARTH**



Is  
This  
All  
that  
Is  
in  
2000?

No!

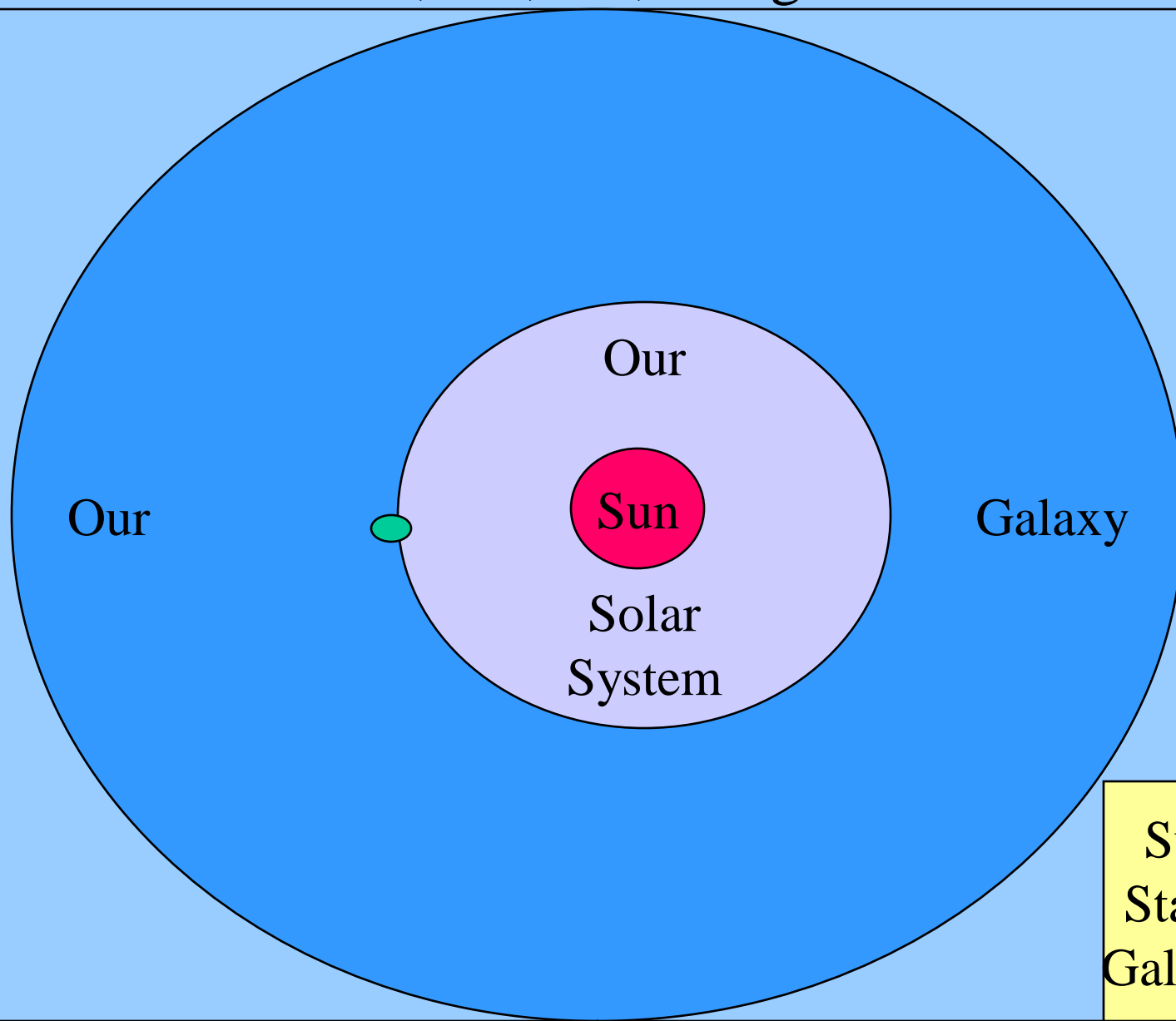
And

Yes!



All that is at 2000. The Space-time continuum

10,000,000,000 galaxies



Sun – 8 mins  
Star - 4½ years  
Galaxy – 500,000

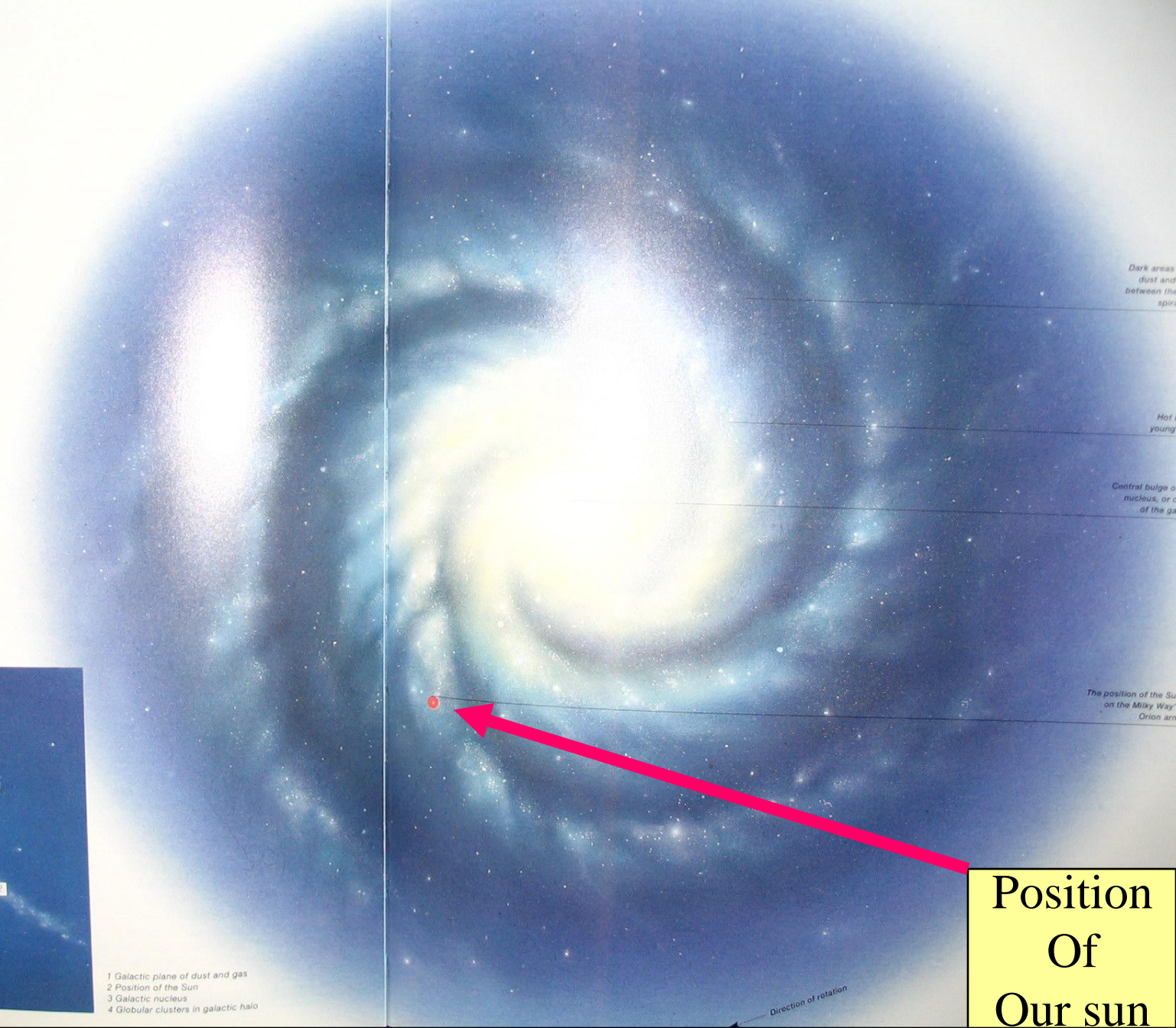


Our  
Galaxy  
Viewed  
From  
The  
top'  
500,000  
Light-years  
Across.

>>>>



- 1 Galactic plane of dust and gas
- 2 Position of the Sun
- 3 Galactic nucleus
- 4 Globular clusters in galactic halo



Dark areas  
dust and  
between the  
spiral

Hot  
young

Central bulge or  
nucleus, or  
of the ga

The position of the Su  
on the Milky Way  
Orion arm

Position  
Of  
Our sun

Direction of rotation

Our Galaxy viewed from side on





The Nebula Eskimo is 5,000 light years from Earth



One of ten billion galaxies – all that is!



114 million years ago, these two galaxies were merging.



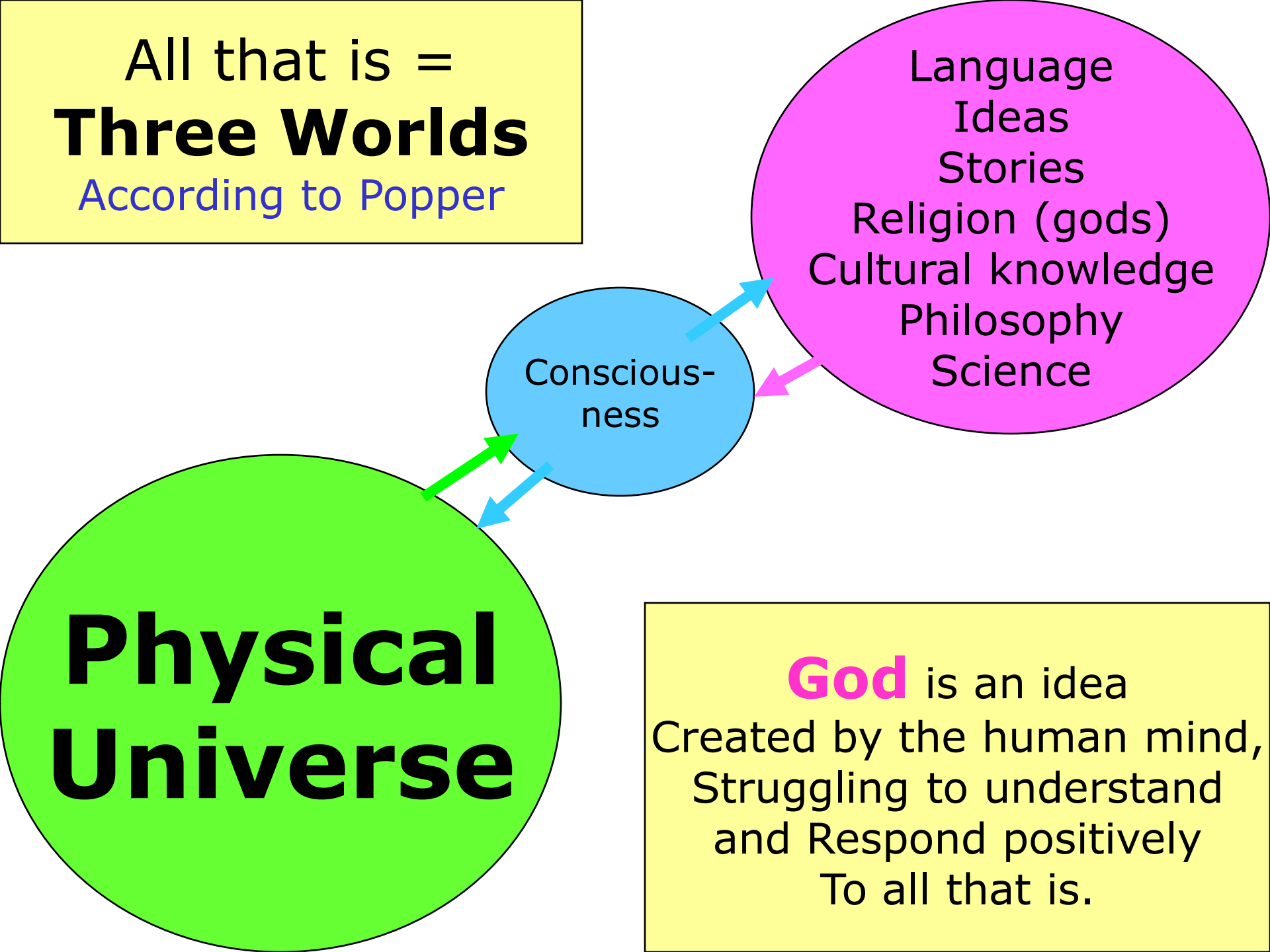
For  
practical  
purposes,  
This is  
For us  
'All  
that  
Is'.

We  
are  
on  
our  
Own.



All that is =  
**Three Worlds**

According to Popper









**Physical  
Universe**

Conscious-  
ness

**God** is an idea  
Created by the human mind,  
Struggling to understand  
and Respond positively  
To all that is.




# Population Explosion

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Relative Population</b></i>	<i><b>Number of years to add 1 billion</b></i>
1800		100,000
1930		130
1960		30
1974		14
1990		16
1998		8

# POPULATION EXPLOSION CAUSES

- More pollution.
- More food required
- Destruction of forests
- Increase of carbon dioxide
  - Global warming
- Changing weather patterns
  - Rise in sea level
- Fierce competition for oil.



The Future of  
Life on  
the earth  
now depends on us!

**All that is — and it is alive**

# **The Sky Father**

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Birds

**Gods** control forces of nature.

Humans

Animals

Vegetation

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# **The Earth Mother**

HEAVEN

**GOD**

Angels, Saints, Church triumphant



**EARTH**

**Hell**

**Satan**

**The Damned**

# **Humans**

**have a God-like  
responsibility for**

**Birds**

**Animals**

**Vegetation**

What we find we have in common  
with the ancients.

- **Earth has re-asserted its supremacy.**
- **Earth is the mother of all life.**
  - 
  - **Earth sustains all life.**
- **Earth can once again be called Gaia.**

# Gaia Theory –James Lovelock

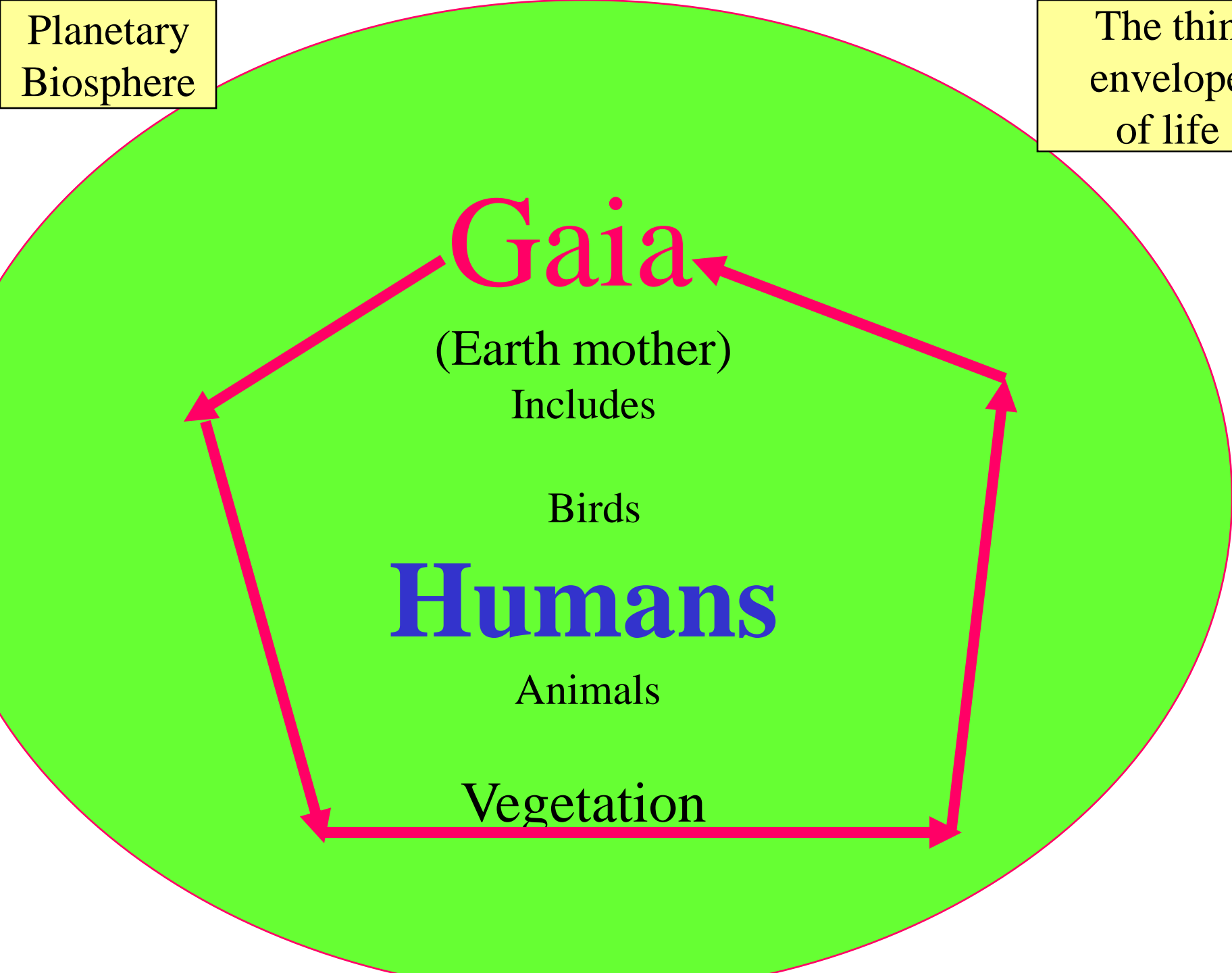
proposes that the biosphere  
and the physical components  
of the Earth (atmosphere, hydrosphere  
and lithosphere) are so connected together  
that they form a complex interacting system.

This system acts in a homeostatic  
fashion that preserves climatic  
and biochemical conditions  
on Earth to make it suitable for living systems.



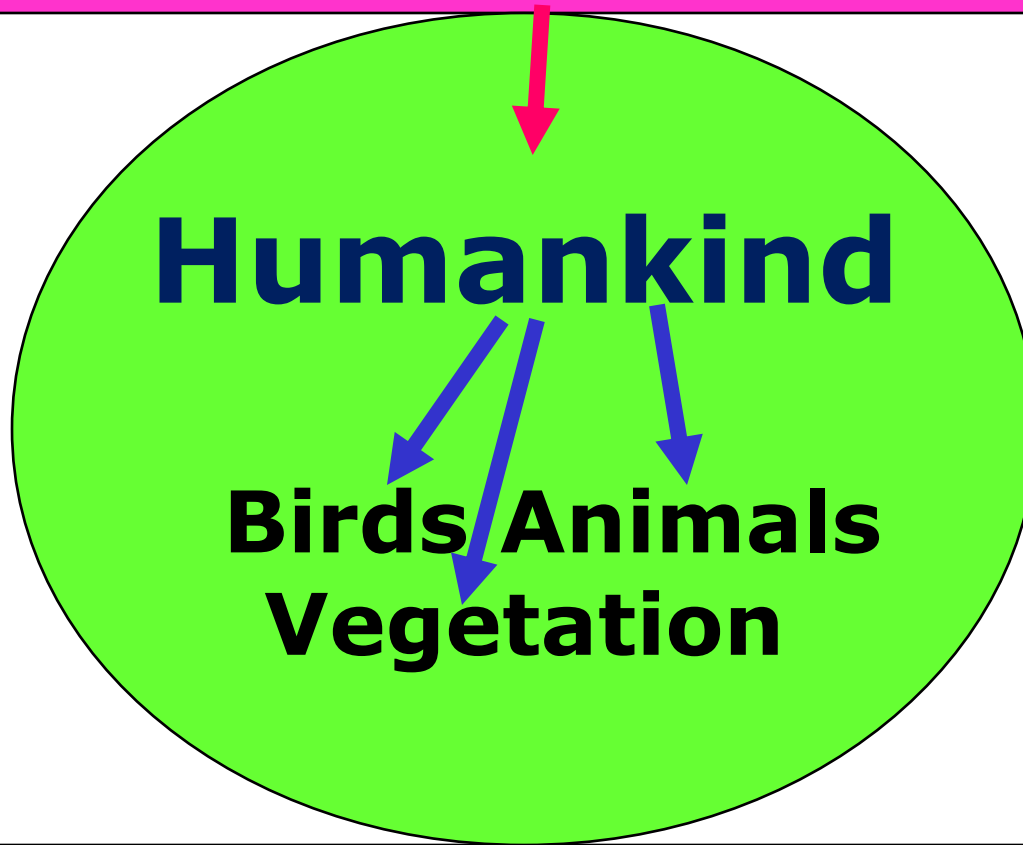
Planetary  
Biosphere

The thin  
envelope  
of life



# GOD

Created humankind  
In his own image  
And placed them in dominion  
over the earth



# Gaia

(Earth mother)

Includes

Birds

# Humans

Animals

Vegetation

Recovering our connectedness  
With the earth.

**We are subservient to the earth -  
- yet we are all part of the earth.  
How do we recover our unity with Gaia?**

**Does it lead to a new form of mysticism?**

**‘The eye with which I see Gaia is  
the eye with which Gaia sees itself’.**

**We came from the earth.**

**We remain creatures of the earth.**

**The hope of our species for a viable future,**

**Depends on our mystical re-union with the earth.**

# **The Gaia Song**

**Gaia is the one who gives birth  
She's the air, she's the sea,  
she's Mother Earth  
She's the creatures that crawl  
and swim and fly.  
She's the growing grass,  
she's you and I.**





Cat's Eye Nebula