

Michael Basial

The Ainuphysdalë: Physics of the Ainur

Religious and spiritual traditions claim contact with the divine, with scriptural documentation. Scriptural authorship claims range from "divinely inspired" through "translation of divine communication" to "directly crafted by the divine". Because the harmonics of a vibrating string inevitably contain the tones of the major chord, music is an inherent property of the universe. Musical instruments that are 40,000 years old imply that music is also an inherent property of being human. Yet no religious tradition prominently declares that the Creator built music into the fabric of the universe and humanity, an omission that casts doubt on all scriptural authorship claims. Tolkien's universe is created through the music of the Ainur, then given a physical form that recapitulates the music. Tolkien's works are the first to acknowledge the relationship between music, the universe, humanity, and the Creator, making them the first scriptures with a possibility of actually being divinely inspired.

Bonus haiku super-compressed summary:

In the beginning
It was not as you were told
Creation was sung

Mr. Basial spends his days as a hydrogeologist for a large engineering firm, and his nights as a bass player. He lives and works in Redding, California, but is from the internet. Mr. Basial fully expects that in a few centuries, there will be loud arguments over whether the creation story of Arda should be taught in science classes.



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