In this paper I will be explaining and elaborating upon concepts touched on in the book, *The Universe is a Green Dragon* by Brian Swimme. I have chosen this book to write about firstly because philosophy is a passion of mine; and secondly, it is commonly a subject I coin ineffable.

Unfortunately the author does not actually argue the green dragon-esque-ness of the Universe. The phrase attempts to demonstrate the inexplicability of the Universe. Imaginably so, the book is about the nature of the Universe; the author is explicit about the fact that we can only know the Universe from a human perspective. Additionally, the doubtable idea that we can “know” the Universe at all being such a small part of it.

Simultaneously,the author accentuates the role of the human in the Universe as a “self-reflexive mechanism”; in other words, “the Universe rendering itself conscious”. To most, this is a foreign perspective as the common alignment of ego in this culture is within body, thought, and emotion. The author encourages us to view ourselves in terms of evolution, as we are the product and continuation of it. Despite the many forms this takes on, every single person and being is the manifestation of the same evolutionary process of our Mother Earth, and consequently, the Universe.

The author introduces several fundamental energies or patterns experienced as perceptive beings on Earth; the first is scientifically known as gravity. The dimension of this phenomenon that most know little about, however, is how it applies to humanity. We have studied it in very abstract terms, from the viewpoint of the macrocosm (such as planets, galaxies and stars). As tiny little beings in the grand scheme, to study gravity from such a large perspective without searching for where it manifests through us does us little good.

Attraction is this microcosm within ourselves and our lives, or allurement. It is why the comparison of humans being as moths attracted to the flame is so prevalent, it is the primal mystery of existence. As far as we know the Universe was created by a fiery explosion, and this deadly (to what was before) act of creation is mirrored by what many identify through different metaphors as the purpose of life; to create as we have been created. It is to explore this mystery of creation, of experiencing attraction without having a rational explanation. (Living in a detrimentally analytical society, it is unbelievable to me that our cover has not been blown! We must have a *why* for everything, yet the most important, fundamental things are the inexplicable! Most of us assign preference to random chance of disposition, but this will not suffice the rational mind if one digs deeper.)

I previously touched on the mirror of creation, the primordial fire of existence. Now I want to regard destruction. “The Sea demonstrates the power of the Universe, extant at all levels, to *dissolve the universe*.” (88)

Just as the Big Bang was deadly to whatever was before it, ultimately it birthed all we know and more. The same paradox applies to destruction, as the author reveals here: “When you look at the moon, you are absorbing the moon just as the ocean absorbs minerals. In terms of quantum mechanics, you as an individual body are represented by a particular quantum state. This includes the interactions of all the elementary particles of your body. Now imagine a patterned wave of light flowing into you. Some of the photons of this light wave interact with your own elementary particles, and through this interaction your quantum state is changed… your particles are new in the sense that they have absorbed something from the photons and entered a new state of being… This means that when you stand in the presence of the moon, you become a new creation… it is not something you *have*, an image or an object, so much as something that you *become*.” (92)

I mentioned earlier that our culture is detrimentally analytical. A prime example of this is in our perspective towards death. We have literally thought ourselves into an ultimate fear of a process as natural as rainfall; despite the fact that it doesn’t take much analysis to realize that matter cannot be created or destroyed (in fact, it has been made into a “law of nature” so all we need do is recall our high school memory bank!) We have over rationalized destruction to the point that our idea of it has become an irrational image in our heads of empty space for the rest of eternity.

Were a more intuitive perspective followed, it would be clear that destruction and creation go hand in hand (you cannot die if you are not born!) The Big Bang was an explosion, a destruction of *something*, yet this lead to the birth of all the beauty and love we are aware of! If we were to welcome this death to ego through experience, this dissolving into relationship instead of fearing it, we may just have the potential to truly create as we were created.