EL REINO DE LO INVISIBLE · EPISODE 10

Invisible Civilizations: Could Dark Matter Empires Exist Right Beside Us?

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Imagine for a moment that you are sitting on your couch, enjoying this episode. You are alone, right? You feel the weight of your body, the air entering your lungs, and the solidity of the floor beneath your feet. But what if I told you that, at this very moment, you could be sitting in the middle of a bustling square of an alien city, or that a colossal being could be passing through your room without either of you noticing? No, it is not science fiction or a horror story. It is a mathematical possibility derived from what we know —and especially, from what we ignore— about the universe.

Welcome to a new episode of 'The Kingdom of the Invisible'. Today we are going to break the barrier of what we consider 'real'. You see, everything we know, from the shining stars to the DNA in your cells, represents barely a miserable 5% of everything that exists. The rest is the great mystery: dark matter and dark energy. For decades, we have thought of dark matter as a boring, ghostly cloud that only serves to hold galaxies together with its gravity. But what if we are completely wrong in judging it?

To understand it, let's use an analogy: imagine the universe is a large luxury hotel. We, human beings and everything we see, are like ants living only in the seams of the carpets. We think the carpet is the whole hotel, but we are missing the banquets in the halls, the people swimming in the pool, and the conversations in the hallways, simply because we do not have the senses to perceive them. Dark matter is not just cosmic 'filler'; it is a substance that does not interact with light. It does not bounce, it does not reflect, it is not absorbed. It is, literally, transparent to us.

- Dark matter is five times more abundant than normal matter.
- It passes through walls, the Earth, and your own body as if they did not exist.
- We only know it is there because its gravity 'pulls' on the stars.

This is where things get truly epic. If normal matter, which is so scarce, managed to cluster together to form planets, trees, oceans, and brains capable of wondering about the cosmos... what has dark matter done with that huge 85% budget it has at its disposal? Is it possible that there are 'dark atoms', 'dark chemistry', and, why not, an entire biology that coexists with us in a dimension of absolute invisibility? Could there be invisible empires flourishing in the same physical space we call home today?

The Paradox of Invisibility: More Than Just 'Shadow'

To delve deeper into this mystery, we must first understand why we do not see dark matter. In our daily lives, 'seeing' means that photons (light particles) bounce off an object and reach our eyes. If an object does not interact with photons, light simply passes through it, as if it were a perfectly clean glass, or rather, as if it were nothingness itself. Dark matter is the queen of this evasion. It does not feel the electromagnetic force, which is the 'glue' that binds atoms together and allows us to touch things. Therefore, if you tried to shake hands with a dark matter being, your hand would pass through theirs without feeling the slightest resistance. To them, you are the ghost; to you, they are the void.

But this is where physics gets interesting. For a long time, scientists assumed that dark matter was simple: solitary particles that do not attract each other, just floating like a diffuse gas. But why should it be that way? Normal matter has an astonishing complexity: protons, neutrons, electrons, which combine into 118 known elements, creating everything from the scent of a rose to the rings of Saturn. It would be very arrogant to think that 85% of the matter in the universe is boring and simple while our tiny 5% is the only 'fun' part.

The Dark Sector: A Parallel Periodic Table?

Renowned theoretical physicists, such as Lisa Randall of Harvard University, have proposed a revolutionary idea: Dissipative Dark Matter. The idea suggests that at least some of the dark matter could have its own forces, equivalent to our electromagnetism but only working among themselves. Imagine that there is a 'dark photon'. We cannot see or feel it, but dark matter particles can. This would allow dark matter to cool, collapse, and form solid structures.

If this is true, the universe would not only have galaxies of light, but also 'dark galaxies' or dark matter disks that overlap with ours. Imagine an invisible solar system embedded within our own. In this scenario, dark matter could form 'dark atoms' that cluster into 'dark molecules'. And if you have chemistry, you have the possibility of complexity. And if you have complexity for billions of years... you have the recipe for life.

Civilizations in Your Living Room?

This is the part that will blow your mind. Because dark matter does not interact with ours, two objects —one made of normal matter and another of dark matter— can occupy the same space at the same time. It is like two radio stations broadcasting on different frequencies: both are in the air around you, but if your radio is tuned to FM, you will never hear the AM signal.

Under this premise, a 'Shadow Biosphere' could exist. There could be dark mountains, dark forests, and dark cities right where you are now. A dark architect could have designed a skyscraper that passes through your current building. You could be walking down the street and cross paths with a dark matter 'animal' that passes through you as if you were air. No crashes, no sounds, no smell. Only gravity unites us. In fact, some scientists suggest that if there were a large enough concentration of dark matter at one point, we would notice a slight gravitational anomaly, a small unexplained 'tug'. Did you ever feel like something was watching you in an empty room? It's probably just your imagination... or maybe, you are simply in the middle of a crowd you cannot see.

The Great Challenge of Detection

How can we prove this? It is extremely difficult. We are trying to detect something that refuses to play by our rules. However, experiments in deep mines and space observatories look for that unique moment when a dark particle hits the nucleus of a normal atom, an almost impossible cosmic carom. But until we succeed, the idea of invisible civilizations remains a fascinating theoretical possibility.

We are living on the surface of an immense ocean, believing that the waves are all there is, without suspecting that in the depths there are creatures we cannot even imagine. The universe is much larger, denser, and stranger than our eyes allow us to see. Perhaps we are not looking for radio signals from distant stars to find extraterrestrial life; perhaps the life we seek is right here, sharing our coffee, observing their own dark stars, wondering, just like us, if they are alone in the void.

The next time you look at the night sky, remember that the blackness of space is not empty. It is full. Brimming with a reality that ignores us as much as we ignore it. The Kingdom of the Invisible is not far away, in another galaxy. It is in your room, in your hands, and in the beat of a heart that is not made of atoms, but of something much more mysterious. Are you ready to accept that we are the minority on our own planet?