

# Astronism: the world's first cosmocentric religion.



The Vendox, the best-known symbol of Astronism

## Introduction

**Astronism** is a cosmocentric religion founded by the philosopher Cometan in an extensive treatise called the *Omnidoxy*. Astronism has been described as a hybrid between a philosophy and religion which is why it is sometimes designated as an organised philosophy, a phrase coined by Cometan himself. It is mainly predicated upon a naturalistic understanding of existence, but certain aspects of the system still harbour supernatural concepts and beliefs.

Cometan coined the term cosmocentricity or cosmocentrism to relate to his understanding and perception of reality and the subsequent worldview of Astronism. Cosmocentricity forms the foundations of the way in which Astronists are to consider existence, thus placing The Cosmos, an animate and spiritually-potent wholeness, at the centre of all thought and contemplation. Cosmocentricity contrasts as a religious and philosophical worldview with pre-Astronist centricities, such as theocentrism (centred on God) and anthropocentrism (centred on humanity). Cosmocentricity laid the thematic foundations for Astronism continues to be the single most influential pillar for the entire religion.

The central belief of Astronism is known as *cosmosis*; a process considered to take place for all people upon their deaths during which they physically and spiritually return to The Cosmos, with The Earth being a product of The Cosmos. *Cosmosis* is the most important aspect of Astronism as it forms the foundations to the Astronist eschatology and although it has been given the title of *The Ultimatum of Astronism*, it consists of a subtype and a very significant subtype at that. This subtype is known as *astrosis*, or as *corporeal cosmosis*.

This line of thought regarding *cosmosis* states that *cosmosis* can be achieved during one's lifetime through an extensive set of mystical, intellectual, and spiritual practices

associated with Astronism. It is in fact astrosis that is the ultimate goal in Astronism as astrosis is considered superior to cosmosis because cosmosis is achievable for all while astrosis is only achievable for a smaller group of people; namely, well-practicing Astronists.

Astronism is considered to be the next logical step on from the ancient practices of astrolatry (worship of the stars) and astromancy (divination by the stars). Its founder, Cometan, organised the Astronic tradition which includes astronomical religions practiced prehistorically as far back as the late Stone Age, of which Astronism is considered to be a descendent. Characterised by a vast collection of beliefs and ideas, the majority of which hold an astronomical theme, Astronism emphasises The Cosmos as a source of discovering existential purpose, the belief in cosmosis (reunion with nature upon one's death), and the destiny of humanity to achieve transcension (salvation and freedom) through space exploration.

## Origins of Astronism

Astronism was founded in 2013 by the philosopher Cometan when he was just fifteen years of age after starting to receive a long series of revelations about his own existential crisis, his personal beliefs, about the state of religion and philosophy, and the future of humanity. Astronism also developed out of Cometan's then-forming writing career which would later manifest into a fictional universe called the Spacefaring World.

Cometan grew up in a broken household after his mother and father divorced when he was four years old. To fill the void and to minimise the traumatic effects of such an event on the mental health of Cometan, his two sets of grandparents took an active role in his upbringing. It was particularly Cometan's paternal grandmother, Irene Mary Taylor, who held a significant influence over his childhood, particularly because she was a deeply devout Roman Catholic. Cometan spent many of his childhood years with his grandmother whose house was adorned with religious icons and statues. This deeply religious influence on Cometan's upbringing is now said to be one of the reasons for his own deep concern for religion and philosophy. The true impact of his religious upbringing and its connection to the emergence of Astronism from Cometan remains unknowable.

After his deeply religious childhood, Cometan moved away from religion completely and found little interest in the religion up until his 15th birthday. It was on this day that The Founding of Astronism began as this particular day is traditionally said to be the day that Cometan first had the idea to found his own philosophy.. After coming across philosophy and admiring its principles and structures as distinct from those of religion, Cometan saw the role of philosophy in society as undermined and considered the identity of philosophers mystified to the wider populous which he saw as an injustice as he considered philosophy as the future structure of people's beliefs just as it had been in ancient times. Cometan began to study theology, religion and philosophy in great depth and figures like Plato, Confucius, the Buddha, Socrates, and Laozi all became significant influences on Cometan.

The earliest followers of Astronism were members of Cometan's family, namely his girlfriend Cosma who played a practical part during the era known as The Founding of Astronism. However, due to the modern era during which Astronism was founded, the organised philosophy was made available and known to a global audience from its inception due to the use of websites, social media sites, and other marketing techniques

which is why a prominent form of Astronism is known as Digital Astronism. This demonstrates the distinctive differences between the founding and establishment of Astronism from those of other religions due to the eras and regions they originated in. Astronism spread to its adherents initially through digital channels and by use of marketing techniques rather than through associations with colonialism and empires such as how Christianity and Islam spread, or through oral transmission as Buddhism was gradually disseminated.

## Main beliefs of Astronism

Below is just a small collection of the main beliefs within Astronism.

- **Cosmosis** — the central belief of Astronism stating that at least a physical not a spiritual reunion with The Cosmos occurs for every person once they have died. This reunion occurs physically through biodegradation if a person is buried or through aeration if a person is cremated. In spiritual cosmosis, there are a variety of extant beliefs regarding the occurrence of cosmosis, the main one of which is transtellation.
- **Astrosis** — the central goal of Astronism and all Astronists structured by the belief that cosmosis is achievable during one's lifetime through extensive
- **Transcensionism** — a core Astronist belief stating that the existential purpose and destiny of humanity is to explore The Cosmos and to learn of its mysteries with the intention of achieving transcension and by extension, the achievement of astrosis.
- **Sentientism** — belief that an extensive amount of both sentient and non-sentient life, both below and beyond the intelligence of humanity, exists in The Cosmos and that humanity is just one of many civilised societies in The Cosmos.
- **Intracosmism** — belief that the answers to the existence of humanity can be found within The Cosmos and that all existential purpose can be derived from the physical Cosmos. Some have taken this belief to deny the existence of a creator God, however, Cometan's writings on this belief do not explicitly profess atheism, although the very nature of its postulation can be described as atheistic in direction or orientation.
- **Limitationism** — from the Astronic cosmology, stating that The Cosmos and all that exists within The Cosmos (including humanity and all existential reality) is fundamentally limited by its nature. This is also known as the Cosmic Limitation Principle. This belief has held significant influence over the entire belief system and worldview of Astronism as it makes many implications, one of which denies the existence of eternal life, a central belief in many other religions which further distinguish Astronism.
- **The Omniverse** — the belief that The Cosmos from the Astronic cosmology exists as a limited enclosed and inescapable existence alongside an infinite amount of other cosmoses that form The Omniverse in the realm that is referred to as The Universe.

## Facts about Astronism

- Astronism was founded in Lancashire, England, United Kingdom in 2013.

- Cometan was just fifteen years of age when he founded Astronism.
- The Omnidoxy, Astronism's founding text, is history's longest religious and philosophical treatise at over 2 million words in total length and was solely written by Cometan in a period of just 5 years.
- Astronism has a motional nature, meaning that it is open to change and constantly development, as conducted through the department of New Concept Development within the Astronist Institution. To describe this type of approach to religious operability, Cometan developed the term motionalism.
- Astronism was originally named Millettism as the original idea of Cometan was to create a philosophy based around his fictional character named Jesse Millette. However, when Astronism began to develop and take its own identity beyond that of the Jesse Millette character, the main name was changed to Astronism, although Astronism remains officially called The Philosophy of Millettism.

## Cometanic quotes

"My faith is strongest when the night sky is clear."

"I have fallen in love with The Cosmos and all the possibilities it does hold."

"World, do what you wish with my philosophy, but remember, it will always be mine."

"Do what is unexpected of you."

"The Omnidoxy will reveal my philosophy to the world, and it shall encapsulate its ideas forevermore."