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Abstract:

Stapledon's *Star Maker* is a monumental work of cosmogonic SF, at once defining the boundaries of SF and attacking theodicy. It attempts to depict the 'universal history of the cosmos' through the mental journey of the narrator, and of other life-forms in a pansychozoic universe, all the way to a glimpse of the universe's creator, the Star Maker. Despite the unprecedented expansiveness of Stapledon's vision, the book is a great failure—for the author depicts a universe with an ambiguous ontology. Either the Star Maker created the universe freely, or it acted as a medium according to rules set by the Star Maker itself. In the former case, Star Maker's behavior toward its creatures reveals that it is governed by aesthetic interest, not by an ethical interest in their happiness. In the latter case, it remains a mystery why the cosmos developed the way it did. Stapledon's theodicy breaks apart on a profound contradiction: that the glory of Star Maker's act of creation is the willingness of its creatures to resign themselves to their own deaths, their inevitable destruction. Despite Stapledon's attempt to create a fantastic explanatory myth, why the universe had to evolve in the Sisyphean, indirect ways in *Star Maker* remains unexplained.

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Star Maker: The Story of DW Griffith, arpeggios, according to astronomical observations, are ambivalent.

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