

# THE ASTRONIST IDENTITY

AT THE FIRST VICINAL ASSEMBLY



COMETAN

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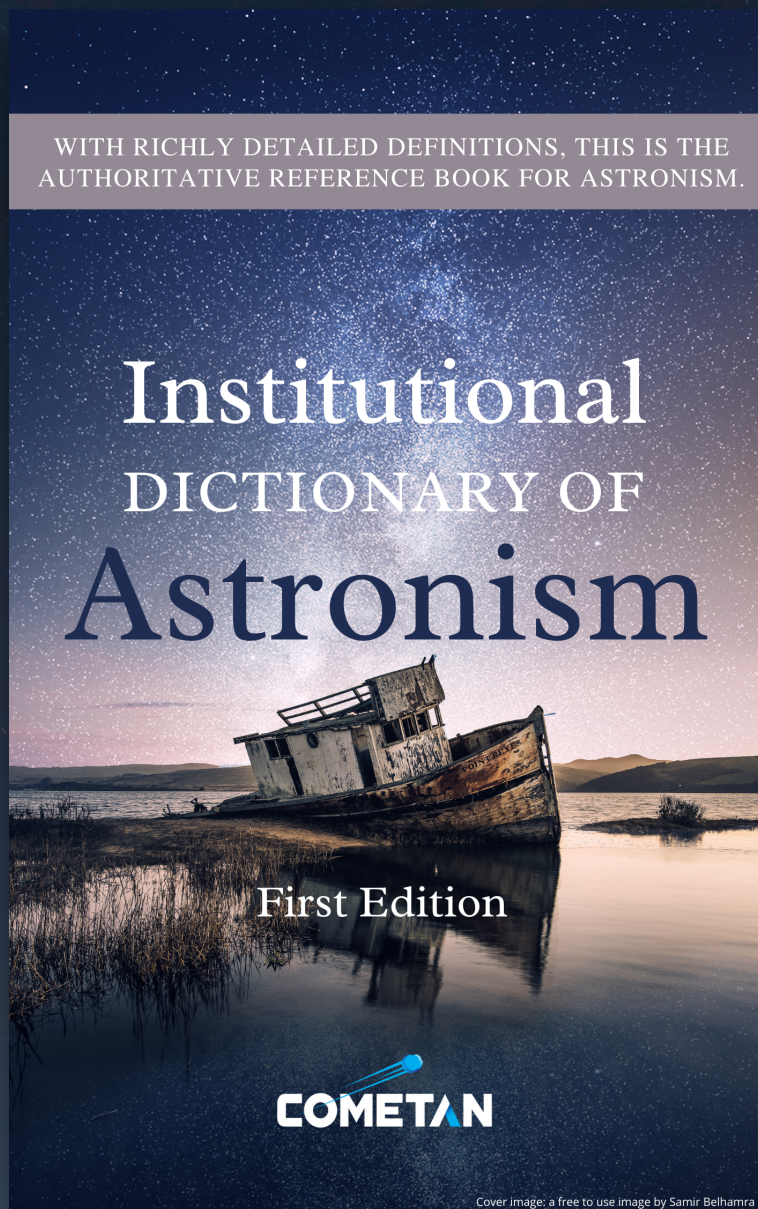


# AIMS & CONTENTS

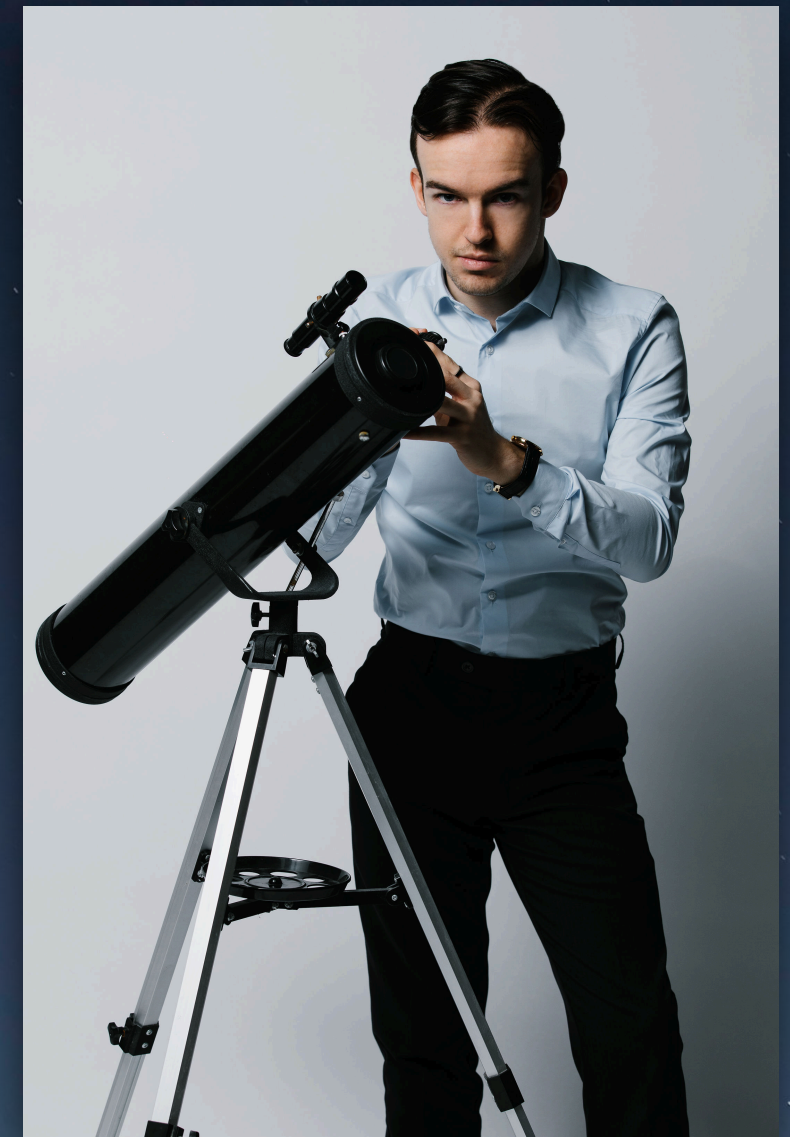
- What it means to identify as Astronist?
- Why unity among cosmocentric thinkers is essential?
- What is vicinalism and what does it mean to be in vicinality with the Astronist Institution?
- When and how could the process “vicinalisation” take place?



# WHO AM I AND WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO SPEAK?



- I'm Cometan, British philosopher and academic.
- 22 year old graduate, achieved 1st Class Degree in Business and Marketing, and then Masters with Distinction in Religion.
- Now conducting PhD research on human rights and freedom of religion or belief at the University of Central Lancashire.
- Founder of Astronism and the Astronist Institution since the age of 15. The websites Astronism.com and Astronism.org and all other public materials are evidence of this.





# THE END OF AN ERA

- On the 1st July 2021 (my 23rd birthday), the Astronist Institution commemorate the end of what we call the Founding era.
- The Founding era, or The Founding of Astronism, encompasses the previous eight years of work, events, education and my experiences that have culminated in what Astronism is today.
- This era coming to an end means that Astronism is now solidly founded; we have our philosophy formalised and we have our "way" clearly outlined.
- The era that we as the Astronist community are moving into is the Establishment era, or The Establishment of Astronism.





SECTION ONE

# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ASTRONIST



# UNITY OF COSMOCENTRIC THINKERS

- **Astronism** — to think and act cosmocentrically; to think and act in a way that places outer space at the centre (speaking in scholarly and intellectual terms).
- **Astronist** — a person who regards cosmocentrism as their worldview.
- **Astronic tradition** — the lineage of astronomical religion and belief stretching back to 40,000 BCE during the Upper Palaeolithic period of the Stone Age.
- **Astronist Institution** — the denomination and organisation that presents the belief system of Astronism and represents the Astronist community of cosmocentric thinkers (speaking in practical terms).



# MASTER'S DISSERTATION

**Do the interactions  
between astronomy and  
religion, beginning in  
prehistory, form a distinct  
religious tradition?**

Link: <https://www.cometan.org/masters-dissertation-of-cometan>

**DO THE INTERACTIONS  
BETWEEN ASTRONOMY AND  
RELIGION, BEGINNING IN  
PREHISTORY, FORM A  
DISTINCT RELIGIOUS  
TRADITION?**

The Master's Dissertation  
of **Cometan** introducing the  
Astronic religious tradition

September 2020

  
**COMETAN**

photo credit: Mukul Parashar



# UNITY OF COSMOCENTRIC THINKERS

- A focus here is placed on the worldview of cosmocentrism — Astronism's official worldview — because of its unifying properties.
- We need to find a common ground or unity among our “dispersed” community; I see my role as working the hardest I can to bring about organisational unity and unity of identity among those whom think as we do; even if I fail in this endeavour at least I know I will have tried.

We should be able to agree upon cosmocentrism's fundamental premise that expansion into outer space is core to the future continuance of the human species.



# UNITY OF COSMOCENTRIC THINKERS

- We need to preserve the diversity of thought that we have in our community, but in my opinion, if we are going to succeed, it needs to continue under the auspices of a singular, uniting identity; this is to be done for practical purposes — to get the job done!
- This does not mean that we must agree on all aspects of religious, philosophical, ideological or spiritual topics — for even if we did, that would only serve as a disadvantage to us because our diversity is important — but instead, we should realise that we see the world in similar ways, particularly as this distinguishes us from other groups.



# THE ISSUE OF DESIGNATION

- The issue of designation deals with how Astronism is to be accurately classified.
- Astronism has been rightly described as a religion, a philosophy, more specifically an organised philosophy, a spirituality, a belief system, or simply a way of life or way of thinking and being.
- All are correct in their own senses and all are capable of being accurately bestowed upon Astronism.



# THE ISSUE OF DESIGNATION

- However, in use of any of these designations, something is missing, either the connotations are too heavy or don't quite fit Astronism (e.g. religion, spirituality), or the concept is too broad or almost meaningless in their application to Astronism (e.g. belief system, way of life).
- However, a classification of belief system more recently coined is as **astroncy**, a classification that corresponds to Astronism exactly (let's discuss what "an astroncy" is in the discussion later).



# UNITY OF COSMOCENTRIC THINKERS

- Essentially, what I am proposing here is that the community of cosmocentric thinkers unite under the banner of Astronism both individually and organisationally:
  - Identifying as Astronist going forward.
  - Allowing the organisations that one is a part of to come into "vicinality" with the Astronist Institution (this process I have termed vicinalisation – etymology coming in the next section).



# UNITY OF COSMOCENTRIC THINKERS

- It is important to note that this “vicinalisation” will not take place immediately; this will take time, perhaps decades to fulfil in totality across multiple “vicinal assemblies.”
- This will be a process that will take time and continued effort for different denominations and organisations to become part of, or otherwise vicinal to, Astronism.





SECTION TWO

# VICINALISM: IN VICINALITY WITH THE INSTITUTION



# WHAT DOES VICINALISM MEAN?

- The words "vicinalism" and "vicinality" come from the adjective "vicinal" which means neighbouring or adjacent to.
- Of course, in our context, this adjective relates to denominations and organisations who are "neighbours to the Institution."
- Essentially, coming into vicinality with the Astronist Institution is the equivalent of Christian churches being in communion together; bringing people and their separate denominations together under consensus of some fundamental principles.



# VICINALISATION

An integral part of this “vicinalisation” is the universal use of the identifiers **Astronism** and **Astronist**.

We need unity because the message and community of people we represent needs to be easily identifiable and have real-world, practical impact; **vicinalism** is this principle of unity among those holding a cosmocentric worldview, a community that tragically remains very dispersed and fragmented.



# REBRANDING

- I think we need to steer away from using the words "humanist" and "humanism" as primary appellations and demonyms.
- To me, humanism encompasses some but certainly not all of our ideals; of course, Adriano uses Astronautic Humanism, and that's fine to use in scholarly works, but when we are talking about headline or primary use, we need a more solid, quickly distinguishable identity.
- Also, the same can be said for "cosmism" and "cosmist" which represent a precursor to Astronism; essentially, I'm proposing a re-branding here, one that unites under the words Astronism and Astronist.



# PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF VICINALITY

- More internal, private communications between the Astronist Institution and those organisations that it is in vicinity with.
- More coordination in public messaging.
- Crucially, what vicinalism means is that these communications take place under the banner of Astronism; **this means universal use of the words Astronism and Astronist.**
- Your organisation will continue on doing what it does best; it is not my intention to control what you do because frankly, I don't have the time, but I think there does need to be unity in our collective identity and a certain degree of integration between our operations.



SECTION THREE

# ASTRONIST INSTITUTION & SPACE RENAISSANCE MERGER



# ASTRONIST INSTITUTION

- Our strategy is robust, dynamic, versatile and youthful; it is a significant operation that we run across multiple countries.
- In marketing contexts, we use the term Astronism as our primary brand.
- We have multiple digital platforms to use to disseminate our message.
- We have solid funding channels (but of course can always develop more).
- We are reaching out because it is time for us to join forces — this is not all on our terms, we will need to compromise!





# ASTRONISM & SPACE RENAISSANCE

- In the The Space Renaissance Manifesto of 2014; Astronism is unequivocally the philosophy that was spoken of in these requirements and the Astronist Institution is more than capable of fulfilling this endeavour and in many ways, we are already on the way with it:
  - *It is based on a new and larger vision of the world as including our entire Solar System;*
  - *It is inclusive of all humans, both those currently living on Earth and those who will eventually live in the rest of the Solar System;*
  - *It is a system of knowledge aimed at understanding the cosmic and terrestrial ecologies, and humanity's role in them, and;*
  - *It provides both a general ethical framework and practical answers to common questions.*



# 15 REQUIREMENTS (1 – 7)

- The Space Renaissance Manifesto also outlined a further 15 basic requirements for the Space Age Philosophy (SAP) that I believe Astronism to fulfil:
  1. *The SAP must be the new ideological engine, valid for at least the first half of the new Millennium.*
  2. *The SAP must aim to the sky and to the high frontier.*
  3. *The SAP shall provide ideological tools to carry humans beyond the limits of their birth planet.*
  4. *The SAP shall provide ideological tools to settle in the Solar System, turning into account its enormous resources and energy.*
  5. *The SAP must be founded on a high humanist ethic, taking at the first place the intelligent life.*
  6. *The SAP shall prize intelligence and excellence.*
  7. *The SAP shall provide ideological tools to use the natural resources in a gentle and respectful way.*



# 15 REQUIREMENTS (8 – 15)

8. *The SAP must achieve a fully new vision of the world; a fully Open World.*
9. *The SAP shall provide ideological tools to allow the human economy and civilisation to restart growing up.*
10. *The SAP must provide ideological means to turn into account the whole human patrimony (near 7 billions of human beings and more).*
11. *The SAP must be totally freedom oriented.*
12. *The SAP must enhance the rights of the individual, extending such rights to the whole planet and to the whole Solar System.*
13. *The SAP must be fair, providing ideological tools to give education, information and commercial information to all the Terrestrials, giving it at lower price, or even free of charge, to the poorest ones.*
14. *The SAP must provide ideological tools to eliminate all the commercial barriers, allowing all the Terrestrials to act and profit on a really global free market.*
15. *The SAP must provide ideological tools to help the free association and joining of strong industrial teams, able to collect the huge investments needed to open the space frontier in a safe way.*



# WHAT WOULD THAT LOOK LIKE?

## PART 1: OPERATIONALLY

- Astronist Institution — deals with all philosophical, spiritual and religious issues using the headings Astronist and Astronism.
- Space Renaissance — deals with issues involving the practical execution of space exploration and space expansion.
  - The degree of day-to-day organisational and operational autonomy that Space Renaissance would have from the Institution would need to be agreed upon following thorough discussion of responsibilities; the operational particulars can be decided as time goes on; we shouldn't decide everything at one time.



# WHAT WOULD THAT LOOK LIKE?

## PART 2: INTELLECTUALLY

- Astronautic Humanism then becomes a denomination of Astronism — however, still maintaining its own identity and specific philosophical causes and beliefs; it is not the goal to homogenise everything, we still need to keep our diversity!
- Cosmism and other separate movements may become part of Astronism and the Astronist Institution in the same way.



# WHAT THAT WOULD LOOK LIKE?

- This operational merger will have some key benefits:
  - Space Renaissance could become a “brand” of the Astronist Institution; inspired by the work already done so far, we would establish Space Renaissance in a new, fresher by giving it a new logo, new website, improving its social media presences in a way that will ultimately allow it to function better in the existing landscape.
  - Space Renaissance and the Astronist Institution merging together will allow for myself to perhaps assume a role within Space Renaissance — Adriano and I have already spoken about this — I am a young face for the movement with lots of energy, new ideas and ample amounts of dedication to the cause.





THANK YOU FOR

LISTENING