



*MORE UM by Will Fuller*

Inventing death hadn't worked: instead of feeling glad just to be alive, life had invented religion, and found even more ways of fighting with itself.

UM tried again. It introduced quantum anomalies into Its Creation – things at the Basic Rules level which didn't *quite* make sense; in the hope of convincing life not to take it all too seriously. Unfortunately life used the new anomalies to split the atom, and UM had to spend the next fifty years trying to stop life from blowing itself to pieces.

By now UM was starting to feel *seriously* hacked off. Its New Rules had given the Universe a finite shelf-life – but this was billions of years away: plenty of time to do some serious thinking. If life was a bit like It was, (which was the reason UM had invented life in the first place) – then was UM *Itself* capable of behaving in such a bizarrely neurotic fashion? What was It trying to tell *Itself*? UM spent a long time contemplating Its Own Nature, searching for hidden flaws – and in the end came to the blindingly obvious conclusion – if It had had Legs, It would have Kicked *Itself*.

If UM had invented the universe, then who had invented UM?