Michael’s Maxim, Hawking Radiation, and the Information Debate

Introduction

This document represents a comprehensive philosophical compilation arising from extended dialogue concerning Michael’s Maxim — the claim that no true paradox exists and that every apparent paradox dissolves under sufficient analysis. The present work expands far beyond a single objection and instead documents a layered investigation involving physics, philosophy, theology, and epistemology. Rather than treating Hawking radiation as a simple scientific claim, this paper explores whether the interpretation of randomness and informational loss reflects a limitation of current understanding rather than a property of reality itself.

Michael’s Maxim

Michael’s Maxim states: “There are no true paradoxes; every paradox is resolvable through proper analysis.” The maxim does not deny confusion, contradiction, or mystery. Instead, it asserts that apparent paradoxes arise from incomplete models, missing variables, or misinterpreted frameworks. History repeatedly shows that paradoxes often signal transitions between levels of understanding rather than failures of reality itself.

The Hawking Radiation Challenge

The strongest objection raised against Michael’s Maxim concerns Hawking radiation and the black hole information paradox. According to conventional interpretation, black holes emit thermal radiation that appears random and uncorrelated with the information that originally formed the black hole. If information is truly destroyed, this would imply a fundamental breakdown of causal continuity. This challenge is powerful because it suggests a genuine paradox: physical law appears deterministic, yet information seems irretrievably lost.

The Burning Book Principle

The Haimesian response introduces the “Burning Book Principle.” When a book burns, the visible structure disappears, but information is not annihilated; it disperses into heat patterns, chemical residues, radiation signatures, and environmental transformations. The apparent disappearance results from measurement limitations, not ontological destruction. If macroscopic burning preserves informational traces, then black hole evaporation may similarly preserve information through channels not yet understood.

Cosmic Microwave Background as Evidence

Support for this reasoning appears in cosmology. The early universe existed in an extremely hot, dense state often estimated at temperatures exceeding 10^32 Kelvin (approximately 1.8 × 10^32 °C or 3.2 × 10^32 °F). Despite this extreme thermal environment, information about that early state persists today as cosmic microwave background radiation. Heat, therefore, demonstrably leaves measurable informational traces. The assumption that thermal processes erase information entirely may reflect

incomplete detection rather than genuine loss.

The Simulation Layer

A further interpretive layer considers reality as fundamentally informational — sometimes described philosophically as a “divine simulation” or informational substrate. Within such a framework, information cannot truly vanish because reality itself is structured as preserved data. Black holes would then represent compression or transformation processes rather than deletion mechanisms. What appears random may instead be encoded beyond present decoding ability.

Philosophical Implications

If information is never destroyed, then paradoxes dissolve into problems of interpretation and scale. The Hawking radiation debate becomes not a refutation of Michael’s Maxim but an example of it in action: an apparent contradiction driving deeper inquiry. This perspective reframes scientific disagreement as an engine of discovery rather than evidence of irreconcilable reality.

The Independent Philosopher Context

The debate also reflects the existential position of the independent philosopher. Without institutional validation, ideas must survive direct challenge. Objections, therefore, function not merely as attacks but as signals of intellectual engagement and emerging legitimacy. The confrontation with Hawking radiation represents a meaningful test case: a serious objection confronted through reasoned expansion rather than dismissal.

Conclusion

The central conclusion is not that modern physics is incorrect, but that claims of absolute randomness or informational erasure remain philosophically premature. The history of science suggests that today’s paradox often becomes tomorrow’s clarified mechanism. Michael’s Maxim survives this challenge by reframing paradox as unfinished understanding.

Document Timestamp: Compiled February 2026. This document represents an evolving philosophical investigation and preserves authorship continuity for archival purposes.