

Atheism

A Giant Leap of Faith

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Background

While volunteering at one of the most prominent Islamic centers in the Middle East, I had the pleasure of interacting with and discussing faith with visitors of many religious backgrounds and diverse cultures. It became a challenge for me to find convincing answers to their numerous questions and concerns.

I had some of the same questions and concerns in my younger years. However, by the Grace of God, I was guided to answers which deepened my faith and strengthened my relationship with my Creator.

This book summarizes the discussion points with our guests in a Q&A format for clarity and ease of reference. The answers are sourced from research, discussions with colleagues, and personal thoughts on each subject. If what I present is correct, it is by the Grace of God. If there are mistakes, these are mine, and I ask Him, then you, for forgiveness.

Often, what turns people away from religion is an incorrect or inadequate concept of God. The discussion in this book is based on the Islamic monotheistic concept of God: The One and Only God, Absolute, Non-human, Who begets not and is not begotten, Indivisible, Ever-living, Transcendent, the First and the Last, Omniscient, the One Who created, destined and guided each creation to its function, Who sustains everything in existence, to Whom we belong and to Whom we will return, the One God of Adam, Noah, David, Solomon, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, and all other prophets. Over a hundred thousand prophets were sent, across the ages, to different nations in different tongues with one central message: to

worship the One Creator and worship Him directly without any intermediaries or detours.

Who has blind faith?

For many, faith in God is an intuitive feeling. They do not require empirical evidence or philosophical argument. They see the Creator as a self-evident truth, the only logical, comprehensive explanation for this universe and its inhabitants.

Others are “sunshine” believers. When things are going well, God exists. But when misfortune befalls them, they question the wisdom of God or His existence. Others believe that advances in scientific discoveries and technology leave no room for God. There are different explanations for the existence of this universe and its inhabitants. Why is there something rather than nothing? How did that something come to be? Let’s quote Hawking¹ on this:

“...What is it that breathes fire into the equations and makes a universe for them to describe? The usual approach of science of constructing a mathematical model cannot answer the question of why there should be a universe for the model to describe. Why does the universe go to all the bother of existing?”²

One explanation is that the universe and its inhabitants are eternal. This was the prevailing theory until the scientific discoveries of the past decades invalidated it:

- In 1929 Edwin Hubble³ discovered the redshift phenomenon,⁴ which indicates that galaxies are moving farther apart and that the universe is expanding. Since the expansion is still ongoing, the universe must have had a beginning.

And the heavens We constructed with strength, and indeed, We are [its] expander. Quran
Translated Meaning 51:47

¹ Stephen Hawking is a renowned English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author.

² <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/4104-even-if-there-is-only-one-possible-unified-theory-it>

³ Edwin Hubble (1889-1953) is an American astronomer and cosmologist, who is credited with starting exploration of galaxies beyond our own Milky Way galaxy.

⁴ Astronomers see redshift in virtually all galaxies. It is a result of expansion in the space between Earth and the galaxies. This expansion stretches out the light waves during their journey towards us, shifting them towards the red end of the spectrum. The more red-shifted the light from a galaxy, the faster the galaxy is moving away from Earth. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zstb8mn/revision/>

- The second law of thermodynamics involves entropy, which is more or less a measure of chaos. It states that the natural trend of all systems is to go into disorder. If the universe were infinitely old, it would now be in a state of total chaos. But it is not. This indicates a finite age and, therefore, a beginning.

The universe is moving to a condition where all heavenly bodies will reach extremely low temperatures. Since this condition has not been reached, the universe cannot be eternal.

- The Big Bang theory has become widely accepted science. In his 2005 book, *A Briefer History of Time*, Hawking⁵ writes:

The old idea of an essentially unchanging universe that could have existed and could continue to exist forever was replaced by the notion of a dynamic, expanding universe that seemed to have begun a finite time ago and that might end at a finite time in the future.⁶

According to Paul Davies:⁷ “The Big Bang theory, according to which the universe has been expanding out of an extremely hot and dense state for the past 13.8 billion years, is now widely supported among scientists.”⁸

In his book, *The First Three Minutes*, Steven Weinberg, winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Physics, writes: “A theory of the early universe has become so widely accepted

⁵ Stephen Hawking is an English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author. He published a joint paper with Sir Roger Penrose, an English physicist, mathematician, and philosopher of science with contributions to the mathematical physics of general relativity and cosmology. Their paper, entitled: The Singularities of Gravitational Collapse and Cosmology demonstrated that the universe began from a 'big bang' singularity. They won the 1988 Wolf Prize for physics for this work.

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160107-these-are-the-discoveries-that-made-stephen-hawking-famous>
Paragraph 21

⁶ <https://brieferhistoryoftime.com/chapters/6> Last Paragraph

⁷ Paul Davies is an English physicist who won the 1995 Templeton Prize, the 2001 Kelvin Medal, and the 2002 Faraday Prize awarded by The Royal Society.

⁸ <https://www.ft.com/content/f2479d9a-4cc5-11e3-958f-00144feabdc0>, Paragraphs 1-2

that astronomers often call it ‘the standard model.’ It is more or less the same as what is sometimes called the “Big Bang” theory.”⁹

Fred Hoyle,¹⁰ in his 1983 book, *The Intelligent universe*, sums up very nicely the implications of a universe with a beginning:

“The big bang theory requires a recent origin of the universe that openly invites the concept of creation.”¹¹

So, science tells us that the universe has a beginning. In what follows, we discuss the various hypotheses on the origin of the universe and its inhabitants.

In this regard, the Quran poses several rational questions:

Were they created by nothing, or did they create themselves? Quran Translated Meaning 52:35

Did they create Heavens and Earth? Quran Translated Meaning 52:36

Or do they have a deity other than God? Quran Translated Meaning 52:43

There are three possibilities for our existence:

1- First Possibility: We are created by nothing, i.e., without a creator.¹²

⁹ <http://www.slobodni-univerzitet-srbije.org/files/weinberg-steven-the-first-three-minutes.pdf>, Page 14, Paragraphs 1-2

¹⁰ Fred Hoyle (1915-2001) is an English astronomer, mathematician and writer, who formulated the theory of stellar nucleosynthesis.

¹¹ Fred Hoyle (1983) *The Intelligent universe: A New View of Creation and Evolution*, Page 237

¹² David Albert is an atheist professor of philosophy at Columbia University (with a Ph.D. in theoretical physics). In his review of Laurence Kraus’ 2012 book: *A universe from Nothing*, he writes, “Relativistic-quantum-field-theoretical vacuum states - no less than giraffes or refrigerators or solar systems - are particular arrangements of elementary physical stuff...The fact that some arrangements of fields happen to correspond to the existence of particles and some don’t is not a whit more mysterious than the fact that some of the possible arrangements of my fingers happen to correspond to the existence of a fist and some don’t. And the fact that particles can pop in and out of existence, over time, as those fields rearrange themselves, is not a whit more mysterious than the fact that fists can pop in and out of existence, over time, as my fingers rearrange themselves. And none of these poppings - if you look at them aright - amount to anything even remotely in the neighborhood of a creation from nothing.”

Per the Christian “Stand to Reason” website: “Krauss and Hawking have not explained how you can get a

- Our innate knowledge tells us that every *previously non-existing* effect must have a cause.¹³ In fact, there is no stronger generalization known to mankind than causality. It is the basic premise of all scientific activity. If you deny causality, you are denying reason and science.

If I claim that the Eiffel Tower just popped into place, would anyone believe me?

No, because it goes against our “a priori” fundamental truths.

Why did this “nothing to something” phenomenon stop after the universe came into being? Why aren’t things continuously popping into existence without a cause nowadays? Why and when did this magic stop?

- Order cannot come from random events. Sir Roger Penrose¹⁴ calculated the probability for our specific universe to come into being randomly from all possible outcomes of the Big Bang as 1 out of $10^{10^{123}}$. According to Penrose: “This number tells us how precise the Creator's aim must have been.”¹⁵ This

universe from nothing. Rather, they take something - quantum field vacuum states - call it nothing and then confidently declare that you can get something from nothing. Yet, all they have done is explain how to get something from something. This is precisely why Albert concludes his review by boldly asserting, “As far as I can see, Krauss is dead wrong and his religious and philosophical critics are absolutely right.”

<https://www.str.org/w/a-universe-from-nothing->

¹³ Some argue that, through Quantum Mechanics, something can come out of nothing. The “nothing” in Quantum mechanics is actually something: a quantum vacuum in a field of time and space which contains small amounts of energy and produces only virtual particles, not real matter. Accordingly to theoretical physicist Matt Strassler: “A virtual particle is not a particle.” A “virtual particle”, generally, is a disturbance in a field that will never be found on its own, but instead is something that is caused by the presence of other particles, often of other fields. <https://profmattstrassler.com/articles-and-posts/particle-physics-basics/virtual-particles-what-are-they/>

¹⁴ Sir Roger Penrose is an English physicist, mathematician, and philosopher of science with contributions to the mathematical physics of general relativity and cosmology. He has received several prizes and awards, including the 1988 Wolf Prize for physics, which he shared with Stephen Hawking for the Penrose–Hawking singularity theorems.

¹⁵ <https://creationofuniverse.wordpress.com/2012/04/23/the-maths-of-probability/> , Paragraph 10

assumes that the matter to form the universe exists, which leaves open the question of who created this matter.

If we sit on the beach and watch waves for 100 years, will any of the countless waves we see ever create a sandcastle?

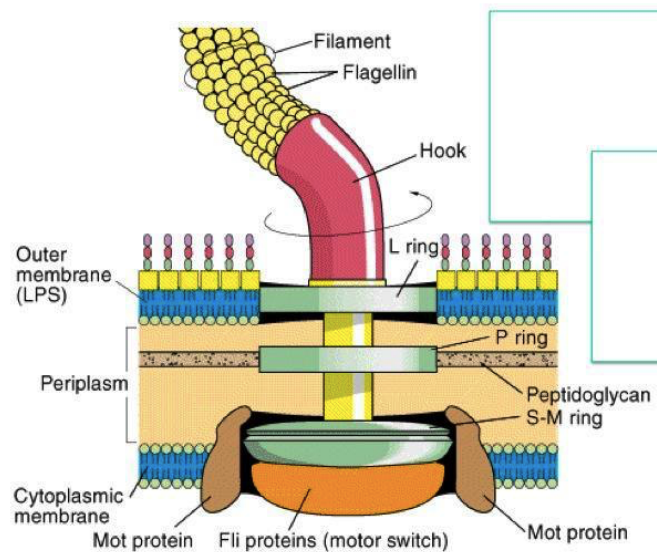
Never!

However, a small child with intelligence can create a sandcastle. So, *intelligence* is needed for order, even for a simple structure like a sandcastle. How about this universe which runs according to precise patterns, orbits, and fixed laws? How about the amazing design and complex systems in creation?

Any fair person who sees the below diagram of the bacterial flagellum,¹⁶ which is the tiny hair-like helical structure responsible for the motility of bacteria, will immediately determine that it was designed with intelligence; and could not have come together randomly.

¹⁶ <https://www.onlinebiologynotes.com/bacterial-flagella-structure-types-function/>

Structure of flagella:



Unless you want to go out of your way to ignore the obvious, that is. Richard Dawkins, in his book, *The Blind Watchmaker*, wrote: “Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”¹⁷ Then, he devotes a large part of his book to warning us against trusting our perceptions.

According to Francis Crick, the Nobel Prize-winning molecular biologist, who co-discovered the structure of the DNA molecule: “Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.”

Look how contrived atheism is: it requires us to suppress our intuitive knowledge and intentionally blind ourselves to the obvious!

2- Second Possibility: We created ourselves and the universe. Let’s state some facts:

¹⁷ Dawkins, R., *The Blind Watchmaker*, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, USA, p. 1, 1986.

- We came into existence at some point in time.
- We were non-existent before that point in time.
- Whoever created us must have existed at the time of our creation to create us.

Therefore, to have created ourselves, we must have been in a state of non-existence and existence simultaneously, which is self-contradictory and logically indefensible. Thus, we can reject this second explanation.

3- Third Possibility: Someone created us. Then that someone must be our Creator: God. Who else claims to have created the universe, Earth, and Man?

No one except the Creator.

Nobody disputes His claim.

No one else claims His title.

God's claim is unique and unchallenged. So, why not consider it seriously?

We have no other comprehensive explanation for our existence and the existence of the universe. Therefore, it makes perfect sense to accept our Creator's claim.

Do you know anyone that can be named as Him? Quran Translated Meaning 19:65

If we have a roomful with a thousand men and one child, and only one man claims to be the father, nobody disputes his claim.

Should we follow unproven hypotheses by men like us or an unchallenged claim from our Creator?

“It takes more faith to believe that there’s no God than it does to believe that there is a God... Because it makes more sense that something created the universe than that the universe created itself” William Maillis, an eleven-year-old.¹⁸

¹⁸ <https://faithit.com/11-year-old-genius-prove-stephen-hawking-wrong-death-god-exist/>

Faith in a creator is not the enemy of reason. Instead, faith is the basis of reason. In what follows, we will review some stumbling blocks along the road to faith.

Who created God?

Even if we treat this as a valid question, it changes nothing. If we have a creator, we owe him worship as our creator.

Nonetheless, “Who created God” is not a valid question because the minute we ask it, we stop talking about God. God, by definition, is not created. This is like asking: “Who created the uncreated?”

Assuming that a creator has to be created like His creation and that He has the same characteristics as His creation is a false assumption. Did Steve Jobs look like the iPhone? Did he operate in the same way? Of course not. A creator is different from his creation.

The correct assumption is that everything *with a beginning* has a cause, and everything *created* has a creator. **God is neither created nor does He have a beginning. He is the First.**

He is the First and the Last, and the Manifest and the Hidden, and He has knowledge of everything. Quran Translated Meaning 57:3

- According to Muslim scholars, infinite regress¹⁹ in doers necessarily leads to no action. If every creator needs another creator to create him, there will be no creation. But there *is* creation: the universe and its creatures, so the sequence must end at a First Originator, an Uncreated Eternal Creator.

If every soldier has to wait for the order of his commanding officer before firing, no shot will ever be fired.

¹⁹ An infinite regress is a series of appropriately related elements with a first member but no last member, where each element leads to or generates the next in some sense. Usually, such arguments take the form of objections to a theory, meaning that infinite regression makes a theory objectionable.
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/infinite-regress/>

This is in line with current science. Before the Big Bang, which produced the universe, there was no space, time, or matter. This points to a first cause.

- Hamza Tzortzis,²⁰ the author of the 2016 book, *The Divine Reality: God, Islam, & the Mirage of Atheism*,²¹ presents the argument as follows:

The universe and all the things we perceive do not necessarily exist; they could have not existed. They also have limited physical qualities. Since they could not give rise to their own limitations, something external must have imposed these limitations. The universe and all the things we perceive...are dependent and dependent things do not exist independently.²²

An independent source without limitations is the only possibility that avoids infinite regress.

- If this is a valid question, then, when some say the universe, natural processes, or gravity created us, it is perfectly legitimate to ask who created the universe, natural processes, gravity, etc.
- God sets the laws for His creation, but He is not bound by these laws. This includes the law of causality.. As a simple example —and to God belongs the highest example: If, in your household, you set a bedtime of 7 pm for your kids, you are not bound by that bedtime because it is your house and your rule.
- Created gods are idols, not God.

²⁰ <https://www.hamzatzortzis.com/about-me/>

²¹ *The Divine Reality*, Revised Edition, Hamza Andreas Tzortzis, FB Publishing, 2016

²² *ibid*, Page 104

<https://www.hamzatzortzis.com/divine-link-the-argument-from-dependency/>

How can God allow bad things to happen?

If we discover a buried city where everything seems to be designed, except some structures whose function is unknown, we cannot deduce that no one designed this city simply because the function of some of its parts is not clear to us.

Even though many atheists use the question of evil as an argument against God's existence, stating that a merciful God would not allow evil, it is, at most, an objection to God's plan, unrelated to His existence. Nonetheless, let us discuss this issue in detail as it is a central theme in atheism.

If God loves us, why does He allow us to experience pain, disappointment, injustice, sickness, loss, etc.?

Is this world the best of all worlds that a Just, All-Powerful God can create?

To answer, we first need to clear up some misconceptions to put things in perspective:

- This worldly life is just a station. Death is not the end of our story. It is the beginning of our real life.

This worldly life is a **test, a learning academy**, a place where we can grow morally and intellectually to determine where we truly stand on issues of belief, how we serve God, and what we contribute to the well-being of humanity; to separate the righteous from the wrongdoers and the truthful from the hypocrites.

This life is not about fairness, uninterrupted happiness, or justice. These belong to the Afterlife. If we expect these in this life, we are confusing Earth with Paradise, the test with the result.

- Such questions go against the concept of faith, which, in essence, is **belief in a delayed outcome**. Faith is not about immediate or direct results. It is a conviction in a promise by a God we have never seen for delayed rewards that we cannot imagine.

- The objection to the existence of suffering is an objection to natural laws and to life itself. Would we rather not have the sun because some people get heatstroke? Are freshwater rivers bad because some people drown in them? Would we rather not have seasons because of the freezing cold in winter? How is it wise or merciful to prevent great good to avoid relatively minor harm? On the contrary, it would be the ultimate harm.

In everyday dealings between humans, there is loss and gain. Should we stop forming relationships because of the potential loss?

Without predators in the animal world and the pain they cause their prey, populations of certain species may multiply and cause significant ecological damage, starvation, and resource imbalance. For example, when European rabbits were introduced in Tasmania —where they had no natural predators— they caused massive damage to crops and livestock.
- Say you find an unknown part in your iPhone. From your experience with the expert design and proficiency in Apple products, you assume it must have a function, even if you don't know what it is. You would never say: "This iPhone cannot be designed because a designer would never create a function that I would not understand."

Similarly, when everything in this universe is created with wisdom and fine-tuned for a purpose, our ignorance of the wisdom for some things (such as suffering) does not mean there is no wisdom behind them.
- These questions ignore the collective human experience. **Since when does great reward come without hardship?** Medical students apply themselves to years of study instead of immersing themselves in pleasurable activities in order to receive the reward of a medical degree and a lifetime of monetary ease.

Similarly, we are promised great rewards in the Afterlife in return for the hardship and strife that we endure in this life.²³

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, told us that people who did not suffer calamity in this life would wish, in the Afterlife, that they had been given the worst trials when they see the reward of those who were afflicted.

“On the Day of Resurrection, people will wish that their skins had been cut with shears in this world when they see the reward of those who suffered calamity.” Jami` at-Tirmidhi 2402.

- **Anything transient is bearable.** We are created for eternal life and not for this short worldly life. Therefore, whatever hardship we suffer in this life, and however long it lasts, is inconsequential in the context of our eternal life. Would you say that a lifetime in the US was terrible, simply because of the jet lag you suffered during the first few days?

The Quran tells us that in the Afterlife, our life here on Earth will seem like part of a day:

God will say: “How long did you remain on Earth in number of years?” They will say: “We remained a day or part of a day.” Quran Translated Meaning 23:112-113

- Our perception is very limited. Therefore, our judgment of what is “good” or “bad” is flawed. We cannot see the big picture or the final outcome. **We cannot judge a 1000-page book by reading only one paragraph.** If we could see the future, we would know that the outcome of hardship for a believer is the best one possible. This is a pledge from God.

Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) said:

²³ With atheism, suffering evil has no reward, punishment, meaning or recourse.

“How wonderful is the affair of the believer, for his affairs are all good, and this applies to no one but the believer. If something good happens, he is thankful for it, and that is good. If something bad happens, he bears it with patience, and that is good.” Narrated by Muslim, 2999.

The ultimate test to judge if anything was good or bad is whether it brought you closer to God. If it did, then it was good. If it took you further away, it was bad.

- We know from experience that things are never good or bad in an absolute sense but are always related to a **purpose**. We often choose temporary suffering for some higher good in the future. For example, we knowingly subject our children to the hardship of school in consideration of their future success and benefit; coaches subject athletes to painful exercise to bring them to peak physical performance, etc. By keeping an eye on the ultimate goal, any hardship becomes bearable and acceptable.

We all know that good parenting, even from the most loving parents, is never restricted to hugs and kisses. Deducing that a benevolent God would not allow suffering is like seeing a sick child undergoing a painful life-saving procedure, then saying: “A parent who allows their child to suffer is not a good parent.” Going further by deducing that pain and evil prove that there is no God, is like a kid who, when punished by his parents, denies the existence of parenthood as a parent would never punish his kid.

Our ignorance of the total picture does not excuse the hasty arrogant judgment; our ignorance of the wisdom of God does not mean there is no wisdom.

- Every good thing has a (seemingly) **bad phase**; fertile soil for crops comes from destructive volcanoes; sickness makes us appreciate health, and pain makes us compassionate. Goodness comes out of seemingly bad events. Who we are today

is a result of what we struggled with yesterday. If you review your character strengths, you may find that you were only able to acquire them after experiencing certain painful events earlier in your life. Abu Huraira reported that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

“If Allah intends good for someone, he afflicts him with trials.” Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 5321.

- People with **handicaps** are compensated, even in this life. They develop formidable strength and unique talents. Their other senses are much enhanced as a result of dealing with hardship early on.
- **God does not test anyone beyond their abilities.** For example, adults and children have different pain tolerances and feel things differently. Extracting a tooth from an adult is a painful process requiring anesthesia and an operation, whereas children (with a lower tolerance for pain) change milk teeth painlessly.

The severity of trials depends on the tolerance of each person. A teacher who wants the student to learn and grow gives assignments just above the current caliber of the student, enough to challenge but not too much to frustrate. Thus, the most tried and the longest-suffering people were the Prophets who presented the highest caliber of Mankind.²⁴

God does not charge a soul except with that within its capacity. Quran Translated Meaning 2:286

Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Kansas, Dr. Jeffrey Lang, a revert to Islam from atheism, suggests in his “*Purpose of Life*”²⁵ video that one of the main purposes of this Earthly life, from the perspective of Islam and the Quran, is

²⁴ <https://goharmukhtar.wordpress.com/2010/03/01/dr-lang-and-purpose-of-life/>

²⁵ The *Purpose of Life* video can be seen at: <https://youtu.be/GzWRmJ-dFr4>

our growth to prepare us for the Afterlife. The ultimate goal is to grow closer to God by developing the qualities that make us better individuals. These qualities are derived from God's Merciful Attributes of Compassion, Graciousness, Peace, Love, Justice, Truth, Wisdom, Mercy, Patience, and the like. God is the infinite source of all virtue.

Dr. Lang points out that, for a relationship to develop, the two parties must have some common ground. The greater the common ground, the stronger the resulting bond and relationship. The only possibility of common ground between humans and God lies in the moral dimension, i.e., the Attributes of God: Mercy, Truth, Care, Compassion, Benevolence, Guidance, Peace, Love, etc. By cultivating these merciful attributes in our characters, we can bring ourselves closer to God.²⁶

So we can think about it in this way: Our physical growth in the womb was to prepare us to exist physically on Earth. Our moral growth on Earth is to prepare us morally for Paradise. **We are not finished products yet but rather works in progress.**²⁷

But why does this growth need an environment of suffering?

Dr. Lang points out the three necessary ingredients in the recipe of morality and growth for humans: **intellect**, **choice**, and **suffering**. Through choice, we decide whether to grow through the beautiful merciful attributes of our Creator or to grow with the opposites of these qualities (which moves us further away from God). Intellect allows us to develop, and suffering provides the environment and opportunity to acquire and exercise these attributes. For example, we can develop compassion from experiencing pain, patience through ordeals, courage in an

²⁶ ibid

²⁷ <https://goharmukhtar.wordpress.com/2010/03/01/dr-lang-and-purpose-of-life/>

environment of fear, etc. Pure gold only emerges from the rough ore when it is subjected to fire.

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, visited a sick person and said, “Be cheerful...When a Muslim is sick, God takes away his sins just as fire takes away impurities in gold and silver.” Sunan Abī Dāwūd 3092.

Such a perspective makes suffering an opportunity rather than a nuisance.

Thus, the real question is not how we can avoid trials but how we can attach meaning to hardship and suffering²⁸ and elevate our positions in our eternal life.

But why does God allow evil?

Dr. Mustafa Mahmoud, a revert to Islam from atheism, discusses the other side of evil in this excerpt from his book, *Dialogue with an Atheist* (2000, Dar Al-Taqwa). He says:

God was quite capable of making us all benevolent by compelling us to obey Him. This, however, would have entailed that He deprive us of the freedom to choose. But, in His plan and Law, freedom with suffering is more honorable than slavery with happiness. That is why He let us sin, suffer, and learn; this is the wisdom in His sufferance of evil to exist.²⁹ (Page 24)

He also says:

²⁸ https://youtu.be/ZIy_PnsKxeg

²⁹ *Dialogue with an Atheist*, Dr. Mostafa Mahmoud
https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.muslim-library.com/dl/books/English_Dialogue_with_an_Atheist.pdf

Evil in the universe is like the shaded spaces in a painting. If you come very near to the painting, you will see these parts as defects. Still, if you draw back to take a general view of the painting as a whole, you will discover that the shaded parts are indispensable, fulfilling an aesthetic function within the structure of the artwork.³⁰ (Page 25)

Pure evil does not exist. Every seemingly evil thing has an ultimately good outcome. The creation of pure evil is unnecessary and goes against the Wisdom of God.

Actually, the problem of evil is a problem only for atheists. Theists believe everyone will get their just desserts: that good deeds and patience will be rewarded, and evil will be punished. It is a problem for the atheist who believes that the raped and the rapist will have the same ending, as will the murderer and his victim: that good and evil have no ultimate consequence and that people's rights and grievances get buried along with their oppressors.

With atheism, there is no ultimate difference between living your life as Hitler or Mother Teresa. Actually, it may even be better to be the evil party: to exercise our selfishness to the fullest and give in to every desire, regardless of the rights of others, as long as we can get away with it. After all, if we have only this life to live and there is no Afterlife and no accounting, one might as well make the most of it.

What atheists don't realize is that their attacks on God for allowing evil and pain spring from their belief in absolute morality, which can only exist with Creationism, and contradicts their claims of subjective human-derived morality.

³⁰ *ibid*

*I asked for strength and
God gave me difficulties to make me strong.*

*I asked for wisdom and
God gave me problems to solve.*

*I asked for prosperity and
God gave me brawn and brains to work.*

*I asked for courage and
God gave me dangers to overcome.*

*I asked for patience and
God placed me in situations where I was forced to wait.*

*I asked for love and
God gave me troubled people to help.*

*I asked for favors and
God gave me opportunities.*

*I received nothing I wanted and
I received everything I needed.*

My prayers have all been answered.³¹

³¹ <https://spirituallythinking.blogspot.com/search?q=I+asked+for+strength>

No, it is not enough to be good

Some people say we do not need to believe in God; we just need to be good, ethical people. Honestly, to a believer, this seems like such a waste. Why would anyone forgo the great rewards God promised for good deeds and just do them for nothing? It's like going through years of medical studies without wanting the diploma or career at the end.

However, being good, ethical, and moral is not a purely selfless decision. If we think about it, everyone is motivated by something or another.

- Some people are motivated by punishment, i.e., they drive ethically to avoid a traffic ticket. They are honest (don't steal) because they don't want to end up in jail. This is the lowest form of motivation because it depends on the environment. In the absence of motive, i.e., in a different situation without high traffic penalties, they may drive like maniacs. If there were no rules for queuing, they might push and shove as much as the next person.
- Some are motivated by reward, monetary or otherwise (such as recognition). For example, they give to charity because they want their community to recognize them as charitable. This is a higher form of motivation but it is still tied to the environment. Without an audience, the charity might not be as forthcoming.
- Some are motivated by self-gratification. They are good because they expect nothing less of themselves. They hold themselves up to an even higher standard. This is a higher form of motivation because it is not tied to the environment, but is inherent in the individual. However, it is still dependent on our fickle selves and our subjective, personal moral compasses. What gratifies us today may not satisfy us tomorrow, and what we consider good behavior may be regarded as harmful by others.

- The purest form of motivation is to be moral and ethical because you want to get closer to God, Who is the source of all morality, goodness, and virtue. This constant potent motivation does not depend on the environment or mood. It is not subjective because it is sourced from our Creator, Who knows His creatures best and looks out for **everyone's** interests. Here, ethics are displayed in every circumstance and regardless of hardship because the believer believes God is always watching over him.

We have mounting scientific evidence that spirituality is directly proportional to morality. A 2011 study by Konrath, O'Brien, and Hsing found declining empathic concern and perspective-taking among US college students due to the emphasis on material sciences at the expense of humanities.³²

Dr. Tony Jack³³ and his team conducted nine separate experiments involving thousands of participants from diverse religious faiths (mainly people from monotheistic religions). They measured belief in God, analytical ability, and caring tendencies. Their research showed that the “nicest and kindest” people believe in God. The believers were kinder, more tolerant, and better listeners than the non-believers in each group.³⁴

³² Konrath, S. H., O'Brien, E. H., Hsing, C. (2011) Changes in dispositional empathy in American college students over time: a meta-analysis. *Pers Soc Psychol Rev.* 15(2):180-98. doi: 10.1177/1088868310377395. Retrieved from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20688954/>
<https://sites.google.com/site/empathytraininglitreview/papers/-konrath-2011>

³³ Dr. Anthony Jack leads the Brain, Mind, and Consciousness lab at Case Western Reserve University in the US. In 2014 Dr. Jack became the research director of the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence. <http://www.tedxcle.com/tony-jack/>

³⁴ TedX Talks (July 10, 2015) *A scientific defense of spiritual and religious faith* | Tony Jack | TEDxCLE. [video] YouTube. Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BihT0XrPVP8>

In addition, the research showed a direct relationship between belief and empathy for other people and society at large. Contrary to what some atheists claim, religious people are not driven by loneliness and despair. Instead, religious people identify more with all of humanity. This empathy is even found among the most dogmatic religious believers. On the other hand, the more dogmatic the non-believers, the more psychological and social problems they face.³⁵

Other research shows that people distrust atheists because they do not adhere to a Divine moral compass.³⁶

Even if we ignore the research and assume that we do not need God's direction to be absolutely objective, ethical, empathetic, and fully conscious of the rights of others, there are fundamental problems with ethics in the absence of faith:

- **Objective Source:** For the theist, absolute objective morality comes from God, while for an atheist, morality is fluid and subjective. Subjective morality cannot explain why rational people in every culture, across the ages, agree that killing a child, theft, rape, etc., are bad; and that charity, kindness, and altruism are good.
- **Inherent Racism:** Evolution is presented in many cases as an alternative to creationism. Inherently —through its survival-of-the-fittest philosophy and its

³⁵ *ibid*

³⁶ Cline, A. (2019) *Are Atheists Trusted Less Than Rapists?* Learn Religions. Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: www.learnreligions.com/atheists-trusted-less-than-rapists-248477

disregard for Divine rulings on justice and morality, evolution may be perceived as a racist ideology.³⁷

Darwin paved the way for racism and genocide when he said: “At some period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of Man will almost certainly exterminate, and replace, the savage races throughout the world.”³⁸

Galton, the Father of Eugenics, was Darwin’s first cousin and was indebted to his theories. Major Leonard Darwin, Charles Darwin’s son, trumpeted the spread of eugenics. Major Darwin foresaw the day when “eugenics would become not only a grail, a substitute for religion, as Galton had hoped, but a ‘paramount duty’ whose tenets would presumably become enforceable.” The Major repeated his father’s admonition that, though the crudest workings of natural selection must be mitigated by “the spirit of civilization,” society must encourage breeding among the best stock and prevent it among the worst without further delay.^{39 40}

³⁷ The author of an 1888 book, justifying the killing of the native population in the State of Victoria, writes: “It is a question of temperament; to the sentimental it is undoubtedly an iniquity; to the practical it represents a distinct step in human progress, involving the sacrifice of a few thousands of an inferior race. . . . But the fact is that Mankind, as a race, cannot choose to act solely as moral beings. They are governed by animal laws which urge them blindly forward upon tracks they scarce can choose for themselves.”

Stone, S. N. (1974) *Aborigines in white Australia: a documentary history of the attitudes affecting official policy and the Australian Aborigine, 1697-1973*. South Yarra, Vic: Heinemann Educational. Citation retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: <https://creation.com/evolutionary-racism> Paragraph 8

³⁸ Charles Darwin, *Anthropological Review* 1867, Page 236. Also, Darwin, Forgotten Books 2007, Page 136. <https://tinyurl.com/ub7t6xb>

³⁹ First International Eugenics Congress (1912) *Br Med J*. 2 (2692): 253–255. Retrieved on 03.03.2023 from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2334093/pdf/brmedj07841-0041.pdf>

<https://creation.com/darwin-and-eugenics>

⁴⁰ Quinn, P. (2007) *The Gentle Darwinians: What Darwin’s champions won’t mention*, Commonweal. 134(5). Retrieved on 03.03.2023 from: <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/gentle-darwinians>

The concept of biological determinism⁴¹ worried even some leading evolutionists, such as Gould⁴² and Lewontin.⁴³ They noted that individuals with similar concepts had used them to justify civil rights violations based on claims that some people in some populations had innate criminality or poor intellect, whereas people in other populations did not. One such example was the eugenics movement at the beginning of the twentieth century when many people were sterilized against their will to prevent those seen as weak or feeble-minded from reproducing.

Another example is the “human zoos,” also called “ethnological expositions.”⁴⁴ These were 19th- and 20th-century public exhibitions of humans, displayed in a “natural” or “primitive” state, to emphasize the cultural differences between Europeans of Western civilization and non-European peoples.⁴⁵

Some Darwinists, including Darwin and Gustave Le Bon, considered women as inferior species.⁴⁶ In 1879, Gustave Le Bon⁴⁷ told his readers that women’s brains were closer in evolution to gorilla’s minds than the minds of men:

⁴¹ <https://www.encyclopedia.com/science-and-technology/biology-and-genetics/biology-general/biological-determinism>

⁴² Stephen Gould (1941-2002) was an American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist and historian of science. He was also one of the most influential and widely read authors of popular science of his generation. Gould spent most of his career teaching at Harvard University and working at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

⁴³ Richard Lewontin (1929-2021) was a famous American evolutionary biologist, mathematician, geneticist, and social commentator.

⁴⁴ Discovery Science (Feb 17, 2019) *Human Zoos: America’s Forgotten History of Scientific Racism* [video] YouTube. Retrieved on 04.03.2023 from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY6Zrol5QEk>

⁴⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_zoo

⁴⁶ Le Bon, G. (1879) Anatomical and Mathematical Researches into the Laws of the Variations of Brain Volume and their Relation to Intelligence. *Revue d'Anthropologie*. 2 (2) Retrieved on 05.03.2023 from: https://archive.org/stream/AnatomicalAndMathematicalResearchesIntoTheLawsOfTheVariationsOfBrain/AnatomicalAndMathematicalResearchesIntoTheLawsOfTheVariationsOfBrainVolumeAndTheirRelationToIntelligence_djvu.txt

<https://www.icr.org/article/darwins-teaching-womens-inferiority/>

⁴⁷ Gustave Le Bon (1841-1931), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustave_Le_Bon

...a large number of women whose brains are closer in size to those of gorillas than to the most developed male brains. This inferiority is so obvious that no one can contest it for a moment; only its degree is worth discussion...Women...represent the most inferior forms of human evolution and...are closer to children and savages than to an adult, civilized man.⁴⁸

Many historians believe that the roots of Nazi ideology were formed upon Darwinism and other works disseminating scientific racism and eugenics.⁴⁹ In his 2016 book, *Hitler's Religion: The Twisted Beliefs that Drove the Third Reich*, Richard Weikart explains how the laws of nature became Hitler's only moral guide; how he became convinced he should annihilate “inferior” human beings and promote the welfare and reproduction of the allegedly superior Aryans, in accordance with the racist forms of Darwinism prevalent at the time.⁵⁰

The 1974 book by Sherman Nance Stone, *Aborigines in White Australia: A Documentary History of the Attitudes Affecting Official Policy and the Australian Aborigine, 1697–1973*, consists almost entirely of excerpts from parliamentary transcripts, court records, letters to editors, anthropological reports, etc. These documents show a distinct change for the worse after the publication of Charles Darwin’s book in 1859, with a marked increase in callousness, ill-treatment, and brutality towards Aboriginal people evident in official attitudes. Readers took it that the European was the “fittest to survive” and the Aboriginal was doomed to die out according to natural law, like the dinosaur.⁵¹

⁴⁸ <https://faculty.washington.edu/lynnhank/wbgould.pdf>

⁴⁹ <https://www.csustan.edu/sites/default/files/History/Faculty/Weikart/Progress-through-Racial-Extermination.pdf>

⁵⁰ Weikart, R. (2017) *Hitler's Religion: The Twisted Beliefs that Drove the Third Reich*. United States: Regnery Publishing, p. 12

⁵¹ Stone, S. N. (1974) *Aborigines in white Australia: a documentary history of the attitudes affecting official policy and the Australian Aborigine, 1697-1973*. South Yarra, Vic:

In a Congress speech in 1927, Stalin declared: “Our party is a living organism. As in every organism, a metabolism takes place; old, obsolete stuff dies off; new growing things flourish and develop.”⁵² Historians believe he took this ‘dying off’ quite ruthlessly and literally from Darwinism.⁵³

A July 2022 article in the *American Naturalist* acknowledges that the association with racism continues to this day. It states: “This failure to divest from our eugenicist and ableist history has harmed progress in evolutionary biology and allowed principles from evolutionary biology to continue to be weaponized against marginalized communities in the modern day.”⁵⁴

Compare that to the human equality demanded by religion. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said:

“O people, verily your Lord is One, and your father is one. Verily there is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, or a non-Arab over an Arab, or a red man over a black man, or a black man over a red man, except in terms of piety.” Al-Albani in *al-Saheehah* (6/199).

- **Appreciation and Fairness:** Part of being ethical involves appreciating gifts, kindness, knowledge imparted, etc. Don't we owe our Creator appreciation for our existence, our minds, this world, and everything He gave us?

Is it fair to thank everyone but God? We thank the doctor for repairing our broken hand, so how is it fair not to thank the One who gave us a hand in the first place?

Heinemann Educational.

⁵² Van Ree, E. (1993) Stalin's Organic Theory of the Party. *The Russian Review*, 52(1), p. 56. <https://doi.org/10.2307/130857>

⁵³ https://evolutionnews.org/2012/12/darwinism_and_s2/

⁵⁴ <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/720003?journalCode=an>

- **Respect:** Part of being ethical is being a conscientious, productive worker. If, at your company, you decide to have a great relationship with everyone except the boss and work in ignorance of his plans, totally oblivious of the mission statement of the company, how productive a worker can you be? Similarly, if we ignore God in our life and forget our mission statement as His creatures, we are ignoring our fundamental purpose-driven values.

Does this mean that all theists are moral and all atheists are immoral?

No, that is not what we are saying. Morality is actually a crossover from one world to another...

Dr. AbdAllah Al-Ujari,⁵⁵ a Saudi author, believes that you can be moral without believing in God, but you cannot be moral if God does not exist.⁵⁶ To adopt a non-material value, such as morality, you must suspend your belief that there is nothing except matter.

That's why atheists cannot label anything as "evil" if they want to remain true to their materialistic philosophy. Terms such as good, evil, morality, truth, human rights, etc., are philosophical constructs that do not belong in a materialistic world. Thus, we hear some famous atheists utter the most shocking statements when asked about evil acts:

- Richard Dawkins: "no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference."⁵⁷

⁵⁵ https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/عبد_الله_بن_صالح_العجيري

⁵⁶ القيم الأخلاقية عند الملحد | الشيخ م. عبدالله العجيري (Apr 4, 2017) عبيد الظاهري [video] YouTube. Retrieved on 01.01.2023 from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1topY-wlPY>

⁵⁷ Dawkins, R. (1995) *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. London. p. 133

- Lawrence Krauss: incest may be ok: "It is not clear to me that it [incest] is wrong!"⁵⁸
- Richard Dawkins: saying "rape is wrong" is as arbitrary as the evolution of five fingers.⁵⁹
- Sam Harris: Rape is a natural outgrowth of human nature.⁶⁰
- Sam Harris: It may be ethical to kill people for certain beliefs.⁶¹
- Peter Singer: Necrophilia⁶² and bestiality⁶³ are not wrong.⁶⁴ "Humans and animals can have mutually satisfying sexual relationships."
- Peter Singer: It is ethical to kill one-year-olds with physical or mental disabilities.⁶⁵
- Herbert Spencer⁶⁶: State programs for the underprivileged should be forbidden.⁶⁷

⁵⁸ iERA (March 29, 2013) *Lawrence Krauss vs Hamza Tzortzis @SapienceInstitute | Islam vs Atheism Debate* [video] YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp7dRpWIdBo> @ 1:09:25 min

⁵⁹ Bibleapologetics (April 2, 2009) *Richard Dawkins says rape is morally arbitrary!* [Video] YouTube. Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-F-4WhvHqU>

⁶⁰ Harris, S. (2019) *Response to controversy*. Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: <https://samharris.org/response-to-controversy/>

⁶¹ Harris, S (2004) *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason*. W. W. Norton & Company. p. 129

⁶² sexual intercourse with or attraction to corpses

⁶³ sexual intercourse between a human and an animal

⁶⁴ Dulle, J. (2009) *Peter Singer, bestiality, and infanticide*. Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: <https://thinkingtobelieve.com/2009/05/08/peter-singer-bestiality-and-infanticide/>

⁶⁵ ibid

⁶⁶ Herbert Spencer was an English sociologist and philosopher, and an early advocate of the theory of evolution.

⁶⁷ Perlstadt, Harry (2018) *Natural Law, Herbert Spencer, Donald Trump and American Values*.

Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327872065_Natural_Law_Herbert_Spencer_Donald_Trump_and_American_Values

- Herbert Spencer: laws that help workers, the poor, and the genetically weak go against the evolution of civilization by delaying the extinction of the ‘unfit.’⁶⁸

The reason for such shocking utterances is that these leading atheists know that matter and bio-chemical reactions cannot be labeled as good or bad. They are neutral. Matter has no values. Admitting that some things are evil or good is an acknowledgment of the gap in their materialistic assumptions and an expression of the need for a non-materialistic source.

Similarly, believers suspend their faith while they are committing an immoral act.

“The adulterer is not a believer at the moment when he is committing adultery; the wine-drinker is not a believer at the moment when he is drinking wine; the thief is not a believer at the moment when he is stealing; the robber is not a believer at the moment when he is robbing, and the people are looking on.” Narrated by al-Bukhari, 2475; Muslim, 57.

Given the above, it is incredible how people who deny any objective source for morality can claim a higher moral ground and resort to attacks on the morality of prophets and believers to justify their denial of God.

We have a choice...

We can either live in accordance with the morality and ethics derived from the Attributes of our Perfect Creator, or in the fluid sphere of godlessness where there is no right or wrong.

⁶⁸ *Social Darwinism* (2018) Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/social-darwinism#section_2

Thus far, man's reliance on subjective morality has not led to much justice, morality, or happiness in this world. Humanity seems to have lost its way: rising crime and corruption, widespread nationalism and racism, senseless mass killings, rising sexual harassment and rape statistics, family unit disintegration, etc. The rejection of Divine moral guidance has come at a high price!

So why don't we try God's way for a change? It can only be an improvement over the sad state of morality in the world today.

Is science enough?

The problem with putting our complete faith in science is that much of it is constantly in flux. Scientific “discoveries” are made every day, which invalidate previous discoveries. For example, look at the non-stop food/diet research. One day we hear something is very good for us. The next, they tell us it is bad for us. It has reached the point where we no longer know what to eat.

The Newtonian physics model assumed that time and space were independent and absolute. Einstein later discovered that they were relative. The steady-state eternal universe theory has been replaced by the Big Bang theory. A hundred or so years ago, we believed all cells were just protoplasm; now, we know there is a complex DNA programming system in our cells.

In biology, Darwin’s theory of biological evolution underwent several modifications as new discoveries invalidated many of its original assumptions. Soon, the only thing recognizable from Darwin’s original theory may be its name.

Similarly, countless other scientific “facts” have been debunked with new data, new discoveries, and new tools and methods

The highest level science can reach is the theory stage. A scientific “fact” or scientific law such as ‘the law of gravity’ cannot be regarded as absolute truth because it does not encompass all possibilities. Moreover, there are also a lot of background philosophical constructs behind what we consider as ‘scientific truths,’ which make the science subjective or, at least, not wholly objective.

Albert Einstein once gave his class the same exam paper he had given the previous year. His teaching assistant alerted him: “I’m not sure if you realize it, but this is the

same test you gave out last year. In fact, it's identical." Einstein replied: "Yes, it is the same test, but the answers have changed."⁶⁹

Even if we assume that all science is proven, fixed, and 100% accurate, it would still be an incomplete and limited source of knowledge. Why?

- Science focuses on the physical world and can only address natural processes and phenomena using the observations at hand. New data, new methods of observation, and other tools or sources of information, such as trusted testimony,⁷⁰ instinct, innate knowledge,⁷¹ deductive argument, logic, math, etc., can negate established scientific discoveries.
- Science gives all glory to the discoverer and none to the Creator. For example, Adam enters a room and finds a beautiful, precisely executed painting with unbelievable symmetry and a brilliant color scheme. When he walks out to tell people about his discovery, everybody is so impressed with Adam for discovering the painting that nobody asks the most critical question: *Who painted it?*

We are so fascinated with science for discovering the universal laws which govern this universe and our existence that we forget to ask who put down these laws. Scientists did not formulate these laws; nor did they create matter; nor did they force it to adhere to these laws. All science does is discover the laws.

The Creator did.

Why does all the credit go to the discoverer instead of the originator?

⁶⁹ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/9628422-the-answers-have-changed-albert-einstein-was-once-giving-an>

⁷⁰ Most of our knowledge comes from trusted testimony and is based on cumulative knowledge. We cannot repeat every experiment ourselves before accepting its results. It is ironic that, while science accepts testimony when it builds upon previous research, as evidenced by citations and references, some reject the authenticated testimony in the most authenticated book of all time: the Quran.

⁷¹ Innate knowledge includes the universal truths, shared across humanity throughout the ages, that need no prior experience or observation, e.g. causality, law of non-contradiction, a part is smaller than a whole, etc.

John Lennox⁷², Oxford Professor of Mathematics and Fellow in Mathematics and the Philosophy of Science, writes:

“When Sir Isaac Newton discovered the universal law of gravitation, he did not say, ‘I have discovered a mechanism that accounts for planetary motion; therefore, there is no agent God who designed it.’ Quite the opposite: precisely because he understood how it worked, he was moved to increased admiration for the God who had designed it that way.”⁷³

We marvel at Einstein’s brilliance in discovering that the speed of light is constant when we should tremble in awe and reverence for the One who created light!

- Science and religion are not mutually exclusive:

Science is sometimes presented as an alternative to religion. John Lennox likens this “either/or” fallacy to the choice between Henry Ford and the car. They are not independent of one another. Does the discovery of an old book not indicate with certainty the existence of its author?

According to Lennox: “There is a real conflict, but it is not science versus religion. It is theism versus atheism, and there are scientists on both sides.”⁷⁴

Einstein famously said: “Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.”

While modern science is promoted as a substitute for religion—a reason to abandon faith, true religion promotes science, elevates knowledge, and praises

⁷² John Carson Lennox (born 7 November 1943) is an Irish mathematician, bioethicist, and author. He has written many books on religion and ethics and has had numerous public debates with atheists including Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens.

⁷³ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/7377568-when-sir-isaac-newton-discovered-the-universal-law-of-gravitation>

⁷⁴ Lennox, John, *God and Stephen Hawking, Whose Design Is It Anyway?*, Lion Hudson, 2011, Page 12, Paragraph 1

people of knowledge. The first word of the Quran is “Read.” Many verses in the Quran exalt knowledge and encourage the pursuit of knowledge.

Read: In the name of thy Lord Who, created. Quran Translated Meaning 96:1
God will exalt in degree those of you who believe and those who have been granted knowledge. Quran Translated Meaning 58:11
But those who have in-depth knowledge among them are believers in what is revealed unto you and what was revealed before you. Quran Translated Meaning 4:162
Travel through the earth and observe how He began creation. Quran Translated Meaning 29:20

How can those who know be equal to those who know not? It is only men of understanding who will remember. Quran Translated Meaning 39:9

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: “The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim.” Sunan Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 74.

He also said: “Whoever follows a path seeking knowledge, God will make his path to Paradise easy.” Muslim, Book 42, Hadith 7058.

However, true religion doesn’t view science as a collection of dry, abstract theories for academic debate or industrial application but links it with the greater fundamental truths about existence and stresses the impact of the beauty and design in creation on the human heart and mind, and the relationship with the Creator.

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what God has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth are signs for a people who use reason. Quran Translated Meaning 2:164

If science removes the need for God, why are many scientists, including Nobel Prize winners, believers?⁷⁵ Science did not turn them away from God. Instead, it solidified their faith. Sir Francis Bacon, known as one of the founders of empiricism and the scientific method,⁷⁶ said: “A little philosophy inclineth man's mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion.” Nobody denies the benefits of science, but we need to realize that the applications of modern science only serve to increase the material possessions of man, improve his life expectancy, and make his life easier. They do not serve humanity, morality, values, social life, or family life. On the contrary, they may have had an adverse effect on these aspects. The purely material progression in modern science has caused an imbalance at best and destruction and annihilation at its worst: atomic bombs, wars, mass surveillance, loss of jobs to technology, etc. In addition, much of scientific research nowadays serves the economic, military, or political agendas of governments and big business at the expense of human welfare and happiness.

When Einstein heard that President Truman had ordered bombs to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki —which would cause the deaths of over 210,000 people— he purportedly said: “If I had known they were going to do this, I would have become a shoemaker.”⁷⁷

We’ve just gone through two years of misery for the human race, with millions dead, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which may have been the result of a leak from a laboratory engaged in gain-of-function scientific research, i.e., genetically altering viruses that infect animals to enable them to infect humans.

⁷⁵ <https://aleteia.org/2014/06/26/25-famous-scientists-on-god/>

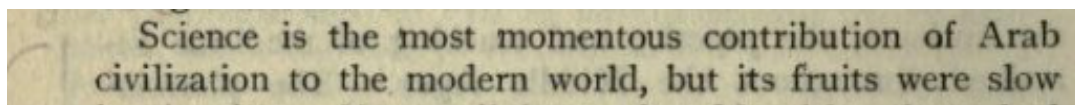
⁷⁶ Around 250 years before Roger Bacon, an Arab Muslim scientist named Ibn AL Haytham was the first to introduce the scientific method. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6074172/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/183907-if-i-had-known-they-were-going-to-do-this>

Leaked documents showed how: “an organization dedicated to preventing the next pandemic found itself suspected of helping start one.”⁷⁸

Has science been hijacked by atheism?

Because of some very vocal contemporary atheists, science has somehow become associated with atheism. This is a fallacious association. In the Middle Ages, most sciences originated in the Muslim world, and the world’s leading scientists were Muslim. The language of science for seven centuries was Arabic. The below excerpt is from Robert Briffault’s book, *The Making of Humanity*⁷⁹, Page 202.



Science is the most momentous contribution of Arab civilization to the modern world, but its fruits were slow

Muslims introduced the world to the experimental method on which scientific research is based today. Robert Briffault's book, *The Making of Humanity*⁸⁰, refutes the claim that Bacon introduced the foundations of the experimental method. Briffault says:

...It was under their successors at that Oxford school that Roger Bacon learned Arabic and Arabic science. Neither Roger Bacon nor his later namesake has any title to be credited with having introduced the experimental method. Roger Bacon was no more than one of the apostles of Muslim science and method to Christian Europe...⁸¹

⁷⁸ <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2022/03/the-virus-hunting-nonprofit-at-the-center-of-the-lab-leak-controversy>

⁷⁹ <https://archive.org/details/makingofhumanity00brifrich/page/n3/mode/1up?ref=ol&view=theater>

⁸⁰ *ibid*

⁸¹ *ibid* 200-201

that Oxford school that Roger Bacon learned Arabic and Arabic science. Neither Roger Bacon nor his later

namesake has any title to be credited with having introduced the experimental method. Roger Bacon was no more than one of the apostles of Muslim science and method to Christian Europe ; and he never wearied of declaring that a knowledge of Arabic and Arabian science was for his contemporaries the only way to true knowledge. Discussions as to who was the originator of

Briffault also writes:

What we call Science arose in Europe as a result of a new spirit of inquiry, of new methods of investigation, of the method of experiment, observation, measurement, of the development of mathematics in a form unknown to the Greeks. Those methods were introduced into the European world by the Arabs.

The website “1001 Inventions” lists several inventions by Muslim scientists which powered the scientific revolution in Europe.⁸²

According to UNESCO, Muslims established the oldest university —still in operation— and the first libraries.

Given all these contributions, would it have been acceptable to associate science with the belief in God or the Muslim faith?

God of the Gaps

Some believe it is just a matter of time before science fills in the gaps in our knowledge, thus putting the final nail in the coffin for religion. They don't understand that, to explain the emergence of a limited dependent universe, we need

⁸² <https://www.1001inventions.com>

something independent and eternal. Science can only study things that can be sensed, which means dependent things with limited physical properties.⁸³

Even the statement: “Science is the only way to truth” is not a scientific statement based on observations and proof. As we will subsequently show, there are a lot of background philosophical constructs and subjective biases behind what we consider scientific truths.

It is not because *we don't know* that we believe in God. But because we *know* that things don't just pop into existence without a cause, let alone a massive physical universe obeying non-physical laws of mathematics inhabited by creatures with non-physical consciousness.

Ironically, while atheists often accuse theists of adopting this “God of the gaps” argument, some have no compunction in using their inability or unwillingness to see the signs for God—a gap in their perception and logic—as proof that He does not exist.

Isn't this “Atheism of the Gaps?”

According to John Lennox, some scientists, such as Stephen Hawking, have an inadequate view of God:

It would seem that he thinks of God as a “God of the Gaps” put forward as an explanation if we do not yet have a scientific one—hence his conclusion that physics has no room for God as it has removed the last place where He might be found—for the moment of creation. But this is certainly not what any of the great monotheistic religions believe. For them, God is not only to be found at creation; He is the author of the whole show. God both created the universe and constantly sustains it in existence. Without Him, there would be nothing there for physicists

⁸³ Hamza Andreas Tzortzis (2016) *The Divine Reality*, Revised Edition, FB Publishing, Page 109

to study. In particular, therefore, God is the creator of both of the bits of the universe we don't understand and the bits we do. And it is, of course, the bits we do understand that give the most evidence of God's existence and activity. Indeed, just as I can admire the genius behind a work of engineering or art, the more I understand it, so my worship of the Creator increases, the more I understand what He has done.⁸⁴

True science leads to the Creator

We cannot believe in science while denying all of its constructs:

- If we believe in science, we must believe that the universe is real because fantasy is not scientific.
- A real universe must have a beginning because an infinite system cannot be proven scientifically.
- A universe with a beginning must have a cause because science is based on causality.
- The universe cannot be self-caused because it couldn't have existed (to create itself) *and* not existed (before its creation) simultaneously.
- The cause must be a first cause, as an infinite regress of creators leads to no creation.

Therefore, by following the constructs of science, we will necessarily arrive at an independent external first cause: God.

⁸⁴https://kipdf.com/stephen-hawking-and-god-professor-john-c-lennox-oxford_5acba7bf7f8b9aeb918b458c.html , Paragraphs #6 and #7

Science leaves the most important questions unanswered

Science explains *how*. Religion is needed to explain *why* the universe exists and who created it. Finding out how the universe works does not invalidate its Creator or the purpose behind its creation.

Science, for all its advances, still cannot answer life's basic questions presented by a small child:

Where did I come from?

Where am I going to?

Is science truly unbiased?

Objectivity and the pursuit of truth are the assumed characteristics of scientific research, methods, and results. Scientific conclusions are supposed to be free from subjective perspectives, community bias, and personal beliefs. In this section, we will examine the truth of such assumptions.

Real scientists seek to eliminate all forms of bias from their research and follow the truth wherever it leads them. For example, let's take the philosopher of religion and prolific writer Sir Anthony Flew.⁸⁵ He set the agenda for modern atheism in the twentieth century with his *Theology and Falsification*, which became the most widely reprinted philosophical publication of the century.

Then, in a 2004 Summit at New York University, Professor Flew announced that discoveries in science led him to conclude that the universe is indeed the creation of infinite intelligence. In his book, *There is A God*,⁸⁶ Sir Anthony Flew followed the scientific evidence to its logical conclusion. After a lifetime of promoting atheism, he announced that there is one God, non-materialistic, Who does not change, with absolute power and absolute knowledge, the source of all good.⁸⁷

What led Flew and many other truth-seeking scientists to believe in a Creator is the following:

- 1- The Big Bang Theory: The world has a beginning, and every event has to have a cause.
- 2- The world runs according to steady interrelated laws and numbers.
- 3- The emergence of life from dead matter cannot be explained without a Creator.

⁸⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antony_Flew

⁸⁶ Scott, John, Flew, Antony, Varghese, Roy Abraham, *There Is A God: How The World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*. 2007.

⁸⁷ *Khurafat Al-Elbad*, Dr. Amr Sharif, Shuruq International Library, 2nd Edition, 2014.

- 4- The ability of the human mind, which does not even understand itself, to think logically and in abstract terms and to be conscious and self-aware.
- 5- The universe, with its components and anthropological conditions, presents the perfect environment for the life of Man.

For truth-seekers, each new scientific discovery inspires awe for God's design and reaffirms faith in the Creator. One of the quickest paths to the Creator is pondering His creation.

[and] who remember God when they stand, and when they sit, and when they lie down to sleep, and [thus] reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth: "O our Sustainer! You have not created [this without meaning and purpose. Limitless are you in Your glory! Quran Translated Meaning 3:191

Ironically, while discoveries that confirm the order and intricate design in the universe inspire awe of its Creator and lead many people to religious faith, they may have no impact on the discoverers themselves. Therefore, it is important to view direct evidence whenever possible (avoiding the sometimes misleading and subjective analysis), as those who hear/see the evidence may get better insight into its implications than those who present it!

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, delivered a religious speech on the Day of Hajj and said: "Let those who are present convey to those who are absent. Perhaps the one to whom it is conveyed will understand it better than the one who (first) hears it." Ibn Majah 233.

True science is a vector pointing straight to the Creator. But science itself does not speak. It is people who speak on its behalf. Scientists are human beings, and as such, they are fallible and subject to bias. Any science which starts with a bias or foregone conclusion—i.e., eliminating creationism from mere consideration—restricts the

narrative and shapes the outcome before the research even starts. Therefore, the conclusions of such research do not deserve to be called science.

The following will show that not all scientific activity serves truth. Academic bias, self-deceit, intellectual terrorism, and stolen concept fallacies are sometimes practiced, all in the name of science.

Academic bias

Many scientists do follow the evidence wherever it might lead, without subjectivity or bias. However, others are more zealous in defense of atheism than religious fanatics are in defense of their faith. When faced with evidence that points to intelligence in creation, they side-step the facts and cling to unsubstantiated hypotheses so as to bypass the evidence, principles of logic, innate knowledge, and the collective human experience.

According to Dr. Douglas Axe, Director of Biologic Institute in Seattle and author of the book, *Undeniable: How Biology Confirms Our Intuition That Life Is Designed*:

Once an embellished view of science becomes established, active suppression of dissent becomes inevitable, with predictable consequences. Everything that opposes the institutionalized agenda is labeled ‘anti-science’ by those working to protect the agenda, and the fear of that label quickly enforces compliance among the timid.⁸⁸

To give some examples of this unscientific bias against design, Dr. Franklin Harold, in his book, *The Way of the Cell*,⁸⁹ tells us that intelligent design should not even be considered: “We should reject, *as a matter of principle*, the substitution of intelligent design for the dialogue of chance and necessity; but we must concede that there are presently no detailed Darwinian accounts of the evolution of any biochemical or cellular system, only a variety of *wishful speculations*.” (Page 205)

⁸⁸ Douglas Axe, *Undeniable: How Biology Confirms Our Intuition that Life Is Designed*, 2016, Page 54.

⁸⁹ Franklin M. Harold (2003) *The Way of the Cell; Molecules, Organisms and the Order of Life*, OUP. Harold was emeritus professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Colorado State University (1989-2000). The book describes in detail the incredible complexity of life at the cellular level.

So, as a matter of principle, Dr. Harold puts “wishful speculations” over any consideration of intelligent design.

How scientific!!

They follow only speculation and what [their] souls desire. Quran Translated Meaning 53:23

Similarly, the famous evolutionary biologist Lewontin⁹⁰ says:

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, *no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated.* Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for *we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.*⁹¹

Sir James Jeans (1877-1946), at the end of his book, *Mysterious universe*, remarked: “Our modern minds have a sort of bias in favor of the materialistic explanation of the facts.”⁹² (Page 189)

Proponents of biological determinism, which claims that many organism traits are determined primarily by their genetic makeup, argue that evolution and adaptation can explain complex human social behaviors such as altruism and morality. They create evolutionary stories without any evidence about how traits actually evolved.

⁹⁰ Richard Lewontin is a famous American evolutionary biologist, mathematician, geneticist, and social commentator.

⁹¹ https://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/a_divine_foot_in_the_door/11956

⁹² <https://www.thesciencefaith.com/dawah/answering-atheism/the-reality/>

Even leading evolutionists, like Gould⁹³ and Lewontin, describe this as making up “just-so” stories.⁹⁴

For some, science fiction is more credible than creation. In an interview with Ben Stein, Dawkins,⁹⁵ a leading British evolutionist and renowned atheist, fantasizes about alien seeding as a source of life:

Well, it could come about in the following way; it could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved by probably some kind of Darwinian means to a very, very high level of technology and designed a form of life that they seeded onto, perhaps, this planet. Now that is a possibility and an intriguing possibility.⁹⁶

Some atheists contradict each other in their attempts to deny the obvious. While Thomas Huxley (1825-1895), a defender of Darwin's then-new idea of evolution — nicknamed “Darwin’s bulldog”— tells us that science is common sense at its best,⁹⁷ Dawkins tells us to ignore common sense when considering the beginning of the universe, then states that the combined “common sense” of humanity (not religion) should serve as a good indicator of morally correct behavior. To add to the confusion, he concludes that humanity's common sense lets us down because it has evolved over time.⁹⁸

⁹³ Stephen Gould is an American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist and historian of science. He was also one of the most influential and widely read authors of popular science of his generation. Gould spent most of his career teaching at Harvard University and working at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

⁹⁴ <https://embryo.asu.edu/pages/spandrels-san-marco-and-panglossian-paradigm-critique-adaptationist-programme-1979-stephen-j>

⁹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Dawkins

⁹⁶ Interview with Ben Stein, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, Documentary (2008-04-18).

⁹⁷ https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/thomas_huxley_118633

⁹⁸ <http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=12&article=2452>

Moreover, we see ridicule for any other point of view. According to Dawkins: “It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that.”⁹⁹

Dr. Scott Todd, an immunologist at Kansas State University, expresses the bias against intelligent design openly: “Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.”¹⁰⁰

We also see a fanatical resolve to keep some theories alive, despite overwhelming discrediting science. Darwin’s original theory for biological evolution stood on the following pillars: random change, unguided natural selection, gradual evolution, slowness, and innumerable transitional forms.

We will discuss these points in more detail later in this book, but the summary below demonstrates the bias and dogmatism of some evolutionists. As pillar after pillar of Darwin’s theory collapsed¹⁰¹, they rushed in to plug the holes and preserve it at all costs:¹⁰²

- The expected innumerable transitional forms were not found in the Earth’s geological record. Instead, evolution scientists found species that appear suddenly and persist to this day.
- Once scientists observed the sudden appearance of new species, the third and fourth Darwinian pillars of gradualism and slowness came tumbling down.

⁹⁹ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/273975-it-is-absolutely-safe-to-say-that-if-you-meet>

¹⁰⁰ Todd, S.C., correspondence to *Nature* 401(6752):423, 30 Sept. 1999.

¹⁰¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/jun/28/do-we-need-a-new-theory-of-evolution>

¹⁰² <https://youtu.be/KatbjWZmVhY>

- Natural selection: When it was discovered that various species living in different environments develop similar systems and that species in different environments ‘develop’ into almost identical varieties, many evolutionists abandoned “randomness” in natural selection and started talking about “guided” selection.
- The last pillar left to defend was random change. Recent studies show that cellular variation is not random, so terms like “non-random” and “directed mutation” started appearing in evolution literature.

With the last pillar of Darwin’s original theory gone, did the evolutionists abandon his theory?

Never! Because it still retained its most crucial pillar:

Godlessness!

God by any other name

Wherever they turn, scientists are faced with evidence of design, fine-tuning, encrypted language, intelligence, intent, complex systems, interrelated laws, etc., which cannot be explained randomly or materialistically. To avoid the obvious implications—even though they would never admit it—scientists refer to the Creator by other names (Mother Nature, the laws of the universe, natural selection, etc.)

They are not but [mere] names you have named - you and your forefathers - for which God has sent down no authority. They follow not except speculation and what [their] souls desire, and there has already come to them from their Lord, guidance. Quran Translated Meaning 53:23

While calling God by any other name is convenient for non-believers as it removes the “stigma” of faith, it is a form of self-deception that is very limiting to the concept of God. Any name other than God ignores His absolute Attributes and opens up more questions. For example:

- Referring to the Creator as Mother Nature ignores the intelligence and perfection in design. In this case, to avoid mentioning God, they attribute intention, intelligence, design, planning, and creation of live conscious creatures and complex biological systems to dumb inanimate nature. How is that possible?
- Attributing creativity to the laws of the universe or saying that gravity created the universe makes no sense. Laws simply describe the pattern in repeated observations. Laws do not have actions, nor can they create. If someone deposits 100 dollars into a bank account every month for a year, the bank cannot claim that the law of multiplication (12×100) created or grew the account!

According to Hawking: “Because there *is* a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from *nothing*. [italics added]”¹⁰³

Note the contradictions here:

Did the universe come from nothing or from gravity (something)?

Did the universe create itself, or was it created by gravity?¹⁰⁴

Even if we allow such an illogical circular claim, it leaves the question of who or what created gravity and the other laws of the universe wide open.

- Some Darwinists speak of natural selection (a non-rational physical process) as a unique creative force that solves all the difficult evolutionary problems, such as morality and free choice, without any real empirical basis.
- Upon discovering the complexity of design in the structure and operation of bacterial cells, evolutionists started using phrases such as “intelligent” bacteria, “smart” bacteria, “microbial intelligence,” as well as “decision-making” and “problem-solving” bacteria, thus making bacteria the new idol.
- A 2018 article in Nature states: “Some scientists believe that RNA emerged directly from (these) reactive chemicals nudged along by dynamic forces in the environment.”¹⁰⁵

What dynamic forces? Isn't it the whole point to deny any agency?!

Regardless of the elaborate and misleading names, the fact remains that you cannot give what you do not have.

- How can mathematical equations create a physical universe?

¹⁰³ https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/stephen_hawking_627115

¹⁰⁴ Lennox, John, *God and Stephen Hawking, Whose Design Is It Anyway?*, Lion Hudson, 2011, Page 31, Paragraph 2

¹⁰⁵ <https://media.nature.com/original/magazine-assets/d41586-018-05098-w/d41586-018-05098-w.pdf>

- How can our intelligence, morality, consciousness, instincts, innate knowledge, and free choice come from dumb matter?
- How can life come from dead chemicals?
- How can our vision and hearing come from blind and deaf sources?

Why don't these self-sacrificing blind, dumb, unfeeling, dead, unconscious material processes start with themselves before giving out these amazing miracles?

Only God, the Creator with Perfect Attributes, can explain the wonders surrounding us.

At a loss to explain the emergence of life and intellect from dead matter, some scientists came up with the term “spontaneous emergence,”¹⁰⁶ adding one more misleading label to the mix.

Really!

Why not call it by its real name: Creation?

And when God is mentioned alone, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion, but when those other than Him are mentioned, immediately they rejoice. Quran Translated Meaning 39:45

¹⁰⁶ According to Dr. George Wald, PhD, as published in the Scientific American, “The Origin of Life,” 191:48, May 1954: “When it comes to the origin of life there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved one hundred years ago, but that leads us to only one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore, we choose to believe the impossible: that life arose spontaneously by chance!”

Intellectual terrorism

Many scientists who believe in creationism or intelligent design experience discrimination from some atheists in the scientific community. Examples include:

- Richard Von Steinberg, a well-published Smithsonian researcher, was called an intellectual terrorist and was pressured to leave his job because he authorized a peer-reviewed paper presenting evidence for intelligent design.¹⁰⁷
- David Coppedge, who worked at NASA as a team lead on the Cassini mission exploring Saturn, was demoted and terminated after engaging his co-workers in conversations about intelligent design.¹⁰⁸
- Günter Bechly, a curator at Stuttgart’s State Museum of Natural History, with ground-breaking studies on the evolution of dragonfly wings, and with several species named after him, found his Wikipedia page deleted when he came out against evolution and in favor of intelligent design.¹⁰⁹
- When the open-access scientific journal PLOS ONE published a peer-reviewed paper that mentioned the Creator in reference to the complex biomechanical architecture of the hand, the public outcry was immediate and swift. One editor posted: “Just found out @PLOSONE published a paper with ‘evidence’ about some ‘creator’. If not retracted immediately, I will resign as editor.” Buckling under the pressure, the journal did precisely that. Its rating was downgraded, and the authors apologized for daring to refer to the Creator.¹¹⁰ The Chronicle of Higher Education reported this incident as follows: “Paper Praising Creator Puts

¹⁰⁷ Interview with Ben Stein, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, Documentary (2008-04-18)

<https://youtu.be/V5EPymcWp-g?t=329> @5:29

¹⁰⁸ <https://freescience.today/story/david-coppedge/>

¹⁰⁹ <https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/erased-paleontologist-bechly-gets-support-from-science-and-health-council/> 2018

¹¹⁰ <https://creation.com/hand-design-peer-review>

Fear of God in Open-Access Giant,”¹¹¹ and Wikipedia referred to this incident as “CreatorGate”.

- When the Chinese paleontologist Jun-yuan Chen —an acknowledged expert and lecturer on the Cambrian explosion— presented that recent fossil finds in his country were inconsistent with the Darwinian theory of evolution, his conclusion so upset American scientists that it brought forth his famous comment: “In China, we can criticize Darwin but not the government. In America, you can criticize the government but not Darwin.”¹¹²
- The book *Slaughter of the Dissidents*,¹¹³ by Dr. Jerry Bergman, gives a detailed report of the efforts in US academia to insulate evolutionary theory and philosophical naturalism from critical assessment. It describes the suppression of critical views and the victimization of dissenting teachers and pupils in schools and universities.¹¹⁴
- The 2008 documentary, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*,¹¹⁵ discusses the conspiracy in academia to oppress and exclude people who believe in Intelligent Design. The film portrays several academics, including Richard Sternberg, Guillermo Gonzalez, Caroline Crocker, and others as victims of persecution by major scientific organizations and academia for their promotion of intelligent design and for questioning Darwinism. The documentary also features numerous anonymous people who said their jobs in the sciences would be jeopardized if their belief in intelligent design was made public.

¹¹¹ <http://chronicle.com/article/Paper-Praising-Creator-/235610> 2016

¹¹² <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB934759227734378961>

¹¹³ Jerry Bergman, *Slaughter of the Dissidents*, Leafcutter Press; 1st Edition (2011)

¹¹⁴ <https://creation.com/slaughter-of-the-dissidents>

¹¹⁵ Interview with Ben Stein, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, Documentary (2008-04-18)

Schools in many Western countries are mandated to teach evolution and are prevented from teaching intelligent design. When the State of Louisiana tried to teach both, its decision was struck down by the US courts. The same happened in Pennsylvania, where a judge ruled that teaching intelligent design in biology in US schools was unconstitutional. For this service to the evolution lobbyists, the judge was cited as one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people. This is ironic in a country where the official motto, printed on its currency and sung in its national anthem, is: "In God, we trust."

In the UK, even free schools are forced to teach evolution.¹¹⁶

Haeckel's embryo drawings are still taught as evidence for evolution in schools, and they are still present in many biology textbooks years after they were exposed as fraudulent drawings.¹¹⁷

What happened to critical thinking, objectivity, and free thought in education?

In higher education and research forums, academics may be denied tenure and research funding, lose employment, and be ostracized for questioning evolution. Dr. James Tour is one of the world's top synthetic organic chemists. He has 680 scientific publications and holds more than 120 patents. In 2014, Thomson Reuters named him one of "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds," and the 2018 Clarivate Analytics recognized him as one of the world's most highly cited researchers. Dr. Tour announced that he did not understand evolution and issued a lunch invitation to anyone who could explain it to him. He tells us that, in the backrooms of science,

¹¹⁶ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9713524/Free-schools-forced-to-teach-evolution-in-science-classes.html>

¹¹⁷ https://evolutionnews.org/2015/04/haeckels_fraudu/

National Science Academy members and Nobel Prize winners admit to him privately that they do not understand evolution either.¹¹⁸

Even Internet search engines show bias. According to Paul Price, Wikipedia is a dubious source but a powerful tool for suppressing dissent.¹¹⁹ Its editors and contributors are mainly younger Westerners, indoctrinated in Darwinism, tending increasingly towards abandoning religion. Wikipedia openly and blatantly classifies creationism as ‘pseudoscience’.

I experienced this bias first-hand during the research for this book. Often, during a Google search for specific papers on intelligent design, using the exact title, author, and keywords, I would first get a list of articles debunking that research (mainly from Wikipedia) before I got the actual piece I was searching for, on the second or third search page.

To combat the aggression of the pro-evolution lobbies and their efforts to monopolize science, a statement, *A Scientific Dissent from Darwinism*, was issued in 2001 as follows:

We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged. There is scientific dissent from Darwinism. It deserves to be heard.¹²⁰

The statement was signed by leading pioneers in science,¹²¹ including scientists from the US National Academy of Sciences, Russian, Hungarian, and Czech National

¹¹⁸ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aVNfx5fjh0&feature=youtu.be
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aVNfx5fjh0&feature=youtu.be

¹¹⁹ <https://creation.com/wikipedia>

¹²⁰ <https://dissentfromdarwin.org/faq/>

¹²¹ The list of signatories is found at <https://www.discovery.org/m/securepdfs/2021/07/Scientific-Dissent-from-Darwinism-List-07152021.pdf>

Science Academies, and leading universities such as Yale, Princeton, Stanford, MIT, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and others.

The Third Way is a grouping of scientists, including Denis Noble¹²² and James Shapiro,¹²³ who claim a third way to explain the origins of biological diversity (other than creationism and neo-Darwinism). According to them, neo-Darwinists have elevated natural selection into a unique creative force that solves all the difficult evolutionary problems without a real empirical basis.¹²⁴

Alvin Plantinga¹²⁵ draws a parallel between the position of some modern-day atheists, who fight faith and stand against science if it paves the way to belief in God, and the position of the Church in the Middle Ages when it stood against science because it mistakenly believed that it paved the way to atheism.

So, next time when we are assured that something is proven scientifically without doubt, it may be valid to ask: “According to what: restricted policed science or true science?”

¹²² Dr. Denis Noble claims that the central assumptions of neo-Darwinism have been disproven. Dr. Noble is a British Biologist, who held the Burdon Sanderson Chair of Cardiovascular Physiology at Oxford University from 1984 to 2004 and was appointed professor emeritus and co-director of computational physiology. He was the first scientist to model cardiac cells (in two papers published in *Nature* in 1960) and has published over 350 research papers. He is regarded as a leading researcher in the field of Systems Biology.

¹²³ James A. Shapiro, *Evolution: A view from the twenty-first century*, FT Press Science, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458, ISBN 10: 0-13278093-3.

¹²⁴ <https://www.thethirdwayofevolution.com>

¹²⁵ Alvin Carl Plantinga is an American analytic philosopher. In 2017 he was awarded the Templeton Prize.

Stolen concept fallacy

James Conant¹²⁶ tells us that “... scientific research is compounded of ... empirical procedures, general speculative ideas, and mathematical or abstract reasoning.”¹²⁷

According to Eyad Qunaibi, a Jordanian Professor of Pharmacology, atheistic and materialistic scientists are guilty of a stolen concept fallacy: They claim a materialistic point of view while relying on creationist concepts to practice science.¹²⁸

When atheists perform scientific experimentation or research, they must suspend their atheistic beliefs and don a believer’s cap before any science can take place. According to Dr. Qunaibi, the resources for science are the mind, innate truths, testimony (previous science), and observation.

- **Mind:** According to the materialistic philosophy, the mind is not built for truth but for survival; it does not come from an intelligent source but from inanimate matter. Such a mind cannot be relied on to produce rational thought, and there is no credibility for its reasoning or inference.¹²⁹

Therefore, to practice science, scientists must suspend their materialistic beliefs and assume their minds are built for truth and are therefore able to make rational judgments and reach truthful conclusions.

- **Innate truths:** These are universal truths innate in humans, such as causality: Every previously non-existing effect needs a cause to bring it into effect; a part is smaller than a whole; the law of no contradiction;¹³⁰ etc. Materialists deny innate truths and ignore causality with regard to the emergence of the universe.

¹²⁶ James Conant is the Chester D. Tripp Professor of Humanities, Professor of Philosophy, and Professor in The College at the University of Chicago, as well as Humboldt Professor at the University of Leipzig.

¹²⁷ <https://www.inspiringquotes.us/author/2660-james-bryant-conant>

¹²⁸ <https://youtu.be/5qNfTrqhh30>

¹²⁹ <https://www.quantamagazine.org/the-evolutionary-argument-against-reality-20160421/>

¹³⁰ i.e. something cannot exist and not exist at the same time.

Yet, in performing scientific research to address “why” and “what is the mechanism” type questions, scientists must rely on these innate truths, including causality—borrowed from creationism—because science itself is built on causality, laws, and order.

- **Assumptions:** Science relies on assumptions.¹³¹ Some are implicit, such as the innate truths described above, and some are explicitly stated at the start of the research. Neither can be proven experimentally.
- **Testimony/ Previous Research/ Citations/ Cumulative Knowledge:** Again, materialism rejects any intent or design in nature. As such, the outcome of any experiment is not necessarily reproducible. Under such a philosophy, we cannot depend on previous research because the same conditions may produce different results. Therefore, citations are meaningless, as are test outcomes.

The famous atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell himself confirms this:

...we must either accept the inductive principle on the ground of its intrinsic evidence or forgo all justification of our expectations about the future. If the principle is unsound, we have no reason to expect the sun to rise tomorrow, to expect bread to be more nourishing than a stone, or to expect that if we throw ourselves off the roof, we shall fall...All our conduct is based upon associations which have worked in the past and which we therefore regard as likely to work in the future, and this likelihood is dependent for its validity upon the inductive principle.¹³²

Thus, to practice science, scientists need to suspend their materialistic beliefs, have faith that the future will mimic the past, i.e., that there is an order which

¹³¹ <https://smohawer.7olm.org/t5-topic>

¹³²

<https://www2.lawrence.edu/fast/ryckmant/The%20Problems%20of%20Philosophy,%20Bertrand%20Russell.htm> , Chapter VI, Paragraph 21.

produces consistent outcomes,¹³³ and believe that testimony is a reliable source of information—a concept borrowed from creationism.

- **Observation:** Materialism relies primarily on direct observation and empirical results. However, scientists also make assumptions that are not based on observation. In addition, scientists study non-observable things by studying their effects (e.g., gravity). They rely on both induction and deduction in formulating theories and stating results.

Therefore, materialists need to suspend their materialistic view and accept that non-experimental deduction is a vital source of information and that non-observable things can exist through their effects—a concept borrowed from belief: God is not directly observable, but His effects are.

- **Order and Design:** Can you think of any important invention which did not assume causal relationships and design?

Can you think of any significant research based on randomness and chance?

In summary, to perform science, scientists need to trust that their minds are built for truth, that this universe follows order and laws, that causality is necessary, that results are reproducible, and that non-observable or non-physical things can exist through their effects. In short, a definition of creationism.

¹³³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJHj4BtP9Go&t=570s>

Where is the evidence for God?

Demanding proof for the existence of God is paradoxical, as the Arab poet Al-Mutanabi said: “Nothing makes sense if even daylight needs to be proven.” It is not that the evidence is not there, but that it is undeniable and overwhelming. It is like trying to prove the past exists or that you have a conscience. How do you present proof for something hard-wired into every human being, something every child knows instinctively? How do you introduce a God known and worshipped by most people on the Earth across all ages, Whom even atheists turn to in times of need? How do you provide material or empirical proof for a non-material Being? It is like being asked to measure the weight of the Earth using a ruler. No tools exist; nothing encompasses Him.

No vision can grasp Him, but His grasp is over all vision: He is above all comprehension, yet is acquainted with all things. Quran Translated Meaning 6:103

And there is nothing that could be compared with Him. Quran Translated Meaning 112:4

There is nothing like unto Him, and He alone is all-hearing, all-seeing. Quran Translated Meaning 42:11

How do you draw attention to the everyday miracles that surround us? Our universe and everything in it is profoundly unnatural, could have not existed, or could have existed differently. But familiarity breeds contempt and obliviousness. We are so used to order, harmony and stability that we think they are natural. We are so accustomed to the miracles surrounding us that we no longer consider them miracles but entitlements.

God Himself is ultimately above and beyond observation, but His signs are evident in His Creation and the universe. The idea of God is not a blind belief, as some would have you believe, but a conviction supported by reason and proof.

We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. Quran Translated Meaning 41:53

Al-Ghazali, a famous Islamic scholar, describes those who do not see the signs of God in the universe as reductionists lacking a holistic view. He compares them to ants on a piece of paper that cannot lift their eyes from the ink and pen, thus failing to see who is writing.

In what follows, we present some signs that testify to the Creator in the universe and ourselves and the confusing arguments presented to counter these clear signs.

Signs in the universe

The laws which shape the universe are much more complex than those which govern biological life.

The creation of the heavens and earth is greater than the creation of Mankind, but most people do not know. Quran Translated Meaning 40:57

Science cannot answer the basic questions regarding the universe:

Why is there something rather than nothing?

Why is that something the way it is?

Why is that something reproduced in an orderly, non-random fashion consistently?

Why do different parts of this universe share the same components and processes?

Indeed, God holds the heavens and the earth, lest they cease. And if they should cease, no one could hold them [in place] after Him. Quran Translated Meaning 35:41

Signs in the universe:

- Science and logic tell us that every previously non-existent effect has a cause, yet we are asked to exclude the most significant effect —the Big Bang— from this universal law.

Did not those who disbelieve realize that the heavens and the earth were joined together as one united piece, then We tore them apart? And We have made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe? Quran Translated Meaning 21:30

The Day when We will fold the heaven like the folding of a scroll for the records. As We began the first creation, We will repeat it. Quran Translated Meaning 21:104

Science also tells us that before the Big Bang, which produced the universe, there was no space, time, or matter. So, material causes could not have brought this universe into existence. Who caused the Big Bang?

- Even if we set aside the big question of who caused the Big Bang, how can random, unguided explosions create intricately balanced systems and complex life forms? On the contrary, our human experience with random explosions is that they cause chaos and destruction, not order and balance.
- Randomness produces variable outcomes, disharmony, and inconsistencies. If we deny creation and design, how can we explain that different parts of our solar system share the same material compositions, follow the same laws and processes, and converge towards a common goal: the preservation of life?
 - Planets and stars follow the same physical laws and orbit in similar motion patterns.
 - DNA, in every live plant and animal, uses the same four nucleotide bases.
 - The same water produces all the different varieties of plants.

*And within the land are neighboring plots and gardens of grapevines and crops and palm trees, [growing] several from a root or otherwise, watered with one water; but We make some of them exceed others in [quality of] fruit. Quran
Translated Meaning 13:4*

- The electromagnetic force, responsible for giving things strength, shape, and hardness, and for the existence of atoms and their chemical bonding, has only one-force strength, which satisfies this wide range of requirements.¹³⁴
- The Earth is precisely positioned to sustain life; the harmony between the Earth, Sun, and Moon working together as one intricate system; the mass of Jupiter acting as a cosmic shield; all geared toward creating the perfect conditions for life. Such a common purpose can never be attributed to random chaotic formations of matter.

¹³⁴ *The Divine Reality – God, Islam and the Mirage of Atheism*, Revised Edition, Hamza Andreas Tzortzis, Page 153.

One law system, the same raw elements, and the repeated motion patterns across this vast universe all point to One Creator.

Melvin Calvin, 1961 Nobel Prize winner in organic chemistry,¹³⁵ said: “The universe is governed by a single God and is not the product of the whims of many gods, each governing his own province according to his own laws. This monotheistic view seems to be the historical foundation for modern science.”¹³⁶

- Science has widely accepted the laws of thermodynamics, but we are asked to ignore them when they point to a creator:
 - The first law of thermodynamics states that energy can neither be created nor destroyed; it can only be changed in form or function. This means that neither the universe nor the laws of physics can explain the existence of energy. The most reasonable explanation is that an agency outside of the laws of physics and apart from the universe provides this energy.
 - The second law of thermodynamics involves ‘entropy’, which is more or less a measure of chaos. It states that the natural trend of all systems is to go into disorder. An outside force is needed to keep order. Who is providing this force?
 - Also, if the universe were infinitely old, it would now be in a state of total chaos. Since it is not, the universe must have a finite age and, therefore, a beginning. This makes it reasonable to consider the universe an effect that requires a cause.
- Mathematics tells us to give more weight to the higher probability. Penrose calculated the probability of our specific universe coming into being randomly

¹³⁵ Melvin Calvin (1969) *Chemical evolution: Molecular evolution towards the origin of living systems on the Earth and elsewhere*, Clarendon Press.

¹³⁶ <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/Nave-html/Faithpathh/Calvin.html>

from all possible outcomes of the Big Bang as 1 in $10^{10^{123}}$.¹³⁷ Nevertheless, some scientists want us to consider this impossibility the most likely probability. Alan Lightman considers this universe a lucky draw, an accidental universe.¹³⁸

- **Fine-tuning** in the universe

Sir Martin Rees, the great English cosmologist, tells us that six numbers precisely control our universe.¹³⁹ Any change in these numbers could be catastrophic and end the universe as we know it. Rees poses the question: “Suppose.... that you were the intended victim of a firing squad and every bullet missed you, wouldn't you be inclined to wonder if something special had been arranged on your behalf.”¹⁴⁰

It is God Who sustains the heavens and the Earth lest they cease (to function). Quran

Translated Meaning 35:41

Just to give an idea of the precise settings of the cosmic constants:¹⁴¹

If the strong nuclear force were slightly more powerful, there would be no hydrogen, an essential element of life. If it were slightly weaker, hydrogen would be the only element in existence. It is inconceivable that complex life can come from hydrogen alone.

If the weak nuclear force were slightly different, then either there would not be enough helium to generate heavy elements in stars, or stars would burn out too

¹³⁷

https://www.reddit.com/r/ReasonableFaith/comments/1tufxe/roger_penroses_1010123_calculation_for_entropy/

¹³⁸ <https://bigthink.com/surprising-science/is-the-universe-an-accident/>

¹³⁹ Martin Rees (2001) *Just Six Numbers, the Deep Forces that Shape the universe*, Basic Books (Perseus Books Group), U.K. FREE AUDIO READING:

<https://physics.mst.edu/media/academic/physics/documents/Just6num.pdf>

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2012/jun/08/just-six-numbers-martin-rees-review>, last paragraph

¹⁴¹ <https://evolutionnews.org/2017/11/ids-top-six-the-fine-tuning-of-the-universe/>

A common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintendent has monkeyed with the physics, as well as chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. I do not believe that any physicist who examined the evidence could fail to draw the inference that the laws of nuclear physics have been deliberately designed with regard to the consequences they produce within stars.¹⁴³

Michael Turner, the widely quoted astrophysicist at the University of Chicago, describes the fine-tuning of the universe with a simile: “The precision is as if one could throw a dart across the entire universe and hit a bull's eye one millimeter in diameter on the other side.”¹⁴⁴

Who is continuously holding these numbers at such precise levels, without randomness or variation, if not our Creator and Sustainer?

Verify, all things We created in proportion and measure. Quran Translated Meaning 54:49

- **Fine-tuning for Life:**

As discussed, the fact that the Earth is precisely positioned to sustain life; that the Earth, sun, and moon are working together as one intricate system; that the mass of Jupiter acts as a cosmic shield; that the constants which govern multicellular life are precise—all of this points to intention in the creation and sustenance of organic life on this privileged planet.

Professor Steven Weinberg, a Nobel laureate in high energy physics (a field of science that deals with the very early universe), in his article: “*Life in the Quantum Universe*, *Scientific American* 1995, writes: “...how surprising it is that the laws of

¹⁴³ <http://www.geraldschroeder.com/FineTuning.aspx>

¹⁴⁴ *ibid*

nature and the initial conditions of the universe should allow for the existence of beings who could observe it. Life as we know it would be impossible if any one of several physical quantities had slightly different values.”¹⁴⁵

According to Dr. Dennis Scania, the distinguished head of Cambridge University Observatories: “If you change a little bit the laws of nature, or you change a little bit the constants of nature - like the charge on the electron - then the way the universe develops is so changed, it is very likely that intelligent life would not have been able to develop.”¹⁴⁶

Nobel laureate in physics Charles Townes states:

Intelligent design, as one sees it from a scientific point of view, seems to be quite real. This is a very special universe; it’s remarkable that it came out just this way. If the laws of physics weren’t just the way they are, we couldn’t be here at all. The sun couldn’t be there...the laws of gravity, nuclear laws, magnetic theory, quantum mechanics, and so on have to be just the way they are for us to be here.¹⁴⁷

Some atheists propose multiple universes to explain the order in this universe without a designer. According to them, if there are trillions of universes, it is not far-fetched that one of them (ours) happens to have the perfect conditions for life.¹⁴⁸ This is like saying that since there are millions of empty canvasses, a particular masterpiece didn’t need a painter.

¹⁴⁵ (<https://quotablemath.blogspot.com/2019/07/steven-weinberg-collected-quotes.html>). Paragraph 3

¹⁴⁶ (<https://tinyurl.com/3zwxecnm>) Paragraph 2

¹⁴⁷

(https://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/06/17_townes.shtml) Paragraph 19

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwyFGFs7voI&feature=youtu.be>

According to Richard Swinburne: “It is crazy to postulate a trillion (causally unconnected) universes to explain the features of one universe when postulating one entity (God) will do the job.”¹⁴⁹

Many scientists believe the multiverse idea is highly speculative. They include Laurence Krauss and Paul Davies¹⁵⁰ who believes this presents a more complex explanation of an already complex issue of the : ”The problem [of the origin of the universe] has simply been shifted up a level: from the laws of the universe to the meta-laws of the multiverse.”¹⁵¹

He also says:

Nevertheless, the backlash against the multiverse idea has been fierce. Prominent scientists and commentators have used words such as fantasy, virus, and intellectually bankrupt in their denunciations. Critics accuse proponents of the multiverse of abandoning science in favor of metaphysics or mysticism. Skeptics question whether the multiverse can ever be tested, and accuse its proponents of promoting untestable speculation to the status of a fundamental tenet of science.¹⁵²

Incidentally, the multiverse is not a new idea.

¹⁴⁹ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/9028275-it-is-crazy-to-postulate-a-trillion-causally-unconnected-universes>. Richard G. Swinburne is an emeritus professor of philosophy at the University of Oxford.

¹⁵⁰ Paul Davies is an English physicist who won the 1995 Templeton Prize, the 2001 Kelvin Medal, and the 2002 Faraday Prize awarded by The Royal Society.

¹⁵¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2007/jun/26/spaceexploration.comment>

¹⁵² Davies, Paul. *The Goldilocks Enigma: Why is the Universe Just Right for Life?*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006, p. 194.

It has been around since the first Divine Revelation to our father, Adam. Believers in God can vouch for at least two other universes: Paradise and Hell!

Other atheists say the universe just is...it was born this way: with a perfect knife-edge balance between its components. Explaining away precision and fine-tuning by saying things are “just the way there are” is giving up on science, which is concerned with finding out how and why things are the way they are.

- Modern science tells us that light can be outside of time, yet some ridicule the idea that God can be outside of time. And even though some now accept that particles with entanglement,¹⁵³ even when separated over great distances, continue to interact instantaneously,¹⁵⁴ some atheists reject the idea that God can see and hear everything simultaneously.
- The scientific community is passionate about the sanctity of patents and the rights of the inventor. Yet, some scientists have no compunction in giving full credit to the discoverers of the universal laws and none to their Creator.

In summary, this universe needed a cause to emerge, a designer to create and fine-tune its laws, and a sustainer to stabilize and preserve it.

Yet, we are asked to believe that this ordered universe happened randomly (a probability of 1 in $10^{10^{123}}$) and that this amazing design, the interrelationship between laws, and the complexity of systems continues to occur with consistent results; without design, intention, or maintenance! Would anybody believe that the jackpot-winning lottery ticket (the probability of winning the jackpot is 1 in 302,575,350) can

¹⁵³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_entanglement

¹⁵⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn7YQOzNuSc&feature=youtu.be>

show up in their home by itself, then keep showing up *with the exact same winning number* every single time the lottery is drawn, without fail?

If we claim it was a physical necessity for the universe to exist as is, then we are saying a universe that does not permit our existence is impossible, which is a baseless statement.

Even if we are used to the fact that the universe has features to permit our existence, we should be very surprised at the improbability of these features permitting our existence.

We should be amazed that separate parts of a universe, which supposedly evolved randomly, share the same material compositions and follow the same laws, processes, and motion patterns. There is no reason for consistency and uniformity in a random environment.

We should be even more amazed that these features continue to occur consistently without variation to allow our continued existence. There is no reason for reproducibility in a random environment.

Albert Einstein, the most famous scientist of our time, put it nicely. He said:

...The human mind, no matter how highly trained, cannot grasp the universe. We are in the position of a little child, entering a huge library whose walls are covered to the ceiling with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written those books. It does not know who or how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child notes a definite plan in the arrangement of the books, a mysterious order, which it does not comprehend, but only dimly suspects. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of the human mind, even the greatest and most cultured, toward God. We see a universe marvelously arranged, obeying certain laws, but we

understand the laws only dimly. Our limited minds cannot grasp the mysterious force that sways the constellations....¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁵ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/263668-your-question-is-the-most-difficult-in-the-world-it>

Signs in Creation

- **DNA**

This amazing four-letter encrypted language, which contains the information for all life forms, weighs around a quarter of a kilogram in each human body. Yet it is packed so tightly that, when unraveled, the DNA in one human body can stretch from the Earth to the sun and back hundreds of times. This massive amount of encrypted information, which would require millions of pages of text for each cell, is transformed by precise instructions to flesh, blood, organs, hormones, and enzymes.

Throughout the history of humanity, information only comes from intelligence. The highly complex encrypted language in the cells of every living organism requires supreme intelligence. Furthermore, random changes to any computer code will degrade the code, not produce new code. Similarly, random changes in the DNA (by supposedly random mutations) cannot create new information or new kinds of organisms.

- **Senses**

Science tells us that our senses are limited: infrared light cannot be seen, ultrasound cannot be heard, etc. Moreover, some things we “see” do not physically exist, such as rainbows and mirages. Nonetheless, some want to subject the existence of the Creator to our limited senses and observation.

- **Ethics and Morality**

Science can tell us how poison kills, but it cannot explain why poisoning a man for money is wrong.

C. S. Lewis tells us that we are moral creatures with a code of ethics that does not have a source in biology and materialistic science. Rather, its source is a supernatural Law-giver, the source of all goodness and virtue.

From the other perspective, I invite you to read the views of leading atheists on rape, incest, bestiality, eugenics, accountability for actions, etc.,¹⁵⁶ or listen to their convoluted implausible explanations on how values evolve from chemicals. The German philosopher Immanuel Kant believed that some truths could not be arrived at through evidence but through morality. This was evident to the founders of the USA, who stated in their Declaration of Independence: “We find these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.” This is not a truth justified by material evidence, yet it is a truth that nobody disputes, except possibly Darwin and his followers.¹⁵⁷

Humanity follows an objective moral code. Lying, murder, rape, and theft are universally considered immoral; charity, truth, altruism, and kindness are universally regarded as moral. Without a common moral reference, how can people interact socially, work together, trade, communicate, agree on rights and responsibilities, etc.? How can we judge anyone’s compliance, success, or failure with relative, subjective moral structures?

Materialism cannot explain the existence of a common objective human moral code, nor can it explain its source.

- **Self-Awareness and Consciousness**

How can 1.3 kilograms of nerve cells conjure a seamless and endless kaleidoscope of sensations, thoughts, memories, and emotions? Why is it a different kaleidoscope for different people experiencing the same physical trigger?

Electrochemical brain signals can never fully describe the sensation of pain, the experience of color, our inner thoughts, etc. While we can know *when* we are

¹⁵⁶ See the chapter “No, it is not enough to be good” in this book.

¹⁵⁷ Darwin seemed to be paving the way for racism and genocide when he said: “At some period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate, and replace, the savage races throughout the world.”

having a conscious brain activity, all attempts to explain the hard problem of consciousness —e.g., first-person facts— materialistically have failed. Consciousness cannot be articulated scientifically because science deals only with third-party facts.¹⁵⁸

While the brain activity of people in love may show a similar brain pattern, each person's feeling towards their spouse is uniquely theirs. Even if you try to articulate how you feel, you cannot share your exact experience. Others will try to relate through their own subjective first-hand experiences.¹⁵⁹

What does the love you have for your child feel like? Is it a slightly different neuro-firing from eating chocolate? It is pure reductionism of our humanity to consider this self-awareness and subjective experience a purely physical electro-chemical process.

If consciousness is just neuron firings in the brain, how do we know we have brains? Our whole world is nested in consciousness. Nothing happens outside our consciousness. No brain has ever been observed outside consciousness; without consciousness, we are denying our brains.¹⁶⁰

According to Dr. Robert Nelson, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Maryland:

Consciousness has no physical presence in the world; the images and thoughts in our consciousness have no measurable dimensions. Yet, our nonphysical thoughts somehow mysteriously guide the actions of our physical human bodies. This is no more scientifically explicable than the mysterious ability of

¹⁵⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwkw85fRWtI>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-kpRLpl7qE>

¹⁵⁹ *ibid*

¹⁶⁰ *ibid*

nonphysical mathematical constructions to determine the workings of a separate physical world.¹⁶¹

Consciousness is what gives life to our physical makeup. This includes thoughts and feelings, rational insights, and subjective first-person experiences: what it's like to be *me* and to experience something from my unique perspective.

After the age of seven, almost every material cell in your body has changed: Your physical components have changed, but you are still you. The essence of who we are is beyond the physical. Even after people die and all their physical parts are gone, their essence remains in the minds of those who knew them.

We are living proof of the metaphysical. If we deny consciousness, we are ourselves and everything that makes us human.

- **Purpose of Life**

Kant believed that the goal of humanity is to achieve perfect happiness and complete virtue. To achieve this goal, an Afterlife must exist, and God is needed to provide this Afterlife.

If there is no purpose to this life, what's the difference between the life of Hitler and Martin Luther King? Why does a human life have more significance than a scarecrow?

Did you think that We had created you in play (without any purpose) and that you would not be brought back to Us? Quran Translated Meaning 23:115

Is it logical to assume that the Creator, Who gave us the means to satisfy every need He created in us (food to satisfy hunger, water to quench thirst, clothes to

¹⁶¹ <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/existence-of-god-rational-arguments-mathematics-human-consciousness-a7739841.html>

address cold, sexual needs for reproduction purposes, etc.) would fail to address our spiritual needs and the need to know our purpose in life?

Is it conceivable that the Creator, Who created a purpose for every part of our bodies: the eyes for sight, the ears for hearing, etc., would not have a purpose in mind for us as a whole?

Of course not!

Our Creator provided a manual explaining the purpose for our existence and providing directions for an optimal life on Earth and beyond. We do ourselves a great disservice if we ignore our manual, squander this precious resource, and choose to wander aimlessly through this life instead.

If you wake up and find yourself on an airplane, you don't know how you got there or where you are going, you'll do your best to find out. It would be bizarre indeed to forget this primary concern and just worry about getting the best seat for the journey.

Some say that you can set your own purpose. For example, you may decide that you want to leave the world a better place. Denying a purpose for our existence, then saying we have a purpose, is self-delusion. It is like saying: "Let's pretend to have a purpose." Why would we want to leave the world a better place if we believe the whole world is pointless? Woody Allen describes this self-delusion clearly in an interview on the meaning of life.¹⁶²

It is pure reductionism to consider the human being a transient materialistic phenomenon, a biological robot with electro-chemical brain signals. Such a

¹⁶² <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/2015/05/16/woody-allen-irrational-man-cannes-film-festival/27432809/>

materialistic view ignores Man's spiritual aspect, purpose, intellect, morality, and consciousness and strips away his central role in this universe. This results in misery, depression, delusions, and confusion.¹⁶³

Describing a book as paper and ink completely misses its essence, its ideas, its significance, its morals, its message, and the beauty of its meanings.

According to Alexis Carrel, the French surgeon and biologist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1912, this materialistic viewpoint has resulted in the loss of our humanity:

We have applied to man concepts belonging to the mechanical world. We have neglected thought, moral suffering, sacrifice, beauty, and peace. We have treated the individual as a chemical substance, a machine, or part of a machine. We have amputated his moral, esthetic, and religious functions. We have also ignored certain aspects of his physiological activities...Our present weakness comes both from our unappreciation of individuality and from our ignorance of the constitution of the human being.¹⁶⁴ (Page 142)

¹⁶³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yVPS8XBoBE>

¹⁶⁴ <https://www.pdfdrive.com/alexis-carrel-man-the-unknown-e42598438.html> Page 142

How did life begin?

The question of how life began on Earth cannot be resolved materialistically. This is not a “God of the gaps” excuse but a valid rational inference in view of the following:

- The massive amounts of complex encrypted information in the cells of living creatures (equivalent to millions of pages of text for each cell.)
- The information which transforms —by precise instructions— into matter: flesh, blood, organs, functions, hormones, and enzymes.
- The impossibility of building one functional protein randomly: For a simple protein with only 150 amino acids, the probability is 1 in 10^{164} . To get a perspective on the magnitude of this number, it is larger than the number of particles in the universe. This is only for one protein, and life requires hundreds of proteins.¹⁶⁵
- The human inability to produce life from the same chemical compositions found in the already existing life forms.¹⁶⁶ Humans are unable to create the primary component for life, which is information (DNA and RNA) from matter.

¹⁶⁵ DNA has the code, or instructions, for making proteins, which are the building blocks for our cells. Each protein is made of a chain of amino acids which join together into long chains that eventually fold into a protein. Scientists believe the simplest form of life has a minimum of 250 to 400 proteins, and that each protein is made of (on average) 300 to 400 amino acids. There are 20 different amino acids that make up all of life.

<https://www.str.org/blog/building-a-protein-by-chance#.XeUCbC2B28U>

¹⁶⁶ According to Franklin Harold: “Over the past sixty years, dedicated and skillful scientists have devoted much effort and ink to the origin of life, with remarkably little to show for it. Judging by the volume of literature, both experimental and theoretical, the inquiry has thrived prodigiously. But unlike more conventional fields of biological research, the study of life's origins has failed to generate a coherent and persuasive framework that gives meaning to the growing heap of data and speculation; and this suggests that we may still be missing some essential insight.”

Franklin Harold, *In Search of Cell History: The Evolution of Life's Building Blocks*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014, Page 164

Moreover, we cannot even create the matter itself (carbohydrates, nucleic acids, lipids, and proteins).¹⁶⁷

The Nobel Prize-winning molecular biologist Francis Crick, who co-discovered the structure of the DNA molecule, said: “The origin of life seems almost to be a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.”

If we believe that life emerged accidentally in the primitive environment of Earth¹⁶⁸ and that encrypted genetic blueprints for life showed up without a programmer, then we are attributing complex design and precision to an unconscious inanimate nature with zero intelligence, zero information, and zero creative powers; yet credited with amazing abilities to think, plan, encrypt, program and execute.

According to Dr. Douglas Axe, the director of Biologic Institute and author of the book, *Undeniable*:

To believe in primordial soup is, after all, to believe that a pool of mineral water set a process in motion that ultimately produced not just the genetic instructions carried by every form of earthly life but also innumerable marvels that go well beyond mere instructions —actual workings wonders, like brains and compound eyes and adaptive immune systems and submicroscopic molecular machines, to name a few.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁷ <https://youtu.be/zU7Lww-sBPg?t=2255>

¹⁶⁸ Jack Monod, a Nobel laureate, in his book, *Chance and Necessity*, 1970, says, “We have no idea what the structure of a primitive cell might have been. The simplest living system known to us, the bacterial cell ... its overall chemical plan is the same as that of all other living beings. It employs the same genetic code and the same mechanism of translation as do, for example, human cells. Thus, the simplest cells available to us for study have nothing 'primitive' about them...no vestiges of truly primitive structures are discernible.”

¹⁶⁹ Douglas Axe, *Undeniable*- Harper One, 2017, Page 18

According to Dr. James Tour,¹⁷⁰ even if we assume that millions of years can provide an opportunity for a chance spark of life, it doesn't explain the rest of the story. Did nature keep a record of how it did things to get the initial life spark so that it could repeat the process? Did nature keep a laboratory notebook? Does nature know how to return to the starting point and repeat the steps? Nature doesn't know how to start again, why to start again, or where it's going!¹⁷¹

The English astronomer and Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge University, Sir Fred Hoyle, is quoted as saying: "The chance that higher life forms might have emerged in this way is comparable with the chance that a tornado sweeping through a junkyard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein."¹⁷²

Despite this amazing complexity, ridiculous phrases on the origin of life, such as the below, are fed to the masses:

"Life began with little bags of garbage, random assortments of molecules doing some crude sort of metabolism."¹⁷³

On the question of life, atheists are waiting for science to fill in the gaps while they play around with unproven hypotheses. They are denying a Life-giver in the hope that the future might provide proof for their baseless denial.

¹⁷⁰ Dr. James Tour is one of the world's top synthetic organic chemists. He has authored 680 scientific publications and holds more than 120 patents. In 2014, Thomson Reuters named him one of "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds," and in 2018 Clarivate Analytics recognized him as one of the world's most highly cited researchers.

¹⁷¹ <https://youtu.be/3EOQZNAmlKk?t=605>

¹⁷² Hoyle on Evolution, *Nature*, Vol. 294: 105, Nov 12, 1981.

¹⁷³ <https://tinyurl.com/yuy4aedk>

It looks like they will be waiting for a long time. The Scientific American website has a 2011 article entitled: “Pssst! Don't tell the creationists, but scientists don't have a clue how life began.” In this article, Horgan states that the scientific community still has no clue about the origin of life, as the various hypotheses have intractable issues.¹⁷⁴

Of course, they won't have a clue if they ignore the only compelling explanation: that life must come from a Live Creator!¹⁷⁵

Lifeless chemicals cannot create life. To hypothesize that live cells can come from aggregations of basic elements ignores the fact that cells have several components which cannot arise without each other. For example, genetic information can only be replicated and read out with the aid of enzyme proteins, which are themselves specified by these same genes. Energy is harnessed through enzymes whose production requires energy input. Neither proteins nor nucleic acids could have arisen without the other. According to Leslie Orgel: “One might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means.”¹⁷⁶ In the conclusion of his book, *The Way of the Cell*, Dr. Franklin Harold tells us: “It would be agreeable to conclude this book with a cheery fanfare about science closing in, slowly but surely, on the ultimate mystery; but the time for rosy rhetoric is not at hand. The

¹⁷⁴<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/cross-check/pssst-dont-tell-the-creationists-but-scientists-dont-have-a-clue-how-life-began/>

¹⁷⁵According to Dr. George Wald, a Harvard biologist, and a 1967 Nobel Prize winner in physiology: “When it comes to the origin of life there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved one hundred years ago, but that leads us to only one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore, we choose to believe the impossible: that life arose spontaneously by chance!”

Scientific American, The Origin of Life, 191:48, May 1954

¹⁷⁶ Leslie E. Orgel, The Origin of Life on Earth, Scientific American, vol. 271, October 1994, Page 78

origin of life appears to me as incomprehensible as ever, a matter of wonder but not for explication.”¹⁷⁷

The many attempts during the past decades to create a simple life form from scratch have failed, despite using the best brainpower in the world, meticulously designed experiments, state-of-the-art laboratories, unlimited financial incentives, and an abundance of live models to imitate (from God’s creation)!

In fact, the whole field of synthetic life research **starts with the objective already accomplished: a live cell.**

If some say that science did create life, they may be referring to the experiment of Craig Venter,¹⁷⁸ a famous American millionaire. What Venter actually did was take a living mycoplasma cell with its cell membrane, enzymes, and organelles and insert some processed bases inside the nucleus. So, he did a project inside a living cell and copied a pre-existing genome—nothing that approximates the creation of a new life form.

“To my mind, Craig has somewhat overplayed the importance of this,” said David Baltimore, a geneticist at Caltech, “He has not created life, only mimicked it.”¹⁷⁹

Dr. Gerald Joyce, an internationally renowned life scientist at the Scripps Institute in California, says: “Of course, that’s not right—its ancestor is a biological life form...Dr. Venter copied the DNA from one species of bacteria and inserted it into

¹⁷⁷ *The Way of the Cell: Molecules, Organisms and the Order of Life*, Franklin M. Harold, emeritus professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Colorado State University. The book describes in detail the incredible complexity of life at the cellular level. Page 251

¹⁷⁸ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20488990>

¹⁷⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/21/science/21cell.html>

another. The second bacteria made all the proteins and organelles in the so-called ‘synthetic cell’ by following the specifications implicit in the structure of the inserted DNA.”¹⁸⁰

“My worry is that some people are going to draw the conclusion that they have created a new life form,” said Jim Collins, a bioengineer at Boston University. “What they have created is an organism with a synthesized natural genome. But it doesn’t represent the creation of life from scratch or the creation of a new life form.”¹⁸¹

The funny thing is that Venter himself said: “We didn’t create life from scratch.”¹⁸²

In summary, self-emerging life is an irrational assumption, a logically impossible deduction that has also proven experimentally impossible.

Dr. James Tour tells us that molecules do not move toward life even with a human agency acting upon them ¹⁸³ and that almost every chemical synthesis experiment on the origin of life follows the same protocol (outlined below¹⁸⁴):

Almost every chemical synthesis experiment in Origin of Life (OoL) research can be summed up by a protocol analogous to this:

- Purchase some chemicals, generally in high purity, from a chemical company.
- Mix those chemicals together in water in high concentrations or in a specific order under some set of carefully devised conditions in a modern laboratory.
- Obtain a mixture of compounds that have a resemblance to one or more of the basic four classes of chemicals needed for life: carbohydrates, nucleic acids, amino acids or lipids.
- Publish a paper making bold assertions about OoL from these functionless crude mixtures of stereochemically scrambled intermediates, much like Miller did in 1952.
- Engage with the ever-gullible press to dial-up the knob of unjustified extrapolation.
- Watch the mesmerized layperson exclaim, “You see, scientist understand how life formed!”
- Encourage a generation of science textbook writers to make colorful deceptive cartoons of raw chemicals assembling into cells, which then emerge as slithering creatures from a prehistoric pond.

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation.aspx?paperid=97287>

¹⁸¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/21/science/21cell.html>

¹⁸² <https://edition.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/05/21/venter.qa/index.html>

¹⁸³ <https://youtu.be/zU7Lww-sBPg?t=711>

¹⁸⁴ <https://youtu.be/zU7Lww-sBPg?t=829>

How can we gamble away our life's end when we have no clue about its beginning?!

In August 2017, Arizona State University announced a 5 million USD prize for anyone who could provide an answer on the origin of life.¹⁸⁵ When no progress was made, scientists gathered again, towards the end of May 2019, at the Royal Society in London, to double the prize to 10 million USD and reduce the scope to the self-organization of chemicals into code.

Thus, God's challenge in the Quran was passed by evolution scientists to Mankind, but this time with a prize attached!

O people, a parable is set forth; pay heed to it. Those who call upon aught other than God shall never be able to create even a fly, even if all of them were to come together to do that. And if the fly were to snatch away anything from them, they would not be able to recover that from it. Powerless is the supplicant, and; powerless is he to whom he supplicates. Quran Translated Meaning 22:73

¹⁸⁵ https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/perry.evolution/frontline_genomics_evolution2.0_perry_marshall.pdf

What about evolution?

Does it make sense to say that a mobile phone evolved by itself, that some plastic and silicon interacted —without any intent or agency— to produce a smartphone? By that logic, if we walk around in the desert of Arabia, where there is sand (silica) and petroleum (which produces plastic), we should find a lot of evolved smartphones in the sand. We can simply pick one up and start messaging!¹⁸⁶

We laugh at the idea of a smartphone, with its complex programming and user-friendly functions, evolving from its raw elements without a designer. Yet we find it easy to believe that we did. Remarkable, when we consider that **the most basic cell in our bodies is more complex than a mobile phone!**

You don't leave wet clay with water and hope that in a year or so, you'll get some bricks... Yet we are asked to believe that intelligent, conscious humans came together by accident.

From a religious point of view, there are two questions:

- Is there a God?
- How did He create?

The theory of evolution is not concerned with the first question but addresses the second.

The Quran details the creation of Man as an honored creation by God:

Have you disbelieved in He who created you from dust and then from a sperm-drop and then proportioned you [as] a man? Quran Translated Meaning 18:37

But does man not remember that We have created him aforetime out of nothing? Quran Translated Meaning 19:67

¹⁸⁶This example is from the book, *The Man in the Red Underpants*, by A.R. Green.
<https://iera.org/downloads/the-man-in-the-red-underpants/>

Adam and Jesus were created by Divine Decree, while the rest of humanity follows the natural laws God decreed for human reproduction.

Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him, "Be," and he was. Quran Translated Meaning 3:59

The Quran offers no details on the methodology for creation and speciation in the animal and plant kingdoms. In fact, some early Muslims hypothesized about the evolution of plants and animals years before Darwin.

Thus, from a *religious* point of view, guided adaptations and biological change over time may have occurred, in the plant and animal kingdom, following a plan by the Creator, but Man is a unique creation.

Notwithstanding this theological viewpoint —thus far— there is no scientific evidence for the evolution of one kind of organism from another, and certainly not for Man.¹⁸⁷ In fact the science seems to indicate otherwise. Dr. Abd-Allah Al-Ujairi, in his book, *The Incoherence of Atheism*, states the following:

So we can start to comprehend how difficult it [evolution of one kind to another] would be: the creation of an entirely new species does not require re-engineering information from the genetic code or even triggering random change therein, which would on most occasions be harmful. Just the evolutionary journey of microbes to man requires the concoction of new and complex data mechanisms that can create muscles, bones, cells, nerves, etc.

¹⁸⁷ https://www.icr.org/home/resources/resources_tracts_scientificcaseagainstevolution/
<https://www.nytimes.com/1989/12/15/opinion/1-theory-of-evolution-has-never-been-proved-151289.html>
Behe, Michael J., 1952-. (2006). *Darwin's black box : the biochemical challenge to evolution*. New York :Free Press.

The genome of a single fundamental microbe contains around 500,000 nucleotides; the genome of a human comprises of 3 billion nucleotides.

This tells us that the scope of information generated inside the genome is massive. This leads to the next question: Where did this information come from?”

“If we understand that one driver of Darwinist evolution is random mutation, the issue becomes infinitely more complex, because evolution would then most definitely be reliant on accident...Genetic mutation is absolutely random and coincidental. Beneficial mutations can occur and they would be to the advantage of the living entity; however, such mutations are rare compared to harmful mutations, or neutral mutations that have no impact. Even if these beneficial mutations bring about a new characteristic, the living entity hosting it must be in a specific environment that is suitable for the mutations to flourish. This increases the difficulty of it emerging just by chance. We therefore have two accidents in practice: the coincidence of the new characteristic emerging, and the coincidence of this characteristic being suitable for the needs of the living entity. As thus, the claim that evolution always has an upward trajectory is incorrect, as it can go the opposite way as well.¹⁸⁸

Dr. Roger Lewin summarized the main finding of the 1980 “Macroevolution” conference at the University of Chicago as follows:

The central question of the Chicago conference was whether the mechanisms underlying microevolution can be extrapolated to explain the phenomena of

¹⁸⁸ Ujaiiri, Abd-Allah. (2019), *The Incoherence of Atheism*, Sapience Institute, (pp. 173-174, p. 179)

macroevolution. ... At the risk of doing violence to the positions of some of the people at the meeting, the answer can be given as a clear: No.¹⁸⁹

The evolutionist Gerald A. Kerkut asserts that the ‘General Theory of Evolution’ is just a hypothesis:

This theory can be called the “General Theory of Evolution” and the evidence that supports it is not sufficiently strong to allow us to consider it as anything more than a working hypothesis. It is not clear whether the changes that bring about speciation are of the same nature as those that brought about the development of new phyla [major divisions of living things, of which there are about 80, including microbes]. The answer will be found in future experimental work and not by the dogmatic assertions that the General Theory of Evolution must be correct because there is nothing else that will satisfactorily take its place.¹⁹⁰

Believers start from what is known: innate knowledge, proven science, and Divine Revelation; then they build upon this knowledge base to get to the unknown, unlike evolutionists who start from (the methodology of creation) and try to fit scattered observations into their hypotheses.

I did not make them witness to the creation of the heavens and the Earth or the creation of themselves. Quran Translated Meaning 15:81

The purpose of this chapter is not to deny evolution but to put it in its proper context: a theory that cannot offer absolute truth. Even its most ardent supporters, including Richard Dawkins, acknowledge this fact: “We must acknowledge the possibility that

¹⁸⁹ Dr. Roger Lewin, *Evolution Theory under Fire*, Science. Vol. 210, 21 November 1980. p. 883-887, as quoted by Dr. Grady S. McMurtry.

¹⁹⁰ Kerkut, G. A. (2014). The implications of evolution. In R. Carter (Ed.), *Evolution's Achilles' Heels* (p. 18). Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers.

new facts may come to light which will force our successors of the twenty-first century to abandon Darwinism or modify it beyond recognition.”¹⁹¹

At best, Darwinian evolution is a disputed probabilistic framework based on assumptions of philosophical naturalism – a working model. As such, *it does not present a case for abandoning religion and should not be presented as a crutch for atheism.*

Below, we will discuss the mounting evidence against the Darwinian theory of evolution and its many subsequent modifications from a purely scientific and logical point of view:

- Any process which has **never been observed to occur**, fully and unequivocally, in all human history should not be treated as an established scientific fact and should not become the central premise for the speciation of all creation.
- Any theory which **does not explain how life began** should not become a prevailing theory for the *origin* of life. Darwin titled his book: *The Origin of Species*, which gives the impression that he is discussing origins, not speciation. Darwin’s theory does not address the most important question: how dead matter could spring into life. Thus, evolution is a theory of transformation, not of origins.
- Modern genetics and chromosomal studies indicate that **mutation does not create a new kind of organism** or lead to a significant gain of function in an existing kind.

The 2018 Nobel Prize winners in chemistry were able to induce a large number of successive mutations, which might normally require millions of years, in a

¹⁹¹ Richard Dawkins, *A Devil’s Chaplain: Selected Writings*, London: Weidenfield & Nicholson, 2003: 81

period of a few months, in a lab. Despite the introduction of this large number of *directed, designed* mutations (picking the most beneficial traits,) a new kind of organism never did emerge, nor were any proteins produced from scratch to rival the ones we see by the thousands in living cells. As Frances Arnold, one of the Nobel Prize winners, said: “Efforts to date to generate novel catalysts have primarily demonstrated that we are getting good at making bad enzymes. Making good enzymes will require a whole new level of insight or new methodologies altogether.”¹⁹²

The problem these efforts face in the lab is the same problem faced by Darwin’s evolutionary mechanism in the wild: Nothing can be selected until it already exists.¹⁹³

Furthermore, Lenski, a microbiologist at Michigan State University, spent decades growing cultures of the common bacterium *E. coli* in his lab. In bacterial terms, this is upward of 70,000 generations and a cumulative population size of hundreds of trillions, roughly the number of generations and population size it supposedly took for some primate ancestor to evolve into modern humans.

However, despite the many mutations along the way, a new kind of organism did not evolve, nor was a new transport molecule or new enzyme produced. Instead, some silent, previously unexpressed genes were activated,¹⁹⁴ and the original organism was degraded in some aspects.

This is currently our best evidence of what mutation is capable of.

¹⁹² <https://evolutionnews.org/2018/10/nobel-prize-in-chemistry-for-intelligent-design/>

¹⁹³ *ibid*

¹⁹⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature11514>

“Tandem duplication that captured an aerobically expressed promoter for the expression of a previously silent citrate transporter.”

During one interview, Richard Dawkins, the famous evolutionary biologist, had great difficulty naming a single mutation that resulted in new information.¹⁹⁵

- **Genetic modeling** is the use of mathematical modeling to show how the genetic composition of a population develops over time. A 2016 study conducted by researchers at three institutions: Stockholm University, Sweden; the Biologic Institute, Washington, USA; and Coventry University, United Kingdom, used DNA variation to compare two models:
 - the common descent model: i.e., the evolutionary model, which assumes a population size of a few thousand homo sapiens,
 - the unique original model (Adam and Eve).

The researchers concluded that the evolutionary model was full of gaps and weaknesses and that the unique origin model, where humanity arose from one single couple with created diversity, seems to explain data at least as well, if not better.¹⁹⁶

Ann Gauger,¹⁹⁷ in the book, *Science and Human Origins*,¹⁹⁸ claims that a first couple could have carried sufficient genetic diversity to account for four basic haplotypes,¹⁹⁹ especially given the possibility of rapid population expansion afterward. She further states: “Adam and Eve have not been disproven by science, and those who claim otherwise are misrepresenting the scientific evidence.”²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAzndMmnZJk&feature=youtu.be>

¹⁹⁶ <https://bio-complexity.org/ojs/index.php/main/article/view/BIO-C.2016.3/BIO-C.2016.3>
<https://www.discovery.org/m/2019/01/Science-and-Human-Origins.pdf> Pages 117-121

¹⁹⁷ <https://www.discovery.org/p/gauger/>

¹⁹⁸ <https://www.discovery.org/m/2019/01/Science-and-Human-Origins.pdf> Pages 117-121

¹⁹⁹ A haplotype is a group of genes within an organism that was inherited together from a single parent. <https://www.nature.com/scitable/definition/haplotype-haplotypes-142/>

²⁰⁰ <https://www.discovery.org/m/2019/01/Science-and-Human-Origins.pdf> , Page 121, Paragraph 2

- Even if we assume that a new kind of organism can come through random mutation, did both **male and female** evolve separately but synchronously with the same new characteristics so that the two lovebirds could mate and propagate the new kind?
- Some cite interbreeding as a method of speciation. Interbreeding is not evolution by any stretch. Rather, it indicates the limits of change within a species. Darwinian evolution assumes a great capacity for change, while **interbreeding highlights the robustness of species** and resistance to change. For example, when different species mate and reproduce, they usually produce sterile offspring, i.e., the mating of a horse and donkey produces a mule that cannot reproduce.

Dog breeding is another example of how interbreeding can lead to defects rather than advantages. Great Danes, bred for their large size, have bodies too large for their hearts and are prone to develop bone cancer.²⁰¹

Bulldogs —bred to have large heads— have breathing, skeletal, and skin problems; even worse, many can't naturally mate and need their puppies delivered by Cesarean section.²⁰²

- Many scientists, including Nobel Prize winners, tell us that the **simplest living creatures started whole**. Also, the most basic organisms have the same complex cellular structure as complex organisms. Jacque Monod, a 1965 Nobel laureate, in his book *Chance And Necessity*,²⁰³ says:

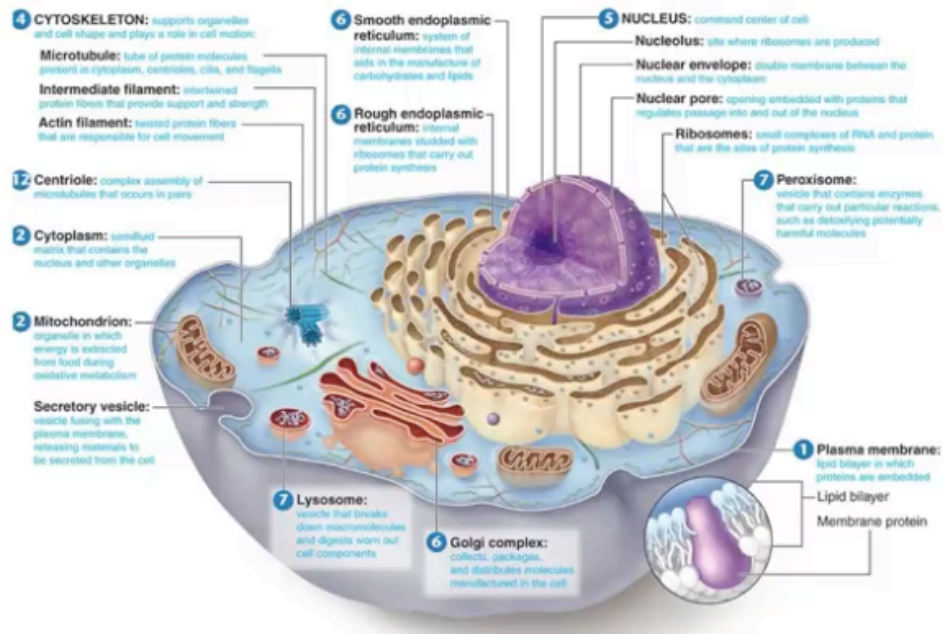
We have no idea what the structure of a primitive cell might have been. The simplest living system known to us, the bacterial cell...in...its overall chemical

²⁰¹ <https://www.housemixblog.com/2017/12/19/is-there-proof-god-exists/>

²⁰² <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/07/bulldogs-dogs-animals-science-breeding/>

²⁰³ Jacque Monod (1971) *Chance and Necessity: An Essay on the Natural Philosophy of Modern Biology*, Knopf

plan is the same as that of all other living beings. It employs the same genetic code and the same mechanism of translation as do, for example, human cells.²⁰⁴



Complexity in the cell²⁰⁵

- According to the group: *The Third Way of Evolution*,²⁰⁶ Darwinism does not present any empirical evidence to solve difficult evolutionary problems and variations in heredity. It ignores much **contemporary molecular evidence**, such as symbiogenesis, horizontal DNA transfer, the action of mobile DNA, and epigenetic modifications.²⁰⁷
- **Survival of the fittest** does not explain:

²⁰⁴ <https://tinyurl.com/t37nd4v> and

https://monoskop.org/images/9/99/Monod_Jacques_Chance_and_Necessity.pdf

²⁰⁵ <https://youtu.be/zU7Lww-sBPg?t=553>

²⁰⁶ <https://www.thethirdwayofevolution.com>

²⁰⁷ *ibid*

- Why an animal —that matures and gains survival skills quickly— would evolve into a human infant who needs 15 years to reach puberty
- Why Man would develop characteristics such as altruism and a love of exploration, which might hurt his chances of survival
- Why we spend a lot of time in superfluous activity which does not aid survival and reproduction, such as art, spirituality, philosophy, or the production of contraceptive aids.²⁰⁸
- Why there are lifestyles such as homosexuality that go against the reproduction and survival of species.

Moreover, how did the survival instinct come about without a creator?

How and why would inanimate chemicals formulate a plan to preserve the products of their reactions?

Why would dead, unfeeling chemicals attach any value to ‘survival’ or care whether they or their products survive?

Assuming they do care, how did chemicals ‘teach’ their products to choose survival?

If the driver for all speciation is the ability to survive, and if creatures are valued by their fitness for survival, why do we value a human being over an e-coli bacteria which has also survived admirably?

- **Unbiased natural selection:** When asked why marsupials and placentals were very similar in shape even though they were widely separated in the Darwinian classification, some evolutionists came up with the name “convergent evolution” and attributed the similarity in shape to similar environments. When we found bats and whales living in different environments sharing a common

²⁰⁸The Divine Reality – God, Islam and the Mirage of Atheism, Revised Edition, Hamza Andreas Tzortzis, Page 60.

system, echo-location, and cichlid fish in two different environments developing into almost identical varieties, nature magazine published a report calling for a rethink of evolution theory.²⁰⁹ New terms began making their way into evolution literature, such as: “parallel evolution,”²¹⁰ “guided along specific routes,”²¹¹ “evodevo and constraints,”²¹² etc.

So natural selection became guided and constrained.

According to Stephen Gould:²¹³ “Darwin made a mistake in proposing his natural-selection theory, and it is fairly easy to detect the mistake. We have seen that what the theory so grievously lacks is a criterion of survival that is independent of survival.”²¹⁴

This is called tautology or circular argument:²¹⁵ *The fittest survive, and those that survive are the fittest.* A equals a equals a equals a equals a. The “how” is what natural selection theory is supposed to provide and what mutually inter-defined terms do not.²¹⁶

²⁰⁹ <https://www.nature.com/news/does-evolutionary-theory-need-a-rethink-1.16080>

²¹⁰ <https://www.britannica.com/science/evolution-scientific-theory/Convergent-and-parallel-evolution>

²¹¹ <https://www.nature.com/news/does-evolutionary-theory-need-a-rethink-1.16080>

²¹² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/7067393_Brakefield_PM_Evo-devo_and_constraints_on_selection_Trends_Ecol_Evol_21_362-368

²¹³ Stephen Gould is an American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist, and historian of science. He was also one of the most influential and widely read authors of popular science of his generation. Gould spent most of his career teaching at Harvard University and working at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

²¹⁴ Bethell T., Darwin's mistake, Harper's 1976; 252:1509 (Feb) Page 70.

²¹⁵ Tautologies and circular statements are always true and are thus not useful as theories because they can't be falsified. A tautology is a statement that is true by necessity. Tautologies often take the form “a equals b,” but b reduces to a, so really “a equals a.” Similarly, circular statements include components that rely on each other mutually for their definition, taking the general form “a is true because b is true and b is true because a is true.” Tautologies and circular statements cannot be falsified, because they are always true, so they are not scientific under a Popperian view of science.

²¹⁶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4594354/>

Numerous other scientists have also criticized natural selection as a tautology or circular argument, rendering a fatal blow to the theory's ability to explain the mechanism of biological change.²¹⁷

Early in his career, the legendary philosopher Karl Popper²¹⁸ called evolution via natural selection “almost a tautology” and “not a testable scientific theory but a metaphysical research program.” Attacked for these criticisms, Popper retracted them. But in a 1992 interview, he blurted out that he still found Darwin's theory dissatisfying: “One ought to look for alternatives!”²¹⁹

Jerry Fodor of Rutgers University and the cognitive scientist Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini of the University of Arizona in Tucson, in their book, *What Darwin Got Wrong*, also say that the theory of natural selection is fatally flawed. They cite, among other things, the significant role that contingency plays in evolution and that clusters of genes persist unchanged for eons.²²⁰

The late biologist Lynn Margulis, a well-respected member of the National Academy of Sciences until her death in 2011, once said:

This is the issue I have with neo-Darwinists: They teach that what is generating novelty is the accumulation of random mutations in DNA, in a direction set by natural selection. If you want bigger eggs, you keep selecting the hens that are laying the biggest eggs, and you get bigger and bigger eggs.

²¹⁷ *ibid*

²¹⁸ Sir Karl Raimund Popper, 1902-1994, CH FBA FRS was an Austrian-born British philosopher and professor, generally regarded as one of the 20th century's greatest philosophers of science.

²¹⁹ <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/cross-check/dubitable-darwin-why-some-smart-nonreligious-people-doubt-the-theory-of-evolution/>

²²⁰ *What Darwin Got Wrong*²²⁰, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/7726352-what-darwin-got-wrong>

But you also get hens with defective feathers and wobbly legs. Natural selection eliminates and maybe maintains, but it doesn't create."²²¹

- Darwin's evolution is based on **gradualism**. Darwin wrote: "Natural Selection acts only by taking advantage of slight successive variations; she can never take a great and sudden leap but must advance by short and sure, though slow steps."²²²... "If numerous species, belonging to the same genera or families, have really started into life all at once, the fact would be fatal to the theory to descent with **slow modification** through Natural Selection."²²³

A study published in Nature suggests that natural selection may not be the cause of speciation. According to Venditti, Meade, and Pagel, *evolution is not driven by natural selection* or the accumulative effects of random genetic drift.²²⁴ Rather than incremental and gradual change, the study suggests that the vast bulk of speciation results from rare events.²²⁵ As the author Pagel says: "(this) really goes against the grain" for scientists with a Darwinian view of evolution.

Another study (2018) at Stanford's School of Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences, found that different varieties of insects exploded all at once into the geological record. The researcher Sandra Schachat states:

The first two-winged insects in the fossil record are about as different from each other as you could possibly expect. This suggests that once winged insects originated, they diversified very, very quickly. So quickly that their

²²¹ <https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/discover-interview-lynn-margulis-says-shes-not-controversial-shes-right>

²²² <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=acts%20selection%20successive%20of%20advantage%20natural%20by%20variations%20slight%20only%20taking&pageseq=212&itemID=F373&viewtype=text> Page 194

²²³ Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*, 1902 edition, Part Two, Pages 83, 88.

²²⁴ Genetic drift is term used to describe the change in the frequency of an existing gene variant in a population due to random sampling of organisms. https://www.lexico.com/definition/genetic_drift

²²⁵ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature08630>

diversification appears, from a geological perspective and the evidence available in the fossil record, to have been instantaneous.²²⁶

Stephen Gould,²²⁷ arguably the world's top paleontologist, said:

Paleontologists have paid an exorbitant price for Darwin's argument. We fancy ourselves as the only true students of life's history, yet to preserve our favored account of evolution by Natural Selection, we view our data as so bad that we never see the very process we profess to study.²²⁸

He also said:

The history of most fossil species includes two features particularly inconsistent with gradualism: (1) Stasis: Most species exhibit no directional change during their tenure on Earth. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they disappear; morphological change is usually limited and directionless; (2) Sudden appearance: In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and fully formed.²²⁹

According to Lynn Margulis:

What you'd like to see is a good case for gradual change from one species to another in the field, in the laboratory, or in the fossil record—and preferably in all three. Darwin's big mystery was why there was no record at all before a specific point [dated to 542 million years ago by modern researchers], and then all of a sudden in the fossil record you get nearly all the major types of

²²⁶ <https://news.stanford.edu/2018/01/23/insects-took-off-evolved-wings/>

²²⁷ Stephen Gould is an American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist, and historian of science. He was also one of the most influential and widely read authors of popular science of his generation. Gould spent most of his career teaching at Harvard University and working at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

²²⁸ Gould, Stephen, *The Panda's Thumb*, 1980, Pages 181-182

²²⁹ *ibid*, Pages 13, 14.

animals. The paleontologists Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould studied lakes in East Africa and on Caribbean islands looking for Darwin's gradual change from one species of trilobite or snail to another. What they found was lots of back-and-forth variation in the population and then—whoop—a whole new species. There is no gradualism in the fossil record.²³⁰

In the words of (possibly the biggest) proponent for Darwinism in modern times, Richard Dawkins: “Without gradualness...we are back to miracle.”²³¹

Is it any wonder then that gradualism is upheld so fiercely (despite all evidence to the contrary) while sudden appearance —despite all supporting evidence— is denied so vehemently by evolutionists’?!

What’s amazing is that atheists may have no issue with the instantaneous appearance of the universe (according to the Big Bang theory), while, at the same time, they insist that organisms —a much simpler creation— can only come through gradual tiny incremental changes over very long periods of time?

The creation of the heavens and the Earth is greater than the creation of people, but most people do not know. Quran Translated Meaning 40:57

- Darwin was also worried that the lack of **numerous transitional fossils** disproved his theory. He said: “Why, if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms? Why is not all nature in confusion instead of the species being, as we see

²³⁰ <https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/discover-interview-lynn-margulis-says-shes-not-controversial-shes-right>

²³¹ Dawkins, R. (1995), *River out of Eden*, Basic Books, New York, P 83.

them, well defined?”²³²“Innumerable transitional forms must have existed, but why do we not find them embedded in countless numbers in the crust of the Earth?”²³³ ...Why is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links?”²³⁴

It has been more than 150 years since, and the expected abundance of transitional forms has never materialized. Even in the “Cambrian explosion,”²³⁵ scientists did not discover the expected innumerable transitional forms.

If Darwin’s theory were true, there should be a series of transitional forms with some missing links. Instead, what we have is a handful of supposedly “transitional” fossils and an absence of most transitional forms in the proposed series of evolution.

Stephen Gould says: “I will regard the failure to find a clear vector of progress in life's history as the most puzzling fact of the fossil record.... *We have sought to impose a pattern that we hope to find on a world that does not really display it.*”²³⁶

Note here that, for Darwin’s theory of evolution to be true, **innumerable transitional forms** (as Darwin hoped) should have been found and should continue to be found, as the Earth’s innumerable species [supposedly] continue to evolve. It is not enough to find a few “transitional fossils” to prove the theory.

²³² <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=transitional%20we%20do%20forms%20innumerable%20see%20everywhere%20not&pageseq=189&itemID=F373&viewtype=text>

²³³ <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=transitional%20of%20existed%20in%20why%20have%20not%20countless%20the%20embedded%20must%20find%20them%20we%20do%20innumerable%20forms%20Earth%20numbers%20but%20crust&pageseq=190&itemID=F373&viewtype=text>

²³⁴ <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=formation%20is%20stratum%20full%20and%20of%20intermediate%20why%20geological%20links%20not%20such%20every&pageseq=298&itemID=F373&viewtype=text>

²³⁵ The "Cambrian explosion" refers to the sudden appearance in the fossil record of complex animals with mineralized skeletal remains.

²³⁶ Gould, Stephen Jay, The Ediacaran Experiment, Natural History, Vol. 93; February 1984, Page 23.

To further discredit the theory, even the few fossils labeled “transitional” were mainly exposed as fakes. Examples include the Piltdown Man, the Nebraska Man, the Archaeoraptor, the Fania Fly, Ida, Orce Man, the humanoid collarbone, the baboon bone found in Lucy, etc. We were taught in biology textbooks, documentaries, and museums that humans evolved from Neanderthals until DNA evidence showed otherwise.²³⁷ In fact, the 2022 Nobel prize in Physiology was awarded for DNA research that claims that Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* *coexisted* and *interbred* during their millennia of coexistence.²³⁸ According to Dr. Jonathan Wells, the American biologist and author, fossils do not provide evidence for ancestry and descent. Even if we find two skeletons side by side, we cannot tell if they have a common ancestry, so how can we presume any ancestry between fossils found on two different continents millions of years apart?²³⁹

- Proof for evolution is erroneously labeled as empirical, i.e., observable and repeatable. However, evolution is neither; it relies on an induction made by evolutionists that an effect (a few fossils) points to a cause (a common origin for the whole of creation). By no means can this be considered scientific or empirical. According to the book, *What Makes Biology Unique?*, Ernst Mayr of Harvard University tells us:

The earliest fossils of *Homo*, *Homo rudolfensis*, and *Homo erectus* are separated from *Australopithecus* by a large, unbridged gap. Not having any

²³⁷ <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100921171412.htm>

²³⁸ <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2022/press-release/>

²³⁹ <https://youtu.be/y-HoCD9SEuE?t=205>

fossils that can serve as missing links, scientists fall back on the time-honored method of historical science, the construction of a historical narrative.²⁴⁰

Gareth Nelson of the American Museum of Natural History has this to say about evolutionists' arbitrary selection of evolutionary ancestors: "We've got to have some ancestors. We'll pick those. Why? Because we know they have to be there, and these are the best candidates. That's, by and large, the way it has worked. I am not exaggerating."²⁴¹

- Contrary to the theory's **random changes** assumption, recent studies show that variation is not random. So, again, new terms, previously unheard of in evolution literature, started popping up, such as "developmental bias,"²⁴² "developmental constraints,"²⁴³ "cells may have mechanisms for choosing which mutations will occur,"²⁴⁴ "variation is not random,"²⁴⁵ "non-random directed mutation confirmed,"²⁴⁶ etc.

James A. Shapiro, a University of Chicago molecular biologist and evolutionist, says: "It is difficult (if not impossible) to find a genome change operator that is truly random in its action within the DNA of the cell where it works. All careful

²⁴⁰ What Makes Biology Unique? Considerations on the autonomy of a scientific discipline, Ernst Mayr, Cambridge University Press, 2004, Page 198
<https://camscience.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/what-makes-biology-unique1.pdf> Page 198

²⁴¹ <http://maxddl.org/Creation/Darwin%20On%20Trial.pdf> Page 54.

²⁴² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developmental_Bias#Types_of_bias

²⁴³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/6800139>

²⁴⁴ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2097219>

²⁴⁵ <https://www.nature.com/news/does-evolutionary-theory-need-a-rethink-1.16080>

²⁴⁶ http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Nonrandom_directed_mutations_confirmed.php

studies of mutagenesis find statistically significant non-random patterns of change.”²⁴⁷

- Vestigial organs: Among the evidence cited for evolution, found in virtually every biology textbook, are so-called **vestigial organs** present in plants, animals, and humans. These are organs that are believed to have once been useful during a previous stage of evolutionary development but are now redundant and in disuse, shrunk away until only a vestige remains. The subsequent discoveries of essential functions for these vestigial organs²⁴⁸ (such as the appendix, the tailbone, the thyroid gland, tonsils, hind legs of the whale, etc.) confirm intention in design.²⁴⁹ Moreover, numerous functions have been discovered for various types of non-coding DNA,²⁵⁰ including:

- repairing DNA
- assisting in DNA replication
- regulating DNA transcription
- aiding in the folding and maintenance of chromosomes
- controlling RNA editing and splicing
- helping to fight disease
- regulating embryological development

These important functions for so-called “vestigial organs” and “junk DNA” confirm the intention and precision in the design of organisms.

²⁴⁷ Shapiro JA (2011). *Evolution: a View from the 21st Century*. Pearson Education Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ, USA, Page 82

²⁴⁸ https://idiscover.lib.cam.ac.uk/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=44CAM_ALMA21465538880003606&context=L&vid=44CAM_PROD&lang=en_US&search_scope=default_scope&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=default_tab&query=any,contains,0940384094

²⁴⁹ <https://www.creationism.org/books/TaylorInMindsMen/TaylorIMMj10.htm>

²⁵⁰ <https://www.discovery.org/m/2019/01/Science-and-Human-Origins.pdf> Page 88

- **Irreducible complexity:** Darwin said: “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”²⁵¹ A complex organ is composed of multiple parts, all of which are necessary for the system to function. If even one part is missing, the system may fail. Such a system, with “irreducible complexity,” could not have evolved slowly, piece by piece. Molecular biology, biochemistry, and genetics research over the past fifty years have identified tens of thousands of irreducibly complex systems on the cellular level.

This is confirmed by the evolutionist Dr. Franklin Harold²⁵² in his 2001 book, *The Way of the Cell: Molecules, Organisms and the Order of Life*:

Cell components as we know them are so thoroughly integrated that one can scarcely imagine how any one function could have arisen in the absence of the others. Genetic information can only be replicated and read out with the aid of enzyme proteins, which are themselves specified by those same genes. Energy is harnessed by means of enzymes whose production requires energy input. Darwinian evolution is at the bottom of the struggle among individuals defined by cell membranes, yet how could membranes and transport catalysts arise without genes, proteins, and energy?²⁵³

²⁵¹ <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=which%20successive%20existed%20organ%20by%20possibly%20demonstrated%20have%20not%20it%20numerous%20that%20be%20been%20if%20could%20complex%20formed%20any&pageseq=207&itemID=F373&viewtype=text>

²⁵² <http://www.franklinharold.com>

²⁵³ *The Way of the Cell: Molecules, Organisms and the Order of Life*, Page 245

Franklin M. Harold, emeritus professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Colorado State University. His book describes in detail the incredible complexity of life at the cellular level.

Similarly, neither proteins nor nucleic acids could have arisen without the other.

In the 2006 edition of his book, *Darwin's Blackbox*, the American biochemist and author Michael Behe discusses the complete absence—in professional, scientific literature—of any detailed models by which complex biochemical systems could have been produced. According to Behe:

The impotence of Darwinian theory in accounting for the molecular basis of life is evident.....No one at Harvard University, no one at the National Institute of Health, no member of the National Academy of Sciences, no Nobel prize winner—no one at all—can give a detailed account of how the cilium, or vision or blood clotting of any complex biochemical process might have developed in a Darwinian fashion.²⁵⁴

- According to Denis Noble:²⁵⁵ “.... all the central assumptions of the Modern Synthesis —also called **Neo-Darwinism**— have been disproved. Moreover, they have been disproved in ways that raise the tantalizing prospect of a totally new synthesis...”²⁵⁶
- **The brain:** According to Darwin:

But then, with me, the horrid doubt always arises whether the convictions of man's mind, which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals,

²⁵⁴ Michael Behe (2006), *Darwin's Black Box*, Free Press, Page 187.

²⁵⁵ Dr. Noble is a British Biologist, who held the Burdon Sanderson Chair of Cardiovascular Physiology at Oxford University from 1984 to 2004 and was appointed professor emeritus and co-director of computational physiology. He was the first scientist to model cardiac cells (in two papers published in *Nature* in 1960) and has published over 350 research papers. He is regarded as a leading researcher in the field of Systems Biology.

²⁵⁶ <https://www.thethirdwayofevolution.com/people/view/denis-noble>

are of any value or at all trustworthy. Would anyone trust in the convictions of a monkey's mind, if there are any convictions in such a mind?²⁵⁷

It is a mystery why he then decides to trust his mind's conclusions on evolution, even though they are a product of this untrustworthy brain!

Alfred Russel Wallace is widely seen as the co-discoverer of the theory of evolution. He and Darwin co-presented their theory to the Linnaean Society in 1858. Wallace was convinced that the human brain was of no use to ancestral humans and, therefore, could only be explained by intelligent design: "Natural Selection could only have endowed savage man with a brain a few degrees superior to that of an ape, whereas he actually possesses one very little inferior to that of a philosopher."²⁵⁸

John Gray, a famous British philosopher, says: "Modern humanism is the faith that, through science, humankind can know the truth - and so be free. But if Darwin's theory of Natural Selection is true, this is impossible. The human mind serves evolutionary success, not truth."²⁵⁹

Francis Crick, a Nobel Prize winner and recognized evolutionist, says: "Our highly developed brains...were not evolved under the pressure of discovering scientific truths but only to enable us to be clever enough to survive and leave descendants."²⁶⁰

Donald D. Hoffman, a professor of cognitive science at the University of California, Irvine, has spent the past three decades studying perception, artificial

²⁵⁷ <http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=the%20convictions%20doubt%20of%20horrid%20always%20whether%20arises&pageseq=334&itemID=F1452.1&viewtype=text>

²⁵⁸ Wallace A. R. (1870), *The limits of Natural Selection as applied to man*, Contributions to the Theory of Natural Selection: A Series of Essays, ed Wallace AR (MacMillan, New York).
<http://www.inters.org/wallace-natural-selection>

²⁵⁹ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/7599937-modern-humanism-is-the-faith-that-through-science-humankind-can>

²⁶⁰ https://evolutionnews.org/2015/03/why_evolutionar/

intelligence, evolutionary game theory, and the brain. His conclusion is a dramatic one:

The world presented to us by our perceptions is nothing like reality. What's more, we have evolution itself to thank for this magnificent illusion, as it maximizes evolutionary fitness by driving truth to extinction. Evolution has shaped us with perceptions that allow us to survive. But part of that involves hiding from us the stuff we don't need to know. And that's pretty much all of reality, whatever reality might be.²⁶¹

Can you imagine the implications of such an ideology, which devalues the human brain and casts doubt on its rationality and conclusions?!

So, next time an atheist asks for proof of God, of design, of the obvious...we have a right to ask: *“What will you use to judge the truth of our answer?”*

- If it's your brain, which you believe came from dumb processes designed for survival, not truth, then why should we waste time presenting proof? How can we expect such a brain to arrive at any truth or reach any intelligent conclusion?
- If, on the other hand, your brain comes from a Supremely Wise, All-Knowing source, then its credibility is established, and you have a right to demand respect for the conclusions of your brain.

According to Hamza Tzortzis,²⁶² when atheists claim that they use their minds to determine that God does not exist, it is a form of intellectual hypocrisy. To account for the fact that they have a rational mind, they have to deny atheism. Otherwise, they are denying rationality itself. The intellectual irony is that their ability to think rationally is only explained by the existence of God.²⁶³

²⁶¹ <https://www.quantamagazine.org/the-evolutionary-argument-against-reality-20160421/>

²⁶² <https://www.hamzatzortzis.com/about-me/>

²⁶³ *The Divine Reality, God Islam and the Mirage of Atheism, Revised Edition*, Hamza Andreas Tzortzis.

- When faced with the intricate design of the human body, Darwin expressed other doubts. On the development of the eye, he writes in his *The Origin of Species*, [Masterpieces of Science Edition] 1958:

To suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by Natural Selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree....”²⁶⁴

Werner Gitt explains, in his 1999 *The Wonder of Man*, how the retina of the eye is a masterpiece of engineering design,

One single square millimeter of the retina contains approximately 400,000 optical sensors...imagine a sphere, on the surface of which circles are drawn, the size of tennis balls. These circles are separated from each other by the same distance as their diameter. In order to accommodate 400,000 such circles, the sphere must have a diameter of 52 meters... (Page 15)

²⁶⁴The Origin of Species,1859, Masterpieces of Science Edition, 1958, p. 146. The full quote is: “To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by Natural Selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree. When it was first said that the sun stood still and the world turned around it, the common sense of Mankind declared the doctrine false; but the old saying of Vox populi, vox Dei, as every philosopher knows, cannot be trusted in science. Reason tells me, that if numerous gradations from a simple and imperfect eye to one complex and perfect can be shown to exist, each grade being useful to its possessor, as is certainly the case; if further, the eye ever varies and the variations be inherited, as is likewise certainly the case; and if such variations should be useful to any animal under changing conditions of life, then the difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could be formed by Natural Selection, though insuperable by our imagination, should not be considered as subversive of the theory. How a nerve comes to be sensitive to light, hardly concerns us more than how life itself originated; but I may remark that, as some of the lowest organisms, in which nerves cannot be detected, are capable of perceiving light, it does not seem impossible that certain sensitive elements in their sarcode should become aggregated and developed into nerves, endowed with this special sensibility.”

Alan L. Gillen, in his 2001 book, *Body by Design: An Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Body* (Master Books), also praises the design of the retina:

The most amazing component of the eye is the “film,” which is the retina. This light-sensitive layer at the back of the eyeball is thinner than a sheet of plastic wrap and is more sensitive to light than any man-made film. The best camera film can handle a ratio of 1000-to-1 photons in terms of light intensity. By comparison, human retinal cells can handle a ratio of 10 billion-to-1 over the dynamic range of light wavelengths of 380 to 750 nanometers. The human eye can sense as little as a single photon of light in the dark! In bright daylight, the retina can bleach out, turning its “volume control” way down so as not to overload. The light-sensitive cells of the retina are like an extremely complex high-gain amplifier that is able to magnify sounds more than one million times (Pages 97-98).

How can we believe a blind random process gave us these intricately designed eyes?
How can we believe that He who gave us vision cannot see us and everything we do?

And it is He Who has created ears and eyes and hearts for you; very little is the right you acknowledge. Quran Translated Meaning 23:78

He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?
Bible Psalms 94:9

- Darwin also referred to the Creator several times in his writings:

There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity,

from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.²⁶⁵.....

Further, we must suppose that there is a power always intently watching each slight accidental alteration in the transparent layers; and carefully selecting each alteration.²⁶⁶

In his autobiography, Darwin says:

Reason tells me of the extreme difficulty or rather impossibility of conceiving this immense and wonderful universe, including Man with his capability of looking far into futurity, as the result of blind chance or necessity. When thus reflecting, I feel compelled to look to a First Cause having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man; and I deserve to be called a Theist.”

Darwin was impressed with the views of the Reverend Charles Kingsley, who saw no contradiction between faith and belief in evolution, and sought permission to publish them in the second edition of the *Origin of Species*²⁶⁷:

A celebrated author and divine...has written to me that ‘he has gradually learnt to see that it is just as noble a conception of the Deity to believe that He created a few original forms capable of self-development into other and

²⁶⁵ Charles Darwin closed the last paragraph of the first edition of his *On the Origin of Species* (publication date 24 November 1859) with this sentence. However, in March 1863, Darwin wrote about this inclusion of the three significant words “by the Creator” to his friend and scientific confidante Joseph Hooker: “I have long regretted that I truckled to public opinion and used Pentateuchal term of creation, by which I really meant “appeared” by some wholly unknown process. It is mere rubbish thinking, at present, of origin of life; one might as well think of origin of matter.”

²⁶⁶ Darwin, *Origin of Species*: second British edition (1860), Page 189.

²⁶⁷ Darwin, C. R. 1860. *On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favored races in the struggle for life*. London: John Murray. 2nd edition, second issue.

needful forms, as to believe that He required a fresh act of creation to supply the voids caused by the action of His laws...²⁶⁸

...It seems to me absurd to doubt that a man may be an ardent theist and an evolutionist. You are right about Kingsley.....In my most extreme fluctuations, I have never been an Atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God. I think that generally (and more and more so as I grow older), but not always, that an Agnostic would be the most correct description of my state of mind.²⁶⁹

So, Darwin seemingly, had doubts, but not so the Darwinians.

To them, evolution is the new Godless religion, and leading evolutionists are its new prophets.

Eminent scientific philosopher and ardent Darwinian Michael Ruse, author of the book, *Darwinism as Religion: What Literature Tells Us about Evolution*²⁷⁰, has even acknowledged that evolution is a religion:

Evolution is promoted by its practitioners as more than mere science. Evolution is promulgated as an ideology, a secular religion -- a full-fledged alternative to Christianity, with meaning and morality Evolution is a

²⁶⁸

<http://darwinonline.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=the%20voids%20supply&pageseq=436&itemID=F380&viewtype=text>

²⁶⁹ [http://darwin-](http://darwinonline.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=atheist&pageseq=1&itemID=A1104&viewtype=text)

[online.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=atheist&pageseq=1&itemID=A1104&viewtype=text](http://darwinonline.org.uk/content/frameset?keywords=atheist&pageseq=1&itemID=A1104&viewtype=text)

²⁷⁰ *Darwinism as Religion: What Literature Tells Us about Evolution*, Michael Ruse (2016), Oxford University Press

religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution still today.²⁷¹

The famous Atheist writer and speaker, Richard Dawkins, when asked to explain the evolution of birds' feathers, actually said: "Natural selection, um, well, I suppose that is a sort of matter of faith, on my part."²⁷²

George Sim Johnson, philosopher and historian of religion, in his 1998 book, *Did Darwin Get it Right? Catholics and the Theory of Evolution*, suggests that if a CD containing the information in the genetic code were discovered, everyone would conclude that it came from intelligent alien life. However, upon finding the same complex information inside our cells, ardent Darwinians conclude that it happened by chance and randomness.²⁷³

This bias is even found at the institutional level. In Chapter 2 of the book, *Darwin on Trial, NATURAL SELECTION AS A PHILOSOPHICAL NECESSITY*, the author, Phillip E. Johnson, in discussing the court case against Intelligent Design in Louisiana, says:

The National Academy of Sciences told the Supreme Court that the most basic characteristic of science is "reliance upon naturalistic explanations," as opposed to "supernatural means inaccessible to human understanding." In the latter, unacceptable category, contemporary scientists place not only God but

²⁷¹ Darwinism as a Religion, Michael Ruse, Oxford University Press, 2017

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/7487007-evolution-is-promoted-by-its-practitioners-as-more-than-mere>

²⁷² <http://triablogue.blogspot.com/2006/12/richard-dawkins-man-of-faith.html>

²⁷³

<https://books.google.it/books?id=NmCi0n8Ku7AC&pg=PA4&dpq=PA4&dq=george+sim+johnson+on+genetic+code&source=bl&ots=uScWh0j58V&sig=ACfU3U3Y1-pEEvSVPccrse418TW9F8JYtw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiX2qT's1vPnAhVIExoKHT3SBokQ6AEwAHoECAyQAQ#v=onepage&q=george%20sim%20johnson%20on%20genetic%20code&f=false> , Pages 4–5

also any non-material vital force that supposedly drives evolution in the direction of greater complexity, consciousness, or whatever. If science is to have any explanation for biological complexity at all, it has to make do with what is left when the unacceptable has been excluded. Natural selection is the best of the remaining alternatives, probably the only alternative.²⁷⁴

²⁷⁴ <http://maxddl.org/Creation/Darwin%20On%20Trial.pdf>

How can there be one God with so many religions?

If you obey the majority of those upon this Earth, they will mislead you from the way of God. They follow only assumptions, and they are only falsifying. Quran Translated
Meaning 6:116

Religion cannot be judged by the actions of people born into it. We cannot judge Christianity as a barbaric religion because some Ku Klux Klan²⁷⁵ members associate themselves with Christianity and carry the cross while they are lynching black men. That would be a very superficial judgment. The teachings of Jesus, peace be upon him, are innocent of such horrific actions.

Similarly, true Islam is there, behind a veil of false media propaganda and a few bad people masquerading as Muslims. Remove that veil, and you will see beauty and perfection. In the Quran, we find an even bigger gap between what a believer can be and the present-day misapplication of religion.²⁷⁶

Knowledge of God/religion does not come from observing the actions of His creation. Nor does this knowledge come from trying to understand the wisdom behind His actions through our limited perspective. Instead, to know God and our purpose in life:

- We ponder His amazing creation.²⁷⁷
- We read/listen to His words.

²⁷⁵ <https://voices.uchicago.edu/religionculture/2017/06/26/the-klan-white-christianity-and-the-past-and-present-a-response-to-kelly-j-baker-by-randall-j-stephens/>

²⁷⁶ While there are clauses that discuss warfare in the Quran and Bible (in Leviticus: “You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you.” In the Quran: “Fight in the way of God those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed, God does not like transgressors,”) these verses should not be taken out of context by ignoring the restrictions in the verses that precede or follow, nor should they be considered in isolation of the values of justice, equality, forgiveness, and charity that monotheistic religions call to.

²⁷⁷ Some examples of the wonders in God’s creation are provided in the “Signs in the universe” and “Signs in Creation” chapters of this book.

People's distortions of the pure monotheistic message preached by all prophets of God can confuse any sane person and may turn them away from religion. Some people take man-made idols as gods; some project God as a weak being who answers the call of nature and allows His creatures to harm Him; others take people and religious figures as intermediaries to God and submit to their power and politics. Religious institutions abound with corruption and abuse. Some religious leaders act "holier than thou" and change God's laws to protect their power and influence. People commit terrorist acts in the name of religion. The list goes on...

Understandably, this turns people off religion. In their view, religion poisons everything.

However, we need to differentiate between religion and people. John Lennox, Oxford professor of mathematics and author, points out that if we fail to distinguish between the science of Einstein and the abuse of his discoveries by scientists who created weapons of mass destruction, we would then repudiate Einstein's science and say that science poisons everything.²⁷⁸

How does that make sense?

To keep things in perspective, World War I and World War II, with 14 million and 70 million killed, respectively; the 94 million killed to establish the atheist communist regimes;²⁷⁹ the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan and various other atrocities were not committed in the name of religion, but by secular regimes. Therefore, violence is a human trait, not attributed to religion, as some would have us believe, and we should not abandon religion because of the abuses of people.

We need to find a path to God. But which path to follow? Each religion claims to be right. The correct path is not determined by:

- following our parents, society, etc.

²⁷⁸ <https://www.inspiringquotes.us/author/9334-john-lennox>

²⁷⁹ *The Black Book of Communism*, by a group of European thought leaders and politicians, 1997.

- following the religion of people who look like us or come from the same race
- following personal preferences and inclinations

The broad concept of God in true religion should be one that any rational person intuitively knows even before reading any holy book: a concept that aligns with innate human knowledge, instincts, and logic.

Characteristics of a Divine religion: from God, not Man

- Clarity in the concept of God: It preserves the **Oneness** of God without partners, which is the universal monotheist message of all God's prophets. This is the first commandment, the most important commandment, in every major religion²⁸⁰ and the key to Paradise.
 - Bible: "I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods besides me."
 - Quran: "There is no other deity besides God."

Monotheism must have preceded polytheism because before one can imagine multiple Gods, one has to understand the concept of one God. This seems to be borne out by historical accounts.²⁸¹ For example, Xenophanes, the early

²⁸⁰ In the book, The Original Concept of God, Faten Sabri presents the monotheism clauses in many major religions as follows:

- "So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord - let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone." Quran Translated Meaning 18:110
- "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3, Bible
- "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." First Commandment, Bible.
- "They enter darkness, those who worship the natural elements...(Air, Water, Fire, etc.). They sink deeper in darkness, those who worship sambhuti (created things like idols, stones, etc)." Yajurveda 40:9 Hindu Vedas
- "He is One only without a second." Chandogya Upanishad 6:2:1, Hindu Vedas
- "There exists but one God, who is called The True. The Creator." Sikhism: Sri Guru Granth Sahib, vol:1, Japuji verse:1.
- "He is one; He is without an origin or end. He has no father or mother, wife or son." Zoroastrianism: Dasatir, Ahura Mazda. Refer to Yasna 31:7&11.
- "Confess and believe in God, who is the worthy object of obedience..." Buddhism, India in Primitive Christianity, P85.

<https://www.muslim-library.com/english/the-true-concept-of-god/?lang=English>

²⁸¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-bMgXQV7no>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABe3DmieIok>

Greek philosopher —despite his polytheistic environment— talked of one God, an eternal being, who shared no attributes with human beings.²⁸²

Wilhelm Schmidt,²⁸³ the German anthropologist and Roman Catholic priest, in his 12-volume *Der Ursprung der Gottesidee* (*The Origin of the Idea of God*), presents similarities of belief in one creator throughout the various cultures he studied. He concludes that monotheism —not polytheism or totemism— was the most primitive type of religion worldwide.²⁸⁴

Thus, polytheism is a distortion of the original monotheistic message of all prophets.

The Oneness of our Creator explains the harmony in this universe. It provides the simplest and most comprehensive explanation for the uniformity of raw elements, consistency in universal laws, and regularity of motion patterns. One All-powerful Independent Creator is all that is required. This avoids the problem of conflicting wills and contradicting laws with multiple Gods.

Melvin Calvin, 1961 Nobel Prize winner in organic chemistry,²⁸⁵ said: “The universe is governed by a single God and is not the product of the whims of many gods, each governing his own province according to his own laws. This monotheistic view seems to be the historical foundation for modern science.”²⁸⁶

A fundamental fallacy committed by many atheists is their assumption that if some people practice polytheism or worship false gods, then there must be no True God.

²⁸² https://www.worldhistory.org/Xenophanes_of_Colophon/ , Paragraph 2

²⁸³ <https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/social-sciences-and-law/anthropology-biographies/wilhelm-schmidt>

²⁸⁴ https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Wilhelm_Schmidt

²⁸⁵ Melvin Calvin (1969) *Chemical evolution: Molecular evolution towards the origin of living systems on the Earth and elsewhere*, Clarendon Press.

²⁸⁶ <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/Nave-html/Faithpathh/Calvin.html>

- It provides a **direct** path between our Creator and us; it frees man from subservience to anyone but God. There are **no intermediaries** between God and us.

One God has one way to worship him. All prophets of God came with the message to worship God alone and directly, without detours or intermediaries. All prophets forbade people to worship them. This is echoed throughout the Quran and the Bible. The opening chapter in the Quran states:

You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help. Quran Translated Meaning 1:5

The First Commandment in the Bible is to put God first. Furthermore, Jesus, peace be upon him, says:

They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have disregarded the commandment of God to keep the tradition of men. Mark 7.7, Bible, New International Version.

Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God. Matthew 15.9, Bible, New Living Translation.

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught." Isaiah 29:13, Bible, New International Version.

It is people who created the intermediaries in each religion.

Most similarities in religions are from God.

Most differences are from people.

When asked why they go through intermediaries, people often claim that the intermediaries bring them closer to God. To get closer to God, we should obey Him when He tells us to worship Him directly.

Logically, an intermediary is needed if the intended target is difficult to reach or is unapproachable. For example, we might go through our mother to get our father's approval, as mothers are usually more approachable. But this does not apply to our relationship with God. He is closer to us than anyone, more approachable than our mothers or spouses; infinitely more caring and loving.

And We have already created man and know what his soul whispers to him, and We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein. Quran Translated Meaning 50:16

So why not go to Him directly? Why go through a helpless intermediary?

- It has a clear **unchanged scripture** as a reference.²⁸⁷ This is where the Quran stands unique. Its single version is the only known preserved word of God.

Indeed, it is We who sent down the Quran, and indeed, We will be its guardian.
Quran Translated Meaning 15:9

Despite the countless attempts by the many enemies of Islam to distort this 600+ page book over the past 14 centuries and the extreme pressure to have the Quran conform to the ideology of contemporary ruling dynasties across the 14 centuries, it has remained preserved in a single unchanged original language version throughout the world.

While the Biblical texts (Torah, Evangel, Psalms, Bible) all came originally from God, the only revealed Scripture with reliable word-for-word textual validation going back to its original source is the Quran. For example, we have multiple versions of the Bible, some of which contradict each other. The oldest available copies of the New Testament are the Greek translations. We have

²⁸⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klr3Jy2e3mk>

no versions of the Bible in its original language: Aramaic—the language of Christ and his disciples.²⁸⁸

According to the BBC, the Oxford University Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit showed that some of the oldest fragments of the Quran date back to the time of Prophet Muhammad, Peace be upon him. Comparison with the present-day version supports the claim that the Quran has maintained its textual integrity in the fourteen centuries since its revelation.²⁸⁹

Preservation is not the Quran's only miracle. It is also miraculous in the way it came together:

Imagine a man in a desert receiving a nail one day, a piece of wood the next, a door handle one week, a bit of glass the next, and so on for 23 years. Imagine him placing each piece, as soon as it arrives, in its rightful place in a planned building project *without ever seeing the blueprint for that project or knowing any of the functions of the building!* Can you imagine anybody executing this construction project faultlessly as the pieces come?

Sounds impossible, right? Yet this is what happened with the Quran. It came down a few lines at a time, over a period of 23 years, to address past, present, and future events that would occur over the next two decades. Each piece was placed by Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, in its appropriate place in what would become the Quran's 114 chapters, until a perfect book emerged

²⁸⁸ The main message of the Bible and Torah is preserved through the Quran which reproduces their main message, without the man-added distortions, and emphasizes their central theme of monotheism. Each prophet was given a miracle: Moses parted the Red Sea, Jesus, peace be upon him, brought the dead back to life and cured the sick. Muhammad's (peace be upon him) main miracle, as the last prophet, was the preserved Quran. It makes sense that the final revelation is preserved so that Mankind can have a lasting authentic manual from their Creator.

²⁸⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-HDFiC2boQ>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-33436021>

23 years later.²⁹⁰ How did Muhammad know these future events would unfold? How did he know the proper placement for each section? And how did he end up with a logically sequenced and unparalleled composition in smooth, flowing chapters?!

This, for Muslims, is proof of a Divine Revelation from a Creator Who has pre-knowledge of the events that would provide the material for His final revelation: the Quran.

While the rest of the seventh-century world was holding food and product markets, the Arabs were holding ‘poetry markets’. Language was the Arabs’ unparalleled skill and point of pride. Yet when the Quran continuously challenged them in their area of expertise—to come up with a single chapter similar to the Quran—they failed miserably. With a single composition, the enemies of Islam could have delivered a death blow to Islam, yet even the best of them, despite continued efforts, were unable to do so!

Because of this failure, they resorted to warfare to fight Islam and the Muslims; forcing people away from the Quran in armed combat was easier than producing a single chapter comparable to the inimitable style of the Quran!

The Quran is the most memorized book on Earth. It has unique patterns and linguistic expressions. It foretold many future events and presented knowledge unknown to the Arabs of that time. It also provided facts about the universe that were only discovered recently. It is timeless in that it describes natural

²⁹⁰ This imagery is a modification of the example provided by Muhammad Abdullah Draz, in his 2014 book: *Al-Nabâ' Al-'Azîm*, Dar Al-Kitab Al-Lubnani, page 181.

More details on the miracles of the Quran can be found in the English translation of Muhammad Abdullah Draz’s book, *The Qur’an: An Eternal Challenge*, the Kindle version, or the video series.

phenomena in a way that is acceptable to people of all eras, regardless of the science of the time. Furthermore, there are no inconsistencies in the Quran, and nothing in it contradicts *proven* science.

When the Quran talks about the past, it is confirmed by history; when it foretells the future, it is confirmed by events; when it talks about other religions, it is confirmed by their holy books; when it talks about creation and natural phenomena, it is confirmed by scientific discoveries.

The Quran transformed Arabs from uncouth warring Bedouins with no civilization to speak of, who buried their daughters alive and inherited women as baggage, to role models and leaders of the world in ethics and science.

Which other book is credited with the creation of at least 20 world empires, the last of which was the Ottoman Empire?

As described by Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, the Quran's miracles never end, and you never tire of re-reading it. He also said:

“The superiority of the speech of God (the Quran) compared to all other speech is like the superiority of God over His creation.” At-Tirmithi no. 2926.

- It acknowledges and honors all God's prophets and corroborates their teachings. Islam does not claim a monopoly on faith, nor does it deny other messages from God.

Say, [O believers], “We have believed in God and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Tribes and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him.” Quran Translated Meaning 2:136

Islam is not a new faith. Instead, it is the faith of all prophets of God, from Adam until Muhammad, peace be upon them. **Muhammad, peace be**

upon him, is not the only prophet but the last link in a chain of prophets.²⁹¹

²⁹¹ According to the book, *The Original Concept of God* (link below), many prophets foretold of Muhammad, the last prophet, peace be upon them all.

Jesus, peace be upon him, said:

“I will pray the Father and He shall you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever: even the spirit of truth.” John 14:16.

“But when he, the spirit of truth is come he will guide you in all truth for he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak...” John 16:33,14.

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you (like Moses) from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.” Deuteronomy 18:18.

“But I will also make a nation of the descendants of Hagar's son because he is your son, too.” Genesis 21:13.

In Hinduism (Bhavishya Purana, Parva: 3 Part 3, chapter 3; verse 5-8):

- “A “Milechar” (a foreigner) will appear as a teacher of a new religion, with the help of his friends. His name will be “Mahamat.” A king of this land will give great respect to his teaching, and; praise him. Cleansing himself with Ganges water and Panjagouyam, he will say: “I whole-heartedly follow you.”
“King of this land giving great respect to Mahamat's teachings” may refer to a South Indian King by the name of Heramaan, who had trade contacts with Arabs and later became a Muslim at the time of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.
- “He (Mahamat) would be devoid of all sins. Coming from dry land (desert), he would be very holy, he will fight against evil forces and he will gather warriors, for this purpose. He will give protection even to enemies.”
- Atharva Veda, (Kuntap Sukta) 20 Hymn 127 verses 1-2: “He is Narashansah or the praised one (Muhammad). He is Kaurama: the prince of peace or the emigrant, who is safe, even amongst a host of 60,090 enemies. He is a camel-riding Rishi, whose chariot touches the heaven.” The meaning of the Arabic word 'Muhammad' means “the praised one.”

In Zoroastrianism:

- In Zend Avesta Farvardin Yasht, chapter 28, verse 129 (Sacred Books of the East, Volume 23, Zend Avesta Part II pg. 220): “Whose name will be the Victorious, Soeshyant and whose name will be Astvat- ereta. He will be Soeshyant (The Beneficent one) because he will benefit the whole bodily world.” This prophecy applies perfectly to Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. He was not only victorious when he returned to Makah with an army of 10000, but he also forgave all his enemies by saying: “There shall be no reproof against you this day.”
Soeshyant means ‘the praised one’ which translated in Arabic means Muhammad.
Astvat-ereta is derived from the root word Astu which, in Sanskrit as well as in Zend, means ‘to praise.’ The infinitive Sitaudan in present-day Persian means praising. It can also be derived from the Persian root word istadan which means ‘one who makes a thing rise up.’ Therefore Astvat-ereta means ‘the one who praised,’ which is the exact translation of the Arabic word 'Ahmad' which is another name for Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. The Quran clearly mentions both names of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.
- “Dasatir” in its 14th Verse: “When Persian morality declines to lowest, a man will appear from Arabia. Those following him will choke the Persian Crown, religion and everything. The authority and control of Persia will go to them. The idols in their permanent temple (Kaaba) built by their ancestors will be removed. But, people will give immense honor to the empty temple. Das and Bulk (two big cities of that time in Persia) will fall. The learned people and others of Persia will join those who follow him.”

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: "Verily, my example and that of the prophets before me can be likened to a man who built a house and paid great attention to its beautification and decoration. However, he leaves a place empty for one brick at its corner. People would walk around this house and wonder why this single place has been left empty. Then, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, 'I am that brick, and I am the Seal of the Prophets.'" Al-Bukhari #3535.

If a Muslim does not believe in Moses or Jesus, peace be upon them, then his faith is flawed as he is rejecting large parts of the Quran. The only woman mentioned in the Quran, by name, is Mary, mother of Jesus, with an entire chapter named after her. Furthermore, in Islam, Mary, peace be upon her, is the best woman on Earth, and the Quran attests to her virginity.

- **It is open to all people**, not to a select group.

Say, [O Muhammad], "O Mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of God to you all." Quran Translated Meaning 7:158

In Buddhism:

- In Chakkavatti Sihnada Suttanta D.III, 76: "There will arise in the world a Buddha named Maitreya (the benevolent one), a holy one, a supreme one, an enlightened one, endowed with wisdom in conduct, auspicious, knowing the universe. What he realized through divine revelation (supernatural knowledge) he will convey to this universe. He will preach his religion, glorious in its origin, glorious at its climax, glorious at the end, in the spirit and the letter. He will proclaim a religion and a like life do proclaim. He will keep up the society of devotees numbering many thousands, even as now I keep up a society of devotees numbering many hundreds."
The word "Maitreya" or "Metta" in the Pali language and all corresponding words used in Burmese, Chinese, Tibetan and Japanese, carries the same meaning; same as "Rahmat" in Arabic, which means "Mercy." Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, was proclaimed by God Himself in the Quran as Mercy for the whole world: "We have not sent you, [O Muhammad] except as a Mercy to the worlds." Quran Translated Meaning 21:107.
- According to the Sacred Books of the East Volume 35 Page 225: "It is said that I am not an only Buddha upon whom the leadership and order are dependent. After me, another Buddha "Maitreya" of such and such virtues will come. I am now the leader of hundreds; he will be the leader of thousands."
- According to the Gospel of Buddha by Carus Pages 217, 218 (from Ceylon sources): "Ananda said to the Blessed One: "Who shall teach us when thou are gone? "And the Blessed one replied: "I am not the first Buddha who came upon the Earth nor shall I be the last. In due time another Buddha will arise in the world.""
- In the book "Arshagyanam", Page 282, Buddha said: "All must believe in Maitreya, the Prophet to come."

<https://www.muslim-library.com/english/the-true-concept-of-god/?lang=English>

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black, nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action." The last Sermon of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.

- **It is simple**, without any complexity, convoluted philosophy, or contradictions. Religion is for all and should be understood by all, including the man in the street, the child, etc. It is not just for scholars or clerics.

Then do they not reflect upon the Quran? If it had been from [any] other than God, they would have found within it much contradiction. Quran Translated
Meaning 4:82

The concept of God sending himself to sacrifice himself to himself to save humankind from himself is a convoluted philosophy added to Christianity after the earthly departure of Jesus, peace be upon him. Similarly, the bewildering concept of the Trinity (composed of three co-equal and co-eternal 'persons' in one) was absent in the first three centuries of Christian history. Divine Incarnation (where God changes from divine to human and back) contradicts the nature of God as unchanging:

"God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change." Psalms
55:19, Bible

The confusion created by such man-made distortions has led many people to question Christianity and even the existence of God.

- It defines God as Unique, Self-sufficient, and **Separate** from His creation. Anyone with limited physical qualities or dependencies cannot be God. If we believe God is one with His creation, as some claim, then we must have created ourselves. As mentioned previously, this is impossible. We were nonexistent before our creation, while our Creator must have existed in order

to create us. To be one with our Creator, we must have been in a state of non-existence and existence simultaneously, which makes no sense.

- True religion is **free of charge**: no memberships, no money to support religious institutions, etc. It only wants good for people.

Or do you, [O Muhammad], ask of them a payment... Quran Translated Meaning

52:40

- The **name Islam** is not connected to any person or place but reflects the relationship with God. The name “Islam” is not derived from Prophet Muhammad’s (peace be upon him) name but refers to our relationship with God: submission, unlike the prophet-associated names created by men for other religions.
- It respects freedom of choice —**no original sin**— and no sacrifices of the innocent. A true religion preaches absolute justice: no judgment for things one has no control over. God is absolutely Just and judges each person according to their personal choices.

If it is true that we are born with Adam’s sin, and somebody else dies for ours, then what are we doing here exactly? What is our incentive to do good and avoid evil? What is the value and consequence of any choice we make?

How is it fair that a kind, caring person ends up in the same place as the mass murderers of Rwanda just because someone else was sacrificed for their sins?

If you have two children, and one of them does something wrong, then asks for forgiveness, would you forgive them? If you are like most parents, you would.

Do you think God is less forgiving than you are?

Even if we assume that God (whose name is the Most Forgiving) is the vengeful God some people portray, why would He (who is also the Most Just) sacrifice

one prophet for another's sin? You wouldn't sacrifice one of your children for the mistake of his sibling. If God had to sacrifice anyone, it should have been Adam. He was the one who sinned.

... that no bearer of burdens shall be made to bear another's burden. Quran Translated Meaning 53:38

- **It respects the mind** and encourages the application of logic and reason to arrive at God: **no blind faith**. It elevates knowledge and science. The first revealed word of the Quran was "Read!" (Iqraa). The Quran swears by the pen and stresses the importance of knowledge.

Nun. By the pen and all they write. Quran Translated Meaning 68:1

Read: In the name of thy Lord Who, created. Quran Translated Meaning 96:1

God will exalt in degree those of you who believe and those who have been granted knowledge. Quran Translated Meaning 58:11

Travel through Earth and observe how He began creation. Quran Translated Meaning 29:20

How can those who know be equal to those who know not? It is only men of understanding who will remember. Quran Translated Meaning 39:9

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: "The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim." At-Tirmidhi, no 74.

He also said: "Whoever follows a path seeking knowledge, God will make his path to Paradise easy." Sahih Muslim, Book 42, Hadith 7058.

- It is not contradicted by established (proven) science but **confirms proven science**.²⁹²

²⁹² See "Signs in the universe" and "Signs in Creation" chapters in this book.

- It **applies to any place and time** and addresses the **materialistic and spiritual** aspects of man.

In many aspects, Islam was ahead of its time; it came with the first charter for women's rights and gave women financial independence. It called for the freedom of slaves and made it a penance for many sins. It introduced warfare rules which predated the Geneva Convention by centuries. It blazed the trail for water conservation, environmental protection, animal rights, and many other modern causes.

- It comes through a **trusted source**. This is an important aspect. If we think about it, science itself is built on cumulative knowledge and trust in the chain that passes that knowledge. We don't redo every experiment ourselves to verify the results. Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, peace be upon him, was nicknamed "the honest one" by his tribe for his integrity and honesty before and after he received the message. He was named "the most influential person in history" by historians. His ethics and compartment are studied and lauded by many great thinkers and historians.²⁹³

Every account of this prophet's life has been checked and verified by parallel accounts for convergence and accuracy. Every link in the chain of prophetic tradition narrators—every narrator—has been investigated in terms of reliability, character, piety, honesty, memory, etc. If any narrator violated any of these strict conditions, his account was removed from the prophetic history. In terms of reference quality, Muhammad's life and teachings are the most authenticated historical accounts on the planet. Even in terms of quantity, the number of parallel references for the prophetic history is much more than we

²⁹³ <http://www.cyberistan.org/islamic/quote1.html#browne>

have for history's main characters, even for such prominent figures as Napoleon.

We grow up in our individual environments and usually adopt the religion or beliefs of that environment. But if we think about it, did we follow every path our parents and elders told us to take? No. We were willing to question many things from our society and investigate for ourselves. But when it comes to the most crucial questions of our lives—the purpose of our existence and what happens after death—we are willing to blindly follow our environment's beliefs. Does that make sense?

There is an old story about a woman who always cuts off the heads of fish before cooking them. When her daughter asked her why she replied that she was following the recipe from her mother, they went to the grandmother and received the same answer. When they went to the great-grandmother, they found out the reason. The great-grandmother did not have a large frying pan!

We owe it to ourselves to explore the most critical questions of our life: the purpose of our lives and what comes after death.

The behavior of some evildoers is ruining this life for us. If we let them turn us away from God, they will also ruin our Afterlife.

Are we born believers?

Everybody, religious or otherwise, knows God in their minds and hearts, whether they admit it or not. We are innately programmed to know God, to love Him, and to seek refuge in Him. Thus, the term for “non-believer” in Arabic is Kafir, which means “one who covers the truth.”

God is the self-evident truth that everybody recognizes. According to Hamza Tzortzis²⁹⁴ of the Sapience Institute,²⁹⁵ a self-evident truth is universal, untaught, natural, and intuitive. He presents the following diagrams²⁹⁶ to demonstrate:

Characteristics of Self-Evident Truths

01	UNIVERSAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not a product of a specific culture or social conditions.• E.g. belief that the past was once the present.
02	UNTAUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not based on external information transfer.• Not acquired via information transfer external to your introspection and senses.
03	NATURAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formed due to the natural functioning of the human psyche.
04	INTUITIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The easiest and simplest interpretation of the world.



²⁹⁴ <https://www.hamzatzortzis.com/about-me/>

²⁹⁵ <https://sapienceinstitute.org>

²⁹⁶ <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/424782e29fec4b75a9798274bc11ea80/recording/f96a4872fc3f488693e1a4ec4cbd0aa0/watch?source=CHANNEL>

The Basic Idea of God

01	UNIVERSAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not the product of one culture. Cross cultural.• Not based on specific social conditions.
02	UNTAUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The belief that things that emerge require a creator or prior causal conditions is untaught.
03	NATURAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formed by people with normal cognitive and psychological faculties.
04	INTUITIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple and comprehensive explanation for the universe.• The atheist view raises more questions than it solves.



We know there is a Creator because what we see in this world matches what we would expect to see if there was someone in charge.

Therefore, if our innate disposition is unclouded, God is clearly evident. Our heart has a lock, and knowledge of God is its key. The key, however, will not fit if the lock is rusty or damaged from pride and distortions.

The Quran mentions that when the human race started as a “seed” in our father Adam, God took an oath from all of us that we would know him as our Lord.

And (remember) when your Lord brought forth from the Children of Adam, from their loins, their seed (or from Adam's loins his offspring) and made them testify concerning themselves (saying): “Am I not your Lord?” They said: ‘Yes’, lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection: “Verily, we have been unaware of this.” Quran Translated Meaning 7:172

The fitrah (innate knowledge of God) upon which He has created people. No change in God's creation. Quran Translated Meaning 30:30

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: “No child is born except on the Fitrah.” Bukhari, 2:440.

Before you rush to label the above as sentimental mush, please consider the following studies.

- In a 2001 study by the Center for Brain and Spiritual Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Andrew Newberg and Dr. Eugene D'Aquili found measurable changes in the limbic system and the object association area in the brains of monks and people in prayer. In the abstract of their paper, *The Neuropsychological Basis of Religions or Why God Won't Go Away*,²⁹⁷ they state:

In general, religion serves two primary functions: self-maintenance and self-transcendence. Since both functions bear directly on human survival and adaptability, the neuropsychological mechanisms that underlie religions appear to have become thoroughly ingrained in the human gene pool and, ultimately, human experience.
- A 2011 study at the University of Oxford found that humans across many cultures are “predisposed” to believe in gods and the Afterlife.²⁹⁸
- In a [2014](#) Finnish study, Marjaana Lindeman, Bethany Heywood, Tapani Riekkii, and Tommi Makkonen examined whether atheists exhibit evidence of emotional arousal when they dare God to cause harm to themselves and their intimates. Skin conductance testing showed that asking God to do awful things was equally stressful for atheists and theists. The results imply that atheists' attitudes toward God are ambivalent in that their explicit beliefs conflict with their affective response.²⁹⁹

²⁹⁷ D'Aquili, E.G. Newberg, A.B. (1998) *The Neuropsychological Basis of Religions, or Why God Won't Go Away*. *Journal of Religion & Science*. Vol. 33, 2 pp. 187-201. Retrieved on 27.02.2023 from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/0591-2385.00140>

²⁹⁸ Humans 'predisposed' to believe in gods and the afterlife (2011) *Science Daily*. Retrieved on 27.02.2023 from: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110714103828.htm>

²⁹⁹ Lindeman, M. Heywood, B. Riekkii, T. Makkonen, T. (2014) *Atheists Become Emotionally Aroused When Daring God to Do Terrible Things*. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, Vol. 24, 2

In one of its many verses on the psychology of the disbeliever, the Quran talks about this ambivalence:

And they rejected, while their [inner] selves were convinced, out of injustice and haughtiness. Quran Translated Meaning 27:14

- Olivera Petrovich, a research fellow at the University of Oxford's Department of Experimental Psychology,³⁰⁰ uses supporting evidence from a series of studies of children and adults living in diverse cultures, such as the UK and Japan, to contend that religion or theology constitutes one of the core domains of human cognition, rather than being a by-product of other core domains and specific cultural inputs.³⁰¹
- Recent research by Jarnefelt, Canfield, and Kelemen at Newman University concluded that there is a natural propensity to see nature as designed, even among atheists, and that non-belief was cognitively effortful.³⁰²
- In his book, *Born Believers: The Science of Children's Belief*, Professor Justin Barrett, the director of Thrive Center for Human Development in Pasadena, California, concludes that children believe in a Divine Being that created the entire universe.³⁰³

On the other hand, atheism is taught and is counter-intuitive.

³⁰⁰ Olivera Petrovich is a Research Fellow at the University of Oxford in the Department of Experimental Psychology. Her book, *Natural Theological Understanding from Childhood to Adulthood*, 2018, and research deal with the origin and development of natural religious understanding across various cultures.

³⁰¹ Petrovich, O. (2018) *Natural-Theological Understanding from Childhood to Adulthood*. Routledge (London & NY)

³⁰² Jarnefelt E, Canfield CF, Kelemen D. (2015) The divided mind of a disbeliever: Intuitive beliefs about nature as purposefully created among different groups of non-religious adults. *Cognition*. 140:72-88.

Retrieved on 27.02.2023 from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25880608/>

³⁰³ Barrett, J. L. (2012). *Born believers: the science of children's religious belief*. Free Press https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270849601_Born_believers_the_science_of_children's_religious_belief

Many atheists acknowledge this and try to address the void which results from denying their natural human inclinations by borrowing some concepts from religion. During a TED talk, the writer Alain de Botton suggested that atheists should steal from religion to address this void.³⁰⁴

The fact that atheists continuously debate with theists on the existence of God indicates inherent familiarity and experience with the concept of God. If they had no experience or innate feelings, they wouldn't even know what theists are talking about. For example, you cannot expect a blind man to describe the color red. But, if he starts describing the feelings and impressions of the color or criticizing its brightness, then you suspect that he cannot be blind or that he once was able to see.

The practice of religion is a basic need for people in every community. You may find many cities without a theatre, without a park, without a library, some even without a school. But you will rarely find one without a place of worship. The Greek biographer Plutarch said: "If we traverse the world, it is possible to find cities without walls, without letters, without kings, without wealth, without coin, without schools and theaters; but a city without a temple, or that practiseth, not worship, prayer, and the like, no one ever saw."³⁰⁵

When a plane goes down, those on board (whether believers, atheists, or communists) start praying to someone beyond themselves. As the saying goes: "There are no atheists in foxholes." Everybody at death knows God because, at this point, all vanity and delusions disappear, and only the truth remains.

³⁰⁴ What Can Atheism Learn From Religion? (2013) retrieved on 27.02.2023 from:
<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/245957052?storyId=245957052>

³⁰⁵ Smith, C.W. (1921) *Essays and Sketches: Published in his Memory for His Friends by His Children*. p. 256.
Retrieved on 27.02.2023 from:
<https://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/inauthors/view?docId=VAC1328;chunk.id=d1e2395;toc.depth=1;toc.id=d1e249;brand=ia-books;doc.view=0;query=&hit.rank=>

Say, Have you considered: if there came to you the punishment of God or there came to you the Hour - is it other than God you would invoke if you should be truthful? No, it is Him [alone] you would invoke. Quran Translated Meaning 6:40-41

Thus, the real question is: Do we want a relationship with God during this life, or do we want to know Him only upon death?

Faith is for the ambitious

Are you satisfied with what this life has to offer, or do you yearn for more?

Every worldly desire loses its appeal after we acquire it. We either lose the excitement as it becomes familiar, or we worry about losing it.

In a secular environment, Man searches for happiness in material things. He tells himself: “If I get money, I’ll be happy.” He becomes rich but finds he is still unsatisfied. When Bill Gates was asked how he felt about his fortune of 130 billion, he answered: “That number means nothing to me.”

Or Man tells himself: “If I have power and fame, I’ll be happy.” Celebrities have both. Yet, in general, they are a notoriously unhappy segment of the population.

When we limit our goals to material things, we leave our other dimension —the spiritual dimension—unfulfilled. True happiness involves satisfying both aspects of our humanity. According to Ibn Al-Qayyim Al-Jawziyyah, a famous Muslim scholar:

Indeed, in the heart, there is a void that cannot be filled except with the company of God, a sadness that cannot be lifted except with the bliss of knowing Him, and a yearning that cannot be fulfilled except with His love and remembrance. Even if a person were given all of this world and everything in it, it cannot fill this emptiness.³⁰⁶

Furthermore, without belief in an Afterlife, everything is incomplete because earthly life comes to an end sooner or later. Ultimately, even if we have the best 100 years or so on Earth, without an Afterlife, there is only the grave to look forward to.

We are born with the desire to reach for the stars and touch eternity, and nothing in this short and transient worldly life will ever satisfy that desire. Our dreams can only be met by our Creator, Who has everything.

³⁰⁶ <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/817399>

Let's take a very ambitious dream list or bucket list on Earth:

- Fly on a space mission to Mars
- Meet the Pope, the Queen, the President of the US, Tom Cruise, etc.
- Own a Caribbean island
- Have the fighting strength of Muhammad Ali or the beauty of Cleopatra
- Live to be 150

Everything in this world is limited; even its dreams are limited.

Let's compare this to a dream list without any practical worldly constraints:

- Fly like a bird, anywhere we wish
- Meet Muhammad, Jesus, Moses, Noah, Gabriel (peace be upon them), and—dare we say it—meet our Glorious Creator?!!
- Own a galaxy or two
- Possess beauty that makes all the Miss universes pale in comparison
- Regain our youth and live forever young

Sounds impossible?

Yet, in this universe, we see the signs of the impossible in God's vast creation: cosmic numbers that are immeasurably large, laws finely tuned to incredible precision, extreme complexity at the infinitesimally small cellular level, etc. This gives us a perspective to imagine the mind-boggling scale of an Afterlife compared to this earthly life.

If you go to a five-star resort, you appreciate the beautiful surroundings, the luxury, the service, and the high-quality food; you feel happy and content. This resort is what *people* have prepared for people. Just imagine what the *Creator* of the entire universe has designed for them.

Contrary to what some may think, religious people are the most ambitious. However, unlike non-believers, they do not confine their ambitions to what this life has to offer.

Paradise is their goal.

Paradise is the end of boredom, weariness, depression, fear, loss, pain, and death. It is the disappearance of grey hair, under-eye circles, wrinkles, etc. It is all the places we cannot hope to reach, the boundless love this world cannot offer, the people we yearn to meet, the realization of every hope, and the fulfillment of our wildest dreams. It is the removal of all boundaries and the expansion into every possibility. With faith, infinity is the limit: no constraints, no end. It is the realization of every hope and beyond.

No soul knows what is kept hidden for them of delights of the eye as a reward for what they used to do. Quran Translated Meaning 32:17

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: God tells us: "I have prepared for My righteous servants what no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no heart has imagined." al-Bukhari 7498.

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, we find something similar:

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him. The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 2:9

Worship: slavery or freedom?

Humans are naturally predisposed to submit and follow (serve or worship) something or someone. If we don't submit to God, then, whether we're conscious of it or not, we are submitting to or serving something else: a boss, a loved one, money, an addiction, a celebrity, etc. If you look around you, most people are in a state of servitude to something or someone, but few worship the only One truly worthy of worship: God.

In his book, *Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions*, Martin Lings³⁰⁷ tells us:

Equipped as he is by his very nature for worship, man cannot not worship; and if his outlook is cut off from the spiritual plane, he will find a “god” to worship at some lower level, thus endowing something relative with what belongs only to the Absolute. Hence the existence today of so many “words to conjure with” like “freedom”, “equality”, “literacy”, “science”, “civilization”, words at the utterance of which a multitude of souls fall prostrate in submental adoration...The desire for freedom is above all the desire for God, absolute freedom being an essential aspect of Divinity. ³⁰⁸ Pages 45-46.

What is more honorable:

To worship those who take from us, or to worship He who gives us everything?

To follow and obey those who cannot help themselves, or the One Who has dominion over everything?

To take direction from our Creator, Who knows what's best for us, or from people who are as lost as we are?

³⁰⁷ Martin Lings (1909-2005) was a leading member of the “Traditionalist” or “Perennialist” school and an acclaimed author, editor, translator, scholar, Arabist, and poet whose work centers on the relationship between God and man through religious doctrine, scripture, symbolism, literature, and art.

³⁰⁸ Martin Lings, *Ancient Beliefs and Modern Superstitions*, https://books.google.co.uk/books?redir_esc=y&id=CQ6QAAAAMAAJ&focus=searchwithinvolume&q=freedom

Worshipping God frees man from submission to whims and weaknesses. Following every desire and submitting to every whim weakens man's resolve and makes him a slave to his desires. Religion imposes some limitations, and by observing these limitations, we gain strength of character. To overcome addiction, addicts are advised to follow a ten or twelve-step program, which often includes submitting to a higher power to restore their self-control.

Worshipping God gives man the **freedom** to have a say in his Afterlife. The path to everlasting happiness is clear for him. If he does good, he gets Paradise. If he is a non-repentant wrongdoer, he gets Hell. So a believer has the choice and is allowed to affect his eternal life, while a non-believer believes he is created by and snapped away by unknown forces with no say whatsoever in his Afterlife.

Furthermore, atheism wants to strip Man of his free will—the feature distinguishing him from the rest of creation—and consider him a puppet. Sam Harris, a leading American atheist, says: “Free will is an illusion. Our wills are simply not of our own making.... We do not have the freedom we think we have.”³⁰⁹

In his million-copy international best-selling book, *The Selfish Gene* (1978),³¹⁰ renowned atheistic writer and speaker Richard Dawkins explains the evolutionary ideas that force atheists to deny human free will. He asserts that humans are “survival machines - robot vehicles blindly programmed to preserve selfish molecules known as genes.”³¹¹

³⁰⁹ Sam Harris (2012), *Free Will*, New York: Free Press, Page 5.

³¹⁰ Dawkins, Richard, *The Selfish Gene*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

³¹¹ Dawkins, Richard, *The Selfish Gene*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1989. Page xxi
<https://mronline.org/2018/11/05/is-the-answer-really-in-our-genes/>

In June 2015, evolutionary biologist Jerry Coyne³¹² (the University of Chicago, Department of Ecology and Evolution) delivered a lecture at the “Imagine No Religion” convention in Vancouver, Canada. His speech was titled: “You Don’t Have Free Will.” Addressing his primarily atheistic audience, he said: “Now, many of you don’t accept that. You don’t believe that you are robots made out of meat, which is what I’m going to try to convince you of today.”³¹³

If this is the case, why do atheists write books, give interviews and deliver lectures to convince people to deny God if people have no free will to choose what to believe?

Coyne further says: “I don’t consider myself morally responsible because I don’t have a choice.”³¹⁴

Similarly, University of Pennsylvania Professor of Biology Anthony Cashmore³¹⁵ states: “From this simple analysis, surely it follows that individuals cannot logically be held responsible for their behavior.”³¹⁶

According to John Polkinghorne:

In the opinion of many thinkers, human freedom is closely connected with human rationality. If we were deterministic beings, what would validate the claim that our utterance constituted rational discourse? Would not the sounds issuing from our mouths, or the marks we made on paper, be simply the actions of automata? All proponents of deterministic theories, whether social

³¹² Author of Faith vs. Fact: Why Science and Religion are Incompatible (2016) Penguin Books, and Why Evolution is True (2010) Penguin Books.

³¹³ <https://apologeticspress.org/atheism-and-free-will-5339/> paragraph 19

³¹⁴ <https://apologeticspress.org/atheism-and-free-will-5339/> Paragraph 24

³¹⁵ Anthony Cashmore (2010), “The Lucretian Swerve: The Biological Basis of Human Behavior and the Criminal Justice System,” PNAS, 107:10

³¹⁶ <https://apologeticspress.org/atheism-and-free-will-5339/> Paragraph 24

and economic (Marx), or sexual(Freud), or genetic (Dawkins and E.O. Wilson), need a covert disclaimer on their own behalf, excepting their own contribution from reductive dismissal?”³¹⁷ Paragraph 5.

Consider the chain of implications that follow from the denial of free will. Consider the harm to society and what this means in terms of immorality, crime, punishment, the rights of others, etc. Would anyone wish to bring up a family in such a recklessly irresponsible environment?

³¹⁷ <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/Nave-html/Faithpathh/Polkinghorne.html>

Why does God judge us if He pre-ordains everything and knows our choices?

With God, Who is Absolutely Just, the sphere of accountability/judgment is limited to the areas where we are free to choose. Accordingly:

- We are not judged if we are mentally impaired.
- We are not judged as children.
- We are not judged for our parents, height, nationality, genes, etc., because we have no control over these things.
- We are not judged if we are coerced.
- We are not judged for our actions while asleep or unconscious.
- We will not be punished if we do not receive the prophet's message or hear about God.

The Messenger of God (peace be upon him) said: "The Pen is lifted from three (their deeds are not recorded): a child until he reaches puberty; an insane man until he comes to his senses; one who is asleep until he wakes up." Abu-Dawud no 4403.

So, we will only be judged for actions and in situations where we exercise complete and free choice.

God has safeguarded our hearts from all forms of compulsion and made them free. While it is possible to force someone to say: "I love you," there is no amount of pressure that can force them to love you with all their heart. That is why we are judged by our intentions and what is in our hearts.

Dr. Mostafa Mahmoud tells us that human freedom is not a fixed sum but can increase through knowledge. By inventing machines for transportation, Man has increased his freedom to move. Likewise, by opening ourselves to God's revelation, we gain knowledge and understand our honorable purpose in life, thereby freeing

ourselves from all the fears which drag us down and breaking away from subservience to anyone but God.³¹⁸

The same concept is confirmed by Jesus, Peace be upon him, who, when confronted with rejection from the leadership of his people, encouraged his followers to seek truth as the way to freedom:

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. New International Testament, Gospel of John 8:32

But the Quran tells us that nothing we choose is outside God's Will.

Anything you (all) wish is only if God so wishes too; God is Aware, Wise! Quran
Translated Meaning 76:30

Everything is subject to God's Will.

But doesn't this contradict our freedom to choose?

No. Because it is His Will for us to have the choice to obey or disobey Him. He does not want us to disobey, but He gave us the choice to do so. Because with God, **obedience by choice is more honorable and deserving of reward than forced compliance.**

Does God's pre-knowledge cancel our freedom of choice?

No, it does not. Consider the following example: A teacher knows that a particular student will fail the course because he or she does not attend the lectures, fails to turn in the homework, and skips the tests. When the end of the term comes, the student

³¹⁸ Dialogue with an Atheist, Dr. Mostafa Mahmoud
https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://www.muslim-library.com/dl/books/English_Dialogue_with_an_Atheist.pdf Page 18.

fails. Did the teacher make the student fail through this “pre-knowledge”? No. It was still the student’s choice to fail, despite the teacher’s pre-knowledge.

We know we have free will, that we can make decisions, and that decisions have consequences. We have no knowledge about God’s destiny for us or how it works. Should we use the free will we know we have or waste our energy on what we know nothing about?

Similarly, out of God’s ultimate Justice, God does not judge us through His pre-knowledge of what we will do. He only judges after we carry out the action through our free choice.

Isn't eternity in Hell too severe a punishment?

There are two different issues:

- The existence of God
- His Attributes/Actions.

Let's agree on one point: Disagreement on how God should treat the corrupters on Earth is not a reason to deny His existence.

Now, to address the second question: God created us to worship Him. He also created us to be motivated by seeking pleasure and avoiding pain. To motivate us to follow the purpose of our creation (which is worship), He tied it to the maximum possible pleasure (eternity in Heaven) and the maximum possible pain (eternity in Hell).³¹⁹

It is out of His Mercy and His concern for us that He wants us to follow the manual He sent us—for an optimal life on Earth and in Heaven. He promises us great rewards if we follow the manual and severe punishment if we turn our backs on His path and follow the path of the Devil, especially if we actively seek to turn other people away from His path or harm His creatures. Humanity is created to respond to the carrot and stick approach: Each person responds to some form of incentive. This is my personal interpretation: If you have children and you don't want them to try drugs, you threaten them with severe punishment as a deterrent. You do this out of love and concern for their welfare, even though they might think your punishment is cruel.

³¹⁹ Ahmad Al-Shuqairi, Arbaoon, Arab Scientific Publishers, eighth edition 2019, Page 21

I believe we display a high level of arrogance when we accuse God in His Justice and Wisdom. The only relationship between the All-Powerful Creator of this universe and His weak, completely dependent creation is submission and trust, not questioning and accusations. Even towards a helpless human boss with temporary control over our income, we offer respect and follow orders—even those we don't understand. Don't we owe such respect, at a minimum, to our Creator; on Whose Earth we live, Whose water we drink, Whose air we breathe?

Submission and acceptance is the only acceptable expression of a relationship based on total and absolute dependence.

Our ignorance of something is not proof of its non-existence. Our ignorance of the wisdom/mercy of God in promising eternity in Hell for evildoers does not mean it is non-existent. Just because we wouldn't do things a certain way does not mean that “our way” is the standard to be followed. We are weak, limited, and powerless, and we do not have the complete picture. God has absolute Wisdom, All-Encompassing Mercy and is the Most Just.

Eternity in Hell is for those who receive the undistorted message and then deny it after recognizing it as truth. “Kafir” means one who hides the truth.

Moreover, who says that the duration of the punishment should be proportional to the crime duration? Even in this life, you can steal in one second and get life in prison. In the 2020 police brutality case³²⁰, Officer Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck for nine minutes, which killed him; would it have been fair for Chauvin to receive only nine minutes of jail time?

³²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial_of_Derek_Chauvin

What should be the punishment for someone who kills millions of people? How long should his punishment be?

Punishment should be proportional to the severity of the crime. Denying our Creator after we recognize the truth is a huge crime because we are going against the minds He gave us and ignoring the purpose of our life. God's Commandment for us to worship Him does not come from His need for our worship but from *our* need to worship Him to live an optimal life. If we refuse, we commit the worst possible crime against ourselves and, accordingly, deserve the highest form of punishment.

The crime of disbelief is not the limited crime of a limited human being towards another limited human being; it is the crime of a limited needy being towards an Eternal Perfect Almighty God on Whom we depend for everything, including life itself. Thus disbelief in God for one second is an infinite crime. Yet, through His Mercy, He gives us time to reconcile and repent.

Indeed, Allah does not do injustice, [even] as much as an atom's weight. Quran Translated
Meaning 4:40

God is infinitely Just, Most Forgiving, and Most Merciful. We should think well of God and trust that He will never wrong anybody. If we think well of Him, our expectations will be fulfilled.

The Prophet Muhammad said: "God the Highest said, "I am as My servant thinks (expects) I am." Al-Buhkari (also by Muslim, at-Tirmidhi and Ibn-Majah).

The Quranic verses and Prophetic sayings give hope in God's mercy and forgiveness.

"... despair not of the mercy of Allah, surely Allah forgives all sins. Verily He is Most Forgiving, Merciful." Quran Translated Meaning 39:54

As recorded in Bukhari, God says, "When God completed creation He wrote in His Book which is with Him on His Throne, 'My Mercy overpowers My Anger.'" al-Bukhari 4:54:16.

Prophet Muhammad also said, "God will bring out people from the Fire and admit them into Paradise." Muslim 1:368

Let us not forget that God has absolute knowledge, including *future knowledge*. He knows that some people will never correct their ways. The Quran talks about the people of Hell being adamant in their wrong ways: that even if they were brought back from the brink of Hell for a second chance, they would still deny God in arrogance.

If you could but see when they are made to stand before the Fire and will say, "Oh, would that we could be returned [to life on Earth] and not deny the signs of our Lord and be among the believers." But what they concealed before has [now] appeared to them. And even if they were returned, they would return to that which they were forbidden; and indeed, they are liars. Quran Translated Meaning 6:28-2

But I didn't ask to be born!

God does not need our permission or our approval to create us or subject us to His justice system. As our Creator, He owns us. You don't ask Your robot permission to make him, smash him, or take his battery away.

If we think about it, an eternity in Heaven is also infinitely disproportionate to anything a believer/do-gooder might do. Yet, we are perfectly happy to accept it if —God willing— we attain it.

In summary, our concern should not be about God's fairness in sending transgressors and criminals to Hell, but about ensuring that we never end up there ourselves.

What's truly shocking is not that God has set eternal punishments but that some ignore His warnings, risk His punishment, and choose eternity in Hell over God's Mercy.

Do we really have the option of ignoring God?

If someone moved into your house, ate your food, and used your furniture, then decided to ignore you in your own home, how would you feel?

This is what we do with God.

We live on His Earth, breathe His air, eat His food, etc., yet many of us ignore Him.

If we can find anywhere else to live other than God's Earth, sustain ourselves without the water and food He created, live without breathing His air, pump our own hearts, and control the production of our own enzymes, then we may have the option to ignore Him.

So where, then, will you go [to escape]? Quran Translated Meaning 81:26

Even if we reject this need-based argument, we must admit that a Creator has rights over His creation. When we get a pet, we want its obedience for its own good and protection, so we train it and expect obedience. We expect submission from the pet even though we did not create it; we just bought it.

How about the rights of the One who created us and everything we have? Doesn't He have any rights over us? Don't we owe Him anything for our existence, our sight, our loved ones, our life, etc.? Isn't it the pinnacle of ingratitude and arrogance to ignore Him?!

In most of life's aspects, we already submit to God: We do not choose our parents or our genes. We do not control our breathing or pump our own hearts. Our Creator wants us to willingly submit in the other spheres where He has given us free choice, i.e., in mind and heart.

But God does not demand a submission based solely on our dependency. His requirement for us to worship Him is not because He needs worship —He is

absolutely independent and has no needs—but for our own good. As our Creator, He knows what’s best for us.

Living a Contradiction

Atheists, in practice, live life as if they believe in a Creator! There is a contradiction between what they profess and what they practice. For example, they would never accept an argument of “it just happened” from someone who bumps their car, yet they deny a cause for the universe and creation.

They express meanings and feelings; they adopt values and demand human rights (non-material concepts); they say “I love you” and feel disappointed if the answer is: “Neurons fired in my brain as well.”

They criticize religion for indoctrination and demand the freedom to believe what they want while claiming materialistic determinism and no free choice.

They adopt a high moral ground and attack the morality of religion while denying an objective moral code.

They label religion as falsehood while claiming that our minds evolved for survival, not truth.

They rely completely on laws, order, and reproducibility in their daily life while denying any design in the universe.

In his video³²¹ to discuss why some scientists are atheists, Osman Bulut, Turkish host of the YouTube channel, Kafil, gives the example of reading the sentence: “Mom, I love you.” If we limit ourselves to only one method of understanding, with dogmatic rules such as: “It is unscientific to mention any non-observable or unmeasurable thing,” then we would look at the sentence and say: “I see M twice and O three

³²¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c92bmeAHYjo>

times; the letters are written in black Baskerville font.” If someone points out: “But, this is written by someone to his mother, expressing love,” we may say that this is unscientific, as a **writer** has not been observed, and **meanings** are not measurable. Similarly, saying:

- “All creatures came from each other” is like saying each letter in the sentence was written by the previous one.
- “The laws of the universe created the universe” is like saying the rules of grammar wrote the sentence.
- “DNA formed the human body” is like saying the English language wrote the sentence.

Reading a sentence by counting its letters and spaces ignores its purpose and meaning. Explaining the universe by assessing its physical components provides partial information. Studying the universe to know its Creator and the meaning behind its creation is true knowledge.

Our happiness in this life and the next can only come from submission to the Creator and following His revelation. When I visit a new location and ask a trusted resident for directions to a nearby attraction, I have two choices: to follow the directions or try to find my own way by trial and error. If I choose the former, I will not get lost. If I choose the latter, I’m opening myself to hardship and the possible failure to reach the destination. The most logical and efficient way to get to an unknown destination is to take directions from a trustworthy source.

In the example above, if I decide to take the local resident’s directions, he might help me further by walking with me part of the way or even taking me there. But if I say no, I’ll find my way; he’ll probably leave me to face the results of my stubbornness, and I might get lost. Similarly, if we accept God's guidance, he will provide us with

more help and direction. But if we turn our back on it, He might leave us to flounder in our ignorance.

Say: "Shall We tell you who the greatest losers are? They are those whose effort is lost in this worldly life while they think that they are doing well!" Quran Translated Meaning 18:103-104

But God is most Merciful. Even when we try to forget Him, He puts us in situations where we are forced to remember Him. Wherever we go, we cannot escape God. Look at the amount of time and energy atheists spend discussing God—Whom they deny!

Our Creator—because He knows how much we are dependent on Him and that an optimal life for us in this world and the next requires that we know Him—keeps Himself in our thoughts and words, surrounds us with His signs, and keeps questions about Him continuously in our minds.

C.S. Lewis, an ex-atheist and arguably one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century, expressed this eloquently:³²² "...night after night, feeling whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. I gave in and admitted that God was God."

Atheists and agnostics have taken the first step of denying false Gods and distorted religion. God wants them to take the next step of knowing Him truly in His Absolute Power, Glory, and Mercy.

To guide people along this path, He appeals to our logic, heart, and instincts. He reminds us of His blessings and offers incentives. He invites us to discover the signs of His design and the fine-tuning in His universe. He also gives us plenty of guidance;

³²² <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/681434-you-must-picture-me-alone-in-that-room-in-magdalen>

He sent prophets and revelation and preserved His last revelation, the Quran, as a lasting reference for all Mankind.

If you think about it, He even put this book in your path.

How many more signs do you need?

What's at risk?

There are two possibilities after death:

1. The first possibility is that there is no Afterlife; therefore, no reward or punishment: In this case, it's no loss - no gain for both the believer and the non-believer. However, the believer would have lived a more hopeful and purposeful life in anticipation of something much better. Decades of research show that religious people live longer lives, enjoy better psychological health, and have higher emotional intelligence.

According to a 2018 study from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, participation in spiritual practices during childhood and adolescence may be a protective factor for a range of health and well-being outcomes in early adulthood. The researchers found that people who attended weekly religious services or practiced daily prayer or meditation in their youth reported greater life satisfaction and positivity in their twenties. They were less likely to have depressive symptoms, smoke, use illicit drugs, or have a sexually transmitted disease than people raised with less regular spiritual habits.³²³

At the John Hopkins School of Public Health, Ying Chen and Tyler VanderWeele studied the associations of religious upbringing with health and well-being from adolescence to young adulthood. The results showed that weekly attendance of religious services was associated with greater life satisfaction and other positive effects, several character strengths, lower probabilities of marijuana use and early sexual initiation, and fewer lifetime sexual partners.³²⁴

³²³ <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/religious-upbringing-adult-health/>, Paragraph 1.

³²⁴ American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 187, Issue 11, November 2018, Pages 2355–2364, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwy142>

In a 2019 study published in the *Journal of Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*,³²⁵ Laura Edinger-Schons studied the impact of “oneness” beliefs on life satisfaction. She found that those who believed in oneness were more satisfied with life.³²⁶

Muslims, on average, had the highest mean value of oneness beliefs because the central ideology of Islam is "Tawheed," which means the Oneness of God and his Attributes. Muslims were followed in ranking by Christians [not self-identified as Protestant or Catholic], then came Buddhists, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, other non-Christians, and finally, atheists.

Another 2019 study by the Pew Research Center, a non-partisan fact tank, compared the lives of religious and non-religious people from more than two dozen countries. The study found that religiously active people are typically happier (by a statistically significant margin), make healthier life choices, and are more “civically engaged.”³²⁷

The results of the above studies and other research³²⁸ on this topic are hardly

³²⁵ Edinger-Schons, L. M. (2019, April 11). Oneness Beliefs and Their Effect on Life Satisfaction. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/rel0000259>

³²⁶ <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/rel-rel0000259.pdf>

<https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Frel0000259>

³²⁷ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/01/31/are-religious-people-happier-healthier-our-new-global-study-explores-this-question/>

³²⁸ Religious involvement and mortality: a meta-analytic review.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10868765>

Blessed assurance: Religion, anxiety, and tranquility among US adults

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/38036096_Blessed_assurance_Religion_anxiety_and_tranquility_a
mong_US_adults](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/38036096_Blessed_assurance_Religion_anxiety_and_tranquility_among_US_adults)

Religion, Spirituality, and Health: The Research and Clinical Implications

<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/isrn/2012/278730/>

Does Religion Stave Off the Grave? Religious Affiliation in One’s Obituary and Longevity

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1948550618779820?journalCode=sppa>

Religious Service Attendance and Major Depression: A Case of Reverse Causality?

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3299417/>

Religion, a social determinant of mortality? A 10-year follow-up of the Health and Retirement Study

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0189134>

surprising. Atheists might believe this worldly life is all there is and that they should make the most of it. However, **it is very difficult to enjoy life once you've removed all meaning and purpose from it.**

2. The second possibility is that there is a God. Therefore, there is reward and punishment: In this case, the believer is the winner, attaining unlimited rewards in eternal life, while the non-believer is a big loser, subjected to a miserable eternal life without parole or second chances.

Have they ever reflected on the wonders of the heavens and the Earth and everything God has created and that perhaps their end is near? In what after this, then will they believe? Quran Translated Meaning 7:185

Gardens of perpetual residence, which they will enter, beneath which rivers flow. They will have therein whatever they wish. Thus, does God reward the righteous. Quran Translated Meaning 16:31

So enter the gates of Hell to abide eternally therein, and how wretched is the residence of the arrogant. Quran Translated Meaning 16:29

Many non-believers, when asked about the second outcome, say that God will be forgiving. It is a paradox how they expect forgiveness from a God they claim does not exist!

And I do not think the Hour (Day of Judgement) will occur. And even if I should be brought back to my Lord, I will surely find better than this as a return. Quran Translated Meaning 18:36

It is possible that they will be forgiven—God is the Most Merciful— and it is good that they think so well of God.

The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, said: "God the Highest said, I am as My servant thinks (expects) I am." Narrated by Al-Bukhari (also by Muslim, at-Tirmidhi, and Ibn-Majah).

Nonetheless, it is a considerable risk to count on forgiveness while turning your back on the Forgiver, sometimes even fighting Him and turning people away from His path. We see examples of God's punishment in this world, so we know He is capable of severe retribution.

Furthermore, God is Just and Fair. How is it fair for someone who ignored God all their life to get the same reward as someone who devoted their life to God and lived by His rules?

Shall We then treat the people of Faith like the people of Sin? What is wrong with your judgment? Quran Translated Meaning 68:35-36

Pascal, the famous French philosopher, mathematician, and physicist, argues that a rational person should live as though God exists and seek to believe in God. If God (as they claim) does not exist, such a person will have only a finite loss (some pleasures, luxury, etc.), whereas, if God exists, he stands to receive infinite gains (as represented by eternity in Paradise) and avoid infinite losses (eternity in Hell).

For a believer, there are three types of lives.

- Life 1: endless happiness
- Life 2: endless misery
- Life 3: a mix of both

The first two can only be found in the Afterlife. Life 3 is this worldly life we are living now; a short test to determine whether you end up with Life 1 or 2. We can spend Life 3 complaining that we never wanted to be tested in the first place, objecting to

the test questions and grading system, and criticizing and attacking the examiner, but we'll just be running out the clock and wasting time and effort we could have used to get Life 1.

Sir Thomas Scott, the former Chancellor of England, said these famous words on his deathbed: "Until this moment, I thought there was neither a God nor a Hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty."³²⁹

We ask God for a merciful ending.

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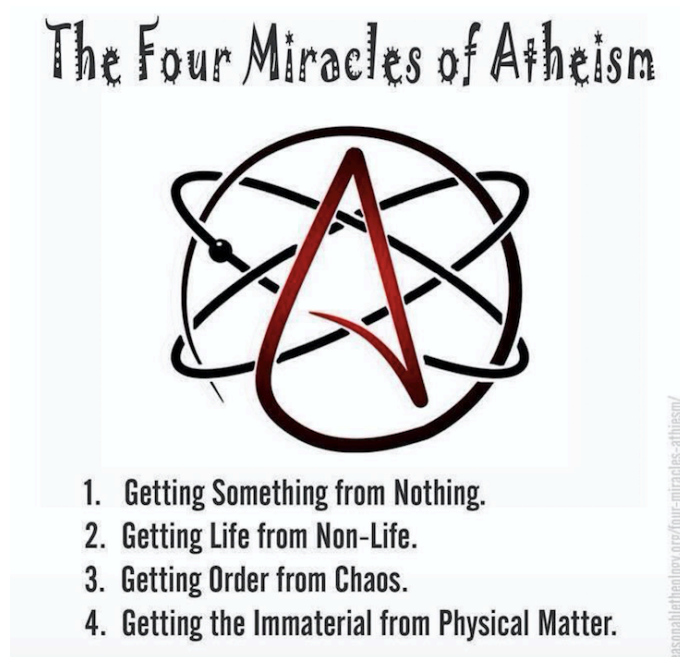
http://www.google.cat/books?id=fy20dDbgu-MC&pg=PA468&focus=viewport&vq=piety&dq=editions:UOM39015023545141&lr=&as_brr=0&hl=ca&output=html_text) para. 5

Conclusion

In summary, we believe in God because nothing makes sense without God.

The miracles of atheism

Without God, we have to believe in ridiculous miracles! ³³⁰



- Without God, we have to believe that a universe, without any agency whatsoever, for no purpose whatsoever, created itself and everything in it. Furthermore, it arranged itself—again for no purpose—in orderly orbits, following steady interrelated laws, then gave itself the ability to repeat and reproduce the same bits and patterns, again for no purpose, yet without randomness, interruption, or variation.

³³⁰ <https://images.app.goo.gl/hMf1bAqLHzaCKwSA9>

- Without God, we must believe that intelligence and language can somehow spring from dumb, irrational sources.
- Without God, we have to believe that a giant encrypted information pack with ultimate execution powers—the DNA—coded itself for no reason and then translated itself to flesh, blood, tissue, and trillions of cells for other complex functions.
- Without God, we have to believe that dead matter can spontaneously come alive —again for no purpose— randomly without any agency.
- Without God, we have to adopt infinitesimally small probabilities and assume incredible luck to explain the extreme fine-tuning and precision in the universe.
- Without God, we have to believe that non-material values such as morality, free choice, consciousness, etc., can somehow spring from dumb, unfeeling, amoral chemicals, which cannot give what they don't have and don't even understand what they are supposedly giving.

The miracles of the prophets seem extremely modest in comparison.³³¹

The rejection of God comes with a high intellectual price. Atheism is a call to cancel the mind, innate logic, and common sense and cling to science fiction, all in the name of science!

As someone once said: Belief in a Creator is one of the greatest victories for the mind.

Denying God presents many contradictions:

³³¹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=10157227149376921&id=523421920

- Non-believers have a confusing relationship with universal laws. On the one hand, they rely on causality to practice science and live their daily lives. On the other hand, they ignore causality when explaining the emergence of the universe and the emergence of life.
- On the one hand, they practice extreme design and planning, employ the best brainpower and dissect and analyze countless living creatures; in continuously failing attempts to imitate God’s creation and produce the simplest living creature. On the other hand, they deny any intelligence, intention, or design in the huge variety of life forms on Earth and attribute them to randomness and chance.
- They disparage philosophy, yet make the most outrageous philosophical statements, such as: “Science is the only way to truth.”
As Paul Davies points out: “All cosmological models are constructed by augmenting the results of observations by a philosophical principle.”³³²
- They practice self-deceit, calling God by any other name, while they grant God-like unique creative powers to dumb physical processes such as natural selection, gravity, etc.
- They devalue the human mind and cast doubt on its ability to rationalize and reach truthful conclusions; then, they practice a stolen concept fallacy when they use rational cognitive processes to practice science and reach scientific conclusions.
- Evolutionists use effects (fractions of bones) to deduce a cause (one origin for all creation.) Yet they object when theists use effects (a universe following unified laws) to deduce the Creator.

³³² <https://arxiv.org/pdf/astro-ph/0403047.pdf> Page 1, Paragraph 2

The same induction method—neither side has any experimental or first-hand observational evidence,’ yet one proof is deemed scientific’ while the other is discarded as ‘unscientific’.

- Non-believers deny any truth in the Bible and Quran—the two most read books on the planet—yet they treat unsubstantiated Wikipedia attacks on the prophets and religion as gospel.
- They demand human rights and justice for all, yet are content to believe that Hitler and the millions he killed will all have the same ending: no judgment, accountability, reward, or punishment.
- They practice hypocrisy in fighting “religious indoctrination” while holding atheist camps for youth and indoctrinating school children in Darwin’s tree of life and Haeckel's diagrams despite the proven fraudulence of the latter and the discrediting science against the former.

The “evolution” of atheists

What’s truly amazing is the transformation!

The atheist who questioned everything in religion, demanded physical proof for non-physical things, and rejected religion when complete answers were not provided; this same person becomes a lamb in atheism; happy to “not know” the answers to life's big questions; complacently accepting unsupported hypotheses about dead dumb matter producing life, intelligence, free will, consciousness, morality, empathy, altruism, values, etc.; believing in precision from randomness and universes from nothing.

All this without a shred of empirical evidence.

No questions asked!

The Gods of atheism have spoken!

Maybe we should take off our hat to the proponents of atheism; they practice mass indoctrination and receive blind acceptance and contentment with ignorance which no religion could ever hope to achieve!

No more leaps of faith

We are blessed with several sources from which we can acquire knowledge; common to all humanity:

- Trusted testimony: Preserved Revelation from our Creator³³³ and authenticated tradition from the last Prophet, which tells us our purpose in life and provides the manual for an optimal existence.
- Innate nature (termed *fitrah* in Islam), through which we know our Creator and turn to Him in times of trouble.
- Mind and innate knowledge (basic truths) which are the prerequisites for rational thought and scientific activity.
- An objective source of ethics and morality through which we know right from wrong.
- Observation and senses, through which we practice science and perceive God's wonders on this Earth and in the universe.
- Proven science.
- Choice (free will) to decide between options.

Why not use them *all* to investigate the unknown? Why restrict ourselves to unproven, continuously revised hypotheses—based on limited observations—when the stakes involve the very purpose of our life and our ending?

³³³ While the Quran, Bible and Torah all originated from God, the Quran is the only scripture still available in original language and text, free from any human modification.

By expanding our knowledge base, we will discover that the repeatedly authenticated and verified evidence from the Quran is overwhelmingly more substantial than scientific evidence. Then we can get, God willing, a transcendent experience where the unchanging words of our Creator, i.e., the solid foundation of the Quran, becomes the framework to judge the truth of the rapidly evolving and ever-changing science, not the other way around.

No more story-telling posturing as science, and no more subjective biases masquerading as scientific facts.

We're living at a time where the spiritual heart and consciousness are dismissed as a source of certainty and knowledge when they are the most authentic and steady source.

According to Paul Feyerabend,³³⁴ the Austrian philosopher of science:

“The separation of science and non-science is not only artificial but also detrimental to the advancement of knowledge. If we want to understand nature, if we want to master our physical surroundings, then we must use all ideas, all methods, and not just a small selection of them.”³³⁵

If we remove all paradigms, i.e., restrict ourselves to the observed (scientific) parts of science; if we remove the assumptions, the basic truths, the deductions, the inductions, the subjectivity (story-telling), the testimony (previous research), etc., we will be left with little or no knowledge.

³³⁴ Paul, Feyerabend, 1924-1994, was an Austrian-born philosopher of science who worked as a professor of philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley for three decades (1958-1989).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Feyerabend

³³⁵ https://www.azquotes.com/author/4773-Paul_Feyerabend

In his book, *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and Its Scientific Pretensions*, David Berlinski³³⁶ turns the scientific community's cherished skepticism back on itself, daring to ask (and answer) some rather embarrassing questions:³³⁷

- Has anyone provided proof of God's inexistence?
- Have the sciences explained why our universe seems to be fine-tuned to allow for the existence of life?
- Are physicists and biologists willing to believe in anything so long as it is not religious thought?
- Has secularism in the terrible twentieth century been a force for good?
- Is there a narrow and oppressive orthodoxy of thought and opinion within the sciences?
- Does anything in the sciences or their philosophy justify the claim that religious belief is irrational?

It seems the central theme of atheism is randomness and lack of purpose. How is that scientific when science itself is built on causality, laws, and order? How can our existence lack an overall purpose when every part of our body and everything in the universe around us has a specific purpose?

If anyone abandons religion because of a few unanswered questions, they will open the door to more fundamental questions about life, consciousness, free choice, truth, morality, purpose, death, etc. Atheism and materialism ignore religion, but lack the explanatory power to refute religion's existing models about this world and offer no alternative.

³³⁶ https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/72837.David_Berlinski

³³⁷ <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1639458-the-devil-s-delusion-atheism-and-its-scientific-pretensions>

It is pure reductionism to consider the human being as a simple transient materialistic phenomenon: a biological robot with electro-chemical brain signals. Every few years, most of the matter in your body (your cells) changes. Your physical components are different, but you're still you. So, the essence of who we are is beyond the physical. Even after someone dies and all his physical parts dissolve, his essence remains in the minds of those who know him.

We are living proof of the metaphysical.

We are told to believe only in material things that we can observe. By that yardstick, how do we know the universe actually exists? Physicists say that we can observe only four percent of the universe, yet we know that a vast universe exists because of its effects. We believe in the existence of non-material things, such as energy, gravity, consciousness, etc., because of their effects and their explanatory power to account for the phenomena around us. Similarly, even though we cannot see God, His effects surround us, and His existence is the only logical, comprehensive explanation for the existence of this fine-tuned universe and its live conscious inhabitants.

God is beyond direct human observation, yet He is the only explanation.

The Quran tells us that nobody has seen creation start:

I did not make them witness to the creation of the heavens and the Earth or the creation of themselves, and I would not have taken the misguided as assistants. Quran
Translated Meaning 18:51

We should stop claiming a monopoly on the truth regarding the unknown.

And they have thereof no knowledge. They follow only conjecture, and indeed, conjecture is no substitute for the truth at all. Quran Translated Meaning 53:28

Here you are - arguing about that of which you have [some] knowledge, but why do you argue about that of which you have no knowledge? And God knows while you know not.
Quran Translated Meaning 3:66

Everything happens by design. For some reason, God put the information in this book in your hands. What you do with it is your choice.

You know the saying: You get what you expect.

- We can believe we are insignificant chemical scum³³⁸ (according to Stephen Hawking), living a purposeless life, or that we are God's honored vice-Regent on Earth with the universe subjected for our benefit (according to the Quran).

Do you not see that God has subjected to your benefit all that is in the heavens and Earth and has lavished on you His evident and hidden favors? Quran Translated Meaning 31:20

- We can believe in an eternal universe with a temporary, fleeting human appearance, *or* we can believe this universe has a beginning and an end but that *we* will continue for eternity.³³⁹
- We can believe in a multiverse with trillions of failed universes to justify the extreme fine-tuning of this one, *or* we can believe in at least two other eternal universes along with this one: Paradise and Hell.
- We can believe we are here on Earth just to eat, sleep, and then die; that we come from nothing and go back to nothing. That is one choice. Or we can believe that after death, a blissful eternal life awaits us, where all our dreams will come true; where we will see justice served, good deeds and patience rewarded, and evil punished.

³³⁸ Dugan, D. (1995) Reality on the Rocks (Documentary) Quote by Stephen Hawking from the documentary. Retrieved on 02.03.2023 from: <https://www.radiotimes.com/tv/current-affairs/stephen-hawking-best-quotes-dies-aged-76/>

³³⁹ Although we have a beginning, God promises us eternal life.

In any case, we may get everything we expect and more.

We are free to believe what we wish. God tells us there is no coercion in religion.

There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] religion. Quran Translated Meaning 2:256

From a pure cost-benefit perspective, atheism presents a losing value proposition.

Atheism gradually unravels the components of humanity. It removes God from your life (depriving you of Refuge, Mercy, and Forgiveness). It removes purpose (your role and mission in life), guidance (the Divine Manual), common sense (basic truths), acceptance and contentment (trust in God's plan), the objective source for ethics and morality, free will (responsibility for actions) and hope for justice and happiness in the Afterlife.

And what does it offer in return?

Nothing!

Atheism promises us that we will go back to nothing and provides no rewards or compensation for the loss of our humanity.

This quote from William B. Provine,³⁴⁰ a Charles A. Alexander Professor of Biological Sciences at Cornell University, describes the dismal state of a Godless existence:

Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear — and these are basically Darwin's views. There are no gods, no purposes, and no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after

³⁴⁰ A Charles A. Alexander Professor of Biological Sciences at Cornell University.

death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That's the end of me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning in life, and no free will for humans, either. What an unintelligible idea!³⁴¹

What a bleak prospect!

Why would anyone give up a chance to attain Paradise in return for Hell on Earth?!!

But whoever turns away from My Reminder will certainly have a miserable life, then We will raise them up blind on the Day of Judgment. Quran Translated Meaning 20:124

Thank you, God, for the blessing of faith!

³⁴¹ IDQuest (Jan 28, 2013) Debate: Darwinism: Science or Naturalistic Philosophy? Phillip Johnson vs William Provine [video] YouTube. Retrieved on 08.03.2023 from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7dG9U1vQ_U @ minute 41:15
Darwinism: Science or Naturalistic Philosophy? The Debate at Stanford University, William B. Provine (Cornell University) and Phillip E. Johnson (University of California, Berkeley) (1994) Origins Research 16(1):9. Retrieved on 08.03.2023 from: arn.org/docs/orpages/or161/161main.htm.)

*God, please do not let me despair of Your mercy
or complain about Your Decrees
or doubt Your existence
or miss Your clear signs
or become weary of worshipping You
or lose heart in championing You
or question Your Wisdom
or hold hope in anyone but You*

