




Hasn't Science Disproved God?

Big Issue
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Avoiding Caricature

'Isn't it enough to see that a garden is beautiful, without having to believe that there are fairies at the bottom of it'

(Richard Dawkins, quoting Douglas Adams)

'Fairies at the bottom of the garden may well be an illusion, but what about a gardener, to say nothing about an owner? The possibility of their existence cannot be so summarily dismissed'

(John Lennox)




What do scientists believe?

1996 Survey: 39.6 % Yes, 45.5 % No, 14.9 % agnostic

'For many years I have believed that God is the great designer behind nature... All my studies in science since then have confirmed my faith.' (Sir Ghillean Prance)

Faith being belief that isn't based on evidence, is the principal vice of any religion' (Richard Dawkins)




Two different worldviews

Naturalism: 'This cosmos is all there is, or was, or ever shall be.' (Carl Sagan)

Theism: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' (Genesis 1:1)

Which world view does science support?




Boundaries and limitations

Scientific method varies. That based on repeated observation and experimentation should carry more weight

Scientific explanation is limited. Aunt Matilda's cake. Science answers 'how' not 'why' questions.

Theology is also limited. Bible is not answering scientific questions. We do not have a 'God of the gaps' but the Creator of the whole universe.




Designer Universe?

Its order and intelligibility. 'The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible' (Albert Einstein)

Its beginning. Almost all scientists agree the universe had a beginning. But what caused the Big Bang?

Its fine tuning. It seems as though someone has fine tuned nature's numbers to make the universe... the impression of design is overwhelming.' (Paul Davies)




The E Word

Evolution

A hate word for some Christians. But Genesis gives us theology rather than scientific mechanisms

The *only* word for some atheists. Who claim that natural selection accounts not merely for the *form* of life, but for its *existence*.




Evolutionary Creationists

The existence of mechanism does not preclude the existence of intelligent agency

'It seems to me absurd to doubt that a man may be an ardent theist and an evolutionist' (Charles Darwin)


'Either half of my colleagues are enormously stupid, or else the science of Darwinism is fully compatible with conventional religious beliefs – and equally compatible with atheism' (Stephen Jay Gould)



Evolutionary Dogma

It sometimes appears that this area of science, unlike all others, is above questioning:

'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)' (Richard Dawkins)




Unanswered Questions

How can natural selection be *creative*?

How did life come into being at molecular level?

How do we explain the gaps in the fossil record?

What about the existence of irreducibly complex biological machines?



The 'Flubber' Principle

How did life arise?

Is it more plausible to say that the complex biochemical sequences necessary came about by chance?

Or are the facts better explained by Genesis:

'God created the heavens and the earth'