

A Treatise on Religion and Science

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1. INTRODUCTION

Albert Einstein wrote: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." The marvels of the Cosmos, Nature, Natural laws, and life, especially human life, could involve a Creator. However, it is possible that a Creator was not involved in the process, which may have occurred through happenstance. The 56 signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence based this document "on the Laws of Nature, and of Nature's God." In human beings in the nucleus of each cell, the DNA molecule is packaged into thread-like structures called chromosomes. Each chromosome is made up of DNA tightly coiled many times around proteins that carry genetic information in the form of genes. The result is generated from an equation endlessly repeated. Something that complicated could imply intelligent design. A Creator could have programmed Earth for living organisms to evolve, or they could have evolved through happenstance. Therefore, Intelligent design might or might not be responsible for living organisms to evolve into human beings.

2. LIKELIHOOD OF A CREATOR

Creator is used by many Native American families. Most American tribes have had God, Creator, in their lives for many generations. Most major religions feature a deity as Creator of the universe. This belief has withstood the test of time. For thousands of years, tens of millions of theists have believed in a Creator. With data available in the form of numbers of theists, and in time, ignoring the foundation of these beliefs would be a scientific oversight. Unfortunately, we cannot place the Creator in a test tube, add a reagent, and produce evidence of a spiritual being. There may simply be limits to what our minds can comprehend.

Our limited five senses and scientific equipment designed to enhance them are inferior to the task of identifying a Creator. It is likely that the Creator exists in another dimension or realm. This is a higher realm of consciousness that extends beyond the limits of human comprehension. Therefore, we cannot detect the Creator using the detection methods of the realm in which we exist. We can know the Creator through the detection, and scientific study of its creations. The creation of the first life forms, and the evolution of human beings from a single cell organism, could indicate a Divine Plan. However, abiogenesis could have naturally occurred by coincidence when simple molecules formed complex organic compounds that evolved into simple life forms without a Creator. Many Christians believe that when they die, their soul will enter the realm of the Creator. Although many Christians would disagree, this process could transpire by Astral Projection. Atheists believe that death brings oblivion. The existence of the Earth as a place where living beings can exist and propagate might indicate intelligent design. The Rare Earth hypothesis demonstrates how difficult it is for intelligent forms of life to evolve anywhere in the cosmos.

The orderliness of the universe, particularly the mathematical elegance of physics implies a designer. In addition, the physical constants of the known universe, as well as the reason and logic of the universe imply intelligent design. The **multiverse** is a hypothetical set of all universes. If a multiverse exists it could contain different constants, but it is likely that reason and logic would still prevail among them. This orderliness could not exist randomly. Scientists cannot explain the origin of the elements that gave rise to the "Big Bang" theory (the Lambda-CDM model). Therefore, all options about the origin of the universe remain open. One could envision a general concept of a "Creator" ... "Nature's God" ... and "Spiritual Being." The actual God or Creator could be different from any concept we've had to date. One possibility is the recognition that all humanity can become teachable citizens of One World. Our

primary allegiance could be to that pattern of divinity as it emerges in all things human. Much of what we speculate about the origins of the Cosmos, Natural laws and human life are based on theories. Therefore, one should not arbitrarily dismiss the theory of a Creator.

3. THEISM AND ATHEISM

Does God exist? Theists say yes, and atheists say no. The question is like asking a scientist if constants exist. What we value doesn't mean they must physically exist in nature. Instead, it is when concepts we value are useful, that they manifest into the equivalent of a physical existence. They become real, and we proceed to build physical representations to compensate for their lack thereof. This does not make them fake. They are the devices of utility. What are useful flourishes and what is useless perishes. This applies to God, numbers, facts, diagrams natural laws, constants, and sciences. Ultimately everything knowable emerges from the cumulative thought process of humanity. They are then selectively utilized, enforced, mapped, and built. This is what has grown to become our civilizations, cultures, religions, and physical sciences.

In addition to the utilitarian value of religion, religion also plays a key role in the development and maintenance of the traditional institutions and practices of most cultures and civilizations. By traditional practices is meant an inherited, established, or customary patterns of thought, action, or behavior of any given society. For example, in America members of both chambers of the U.S. Congress elects paid chaplains. The chaplains perform ceremonial functions, and open Congressional sessions with a prayer. All branches of the U.S. military also have clergy serving as chaplains. Christmas Day is a traditional, national holiday. The pledge of Allegiance contains the words "one nation under God." The national motto "In God We Trust," appears in the Star-Spangled Banner, and on all United States legal tender. Whoever spends money sends this message to the person who receives the money.

Religion also has influence over the American legal system. Black's Law Dictionary defines Divine Laws as "Those ascribed to God," and Act of God, as "An act occasioned exclusively by violence of nature without the interference of any human agency." The Dictionary also defines Natural Law as "those independently of enacted law or of the systems peculiar to any one people." "Finally, persons sworn into public office, or giving testimony before a court of law, sometimes place their left hand on a Bible and make a pledge ending with the words "so help me God." Therefore, tradition supports religion as an important dimension of human existence. According to the Pew Research Center 74% of all Americans believe in God. This could be considered the general will of the majority as it manifests itself in democratic government and religious issues. Jean-Jacques Rousseau believed the general will of the people was always right. By the general will he meant a volition or a desire to pursue a common interest or goal. It could be considered the shared, collective commitment to a common ideal or value of a people.

Perhaps in the future another genius in physics, such as Albert Einstein, or Stephen Hawking, will prove the theory of Singularity. It might be also possible to prove that artificial, intelligent design is inherent in the laws of physics. John Stuart Mill wrote: "The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is that it is robbing humanity; posterity as well as existing generations; those who dissent from the opinion still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth; if wrong, they lose what is almost as great a benefit the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth produced by the collision with error".

CONCLUSION

Many people have a deep-seated belief in the existence of a Creator based on fiducia (trust, faith), Creation, and a view of intelligent design. These beliefs are bolstered by the utilitarian value of religion, and national traditions. Many other people repudiate these ideas. It is their right to do so. Many theists think a transcendent force created the universe, Natural laws, and life. Atheists believe that the universe, Natural laws, and life evolved through happenstance. Theists and atheists should reject intolerance towards each other's beliefs. Perhaps with open-minded discussions the collision of these two perspectives can give rise to a new synthesis and a greater truth.

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