

## Apologetics Concepts Part 2

### New Atheists:

Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens (d-111215), Daniel Dennit, George Smith, Lawrence Krouse, Peter Singer, William Provine (d-150901), Edward Tabash

Origin Story: Out of nothing Chaos, Chance, Lucky Random Accidents vs God of Order, Purpose, Plan  
At our core is a Person – an Immaterial, Invariant, and Universal Entity – GOD!

Verification: only those statements that have been verified empirically are true.  
Only those statements proven true empirically are verified.

The supposed divine dilemma from the Euthyphro Dilemma of Plato (428-348 BC)

"Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods?"

"Is something commanded by God good because it is good, or is it good because it is commanded by God?"

From Epicurus (341-270 BC):

Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then He is not omnipotent.

Is God able but not willing? Then He is malevolent.

Is God neither willing nor able? Then why call Him God?

Is God both willing and able? Then whence comes evil?

### Quotes

"It is not so much that I believe in God because I see Him. It is through Him I see everything else properly."

C.S. Lewis, Psa 36:9

How can it be that mathematics, being after all, the product of human thought, independent of experience, is so admirably appropriate to the objects of reality? The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible."

Albert Einstein

"Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist." Stephen Hawking

Enlightenment - Spontaneous generation, countered by Louis Pasteur, 1822 – 1895

"The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation. During the minute that it takes me to compose this sentence, thousands of animals are being eaten alive, many others are running for their lives, whimpering with fear, others are slowly being devoured from within by rasping parasites, thousands of all kinds are dying of starvation, thirst, and disease. It must be so. If there ever is a time of plenty, this very fact will automatically lead to an increase in the population until the natural state of starvation and misery is restored. In a universe of electrons and selfish genes, blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference."

Richard Dawkins, River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life



"Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose."

— Richard Dawkins, "The Blind Watchmaker, P1

"People need to be aware that there is a range of models that could explain the observations... For instance, I can construct you a spherically symmetrical universe with Earth at its center, and you cannot disprove it based in observations... You can only exclude it based on philosophical grounds. In my view there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. What I want to bring into the open is the fact that we are using philosophical criteria in choosing our models. A lot of cosmology tries to hide that." W.W. Gibbs, "Profile: George F.R. Ellis", Scientific American, 273(4); 50-55 (10/1995)

*Horgan: [Lawrence] Krauss, Stephen Hawking and Neil deGrasse Tyson have been bashing philosophy as a waste of time. Do you agree?*

Ellis: If they really believe this they should stop indulging in low-grade philosophy in their own writings. You cannot do physics or cosmology without an assumed philosophical basis. You can choose not to think about that basis: it will still be there as an unexamined foundation of what you do. The fact you are unwilling to examine the philosophical foundations of what you do does not mean those foundations are not there; it just means they are unexamined.

<https://uncommondescent.com/intelligent-design/physicist-george-ellis-on-the-importance-of-philosophy-and-free-will/>

#### Two Possibilities for Red Shift

1. We appear to be at the center of an expanding universe because we are!
2. We appear to be at the center of an expanding universe because it would look that way from every place in the universe.

“The hypothesis (#1) cannot be disproved but is unwelcome and would only be accepted as a last resort... Therefore, we disregard this possibility and consider the alternative (#2)... The unwelcome supposition of a favoured location must be avoided at all costs... a favored position is, of course, intolerable... Therefore, in order to restore homogeneity, and to escape the horror of a unique position, the departure from uniformity (cosmological principle)... must be compensated... There seems to be no other escape.”

Edwin Hubble, *The Observational Approach To Cosmology*

“...a cataclysm for physicists, and the only way that we know how to make sense of it is through the reviled and despised Anthropic Principle.” Leonard Susskind, *The Cosmic Principle*

“If there is only one universe, you might have to have a fine-tuner. If you don’t want God, you’d better have a multiverse.” Barnard Carl, cosmologist at Queen Mary University at London, “Science’s Alternative to an Intelligent Creator, the Multiverse Theory”, *Discover Magazine* 12/2004

“We are not able to make cosmological models without some admixture of ideology.” Stephen Hawking and George Ellis, *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time*

“Evolutionists have ‘Physics Envy’. They tell the public that the science behind evolution is the same science that sent people to the moon and cures diseases. It’s not.

The science behind evolution is not empirical, but forensic. Because evolution took place in history, its scientific investigations are after the fact – no testing, no observations, no repeatability, no falsification, nothing at all like physics ... I think this is what the public discerns – that evolution is just a bunch of just-so stories disguised as legitimate science.”

John Chaikowsky, “Geology vs. Physics”

*Geotimes*, vol. 50, April 2005, p6

“The concept [of laws] is anachronistic in that it originated when the Almighty was thought to have established the laws of nature and to decree that nature must obey them. ... It is a great pity for the Philosophy of Science that the word ‘law’ was ever introduced. James H. Shea, Ed., *Journal of Geological Education*, *Geology*, V.10, p.458

“Get over your childish, self-pacifying beliefs and deal with the fact that the world is senseless.”

B.B from Buffalo NY (email to AiG)

“I came to atheism thru reason whereas you came to theism thru irrational faith.”

“Since no god exists, why do people believe in a god?”

“Since no god exists, and since we are here, there must be a natural explanation.” Methodological Naturalism

“The Cosmos is all there is, all there ever has been, or all there ever will be.” Carl Sagan, 1980

“There are 30k galaxies of 13BY old with many trillions of stars and many, many trillions of inferred planets So, how significant are you? You are not special. You are just another piece of decaying matter on the compost pile of this world. Nothing of who you are or what you do in the short time you are here will even matter. Everything short of that realization is vanity. So, celebrate life in every moment, admire its wonders and love people w/o reservation.”, NYT editorial