

Answering Atheism



By Rent-A-Friend 2000

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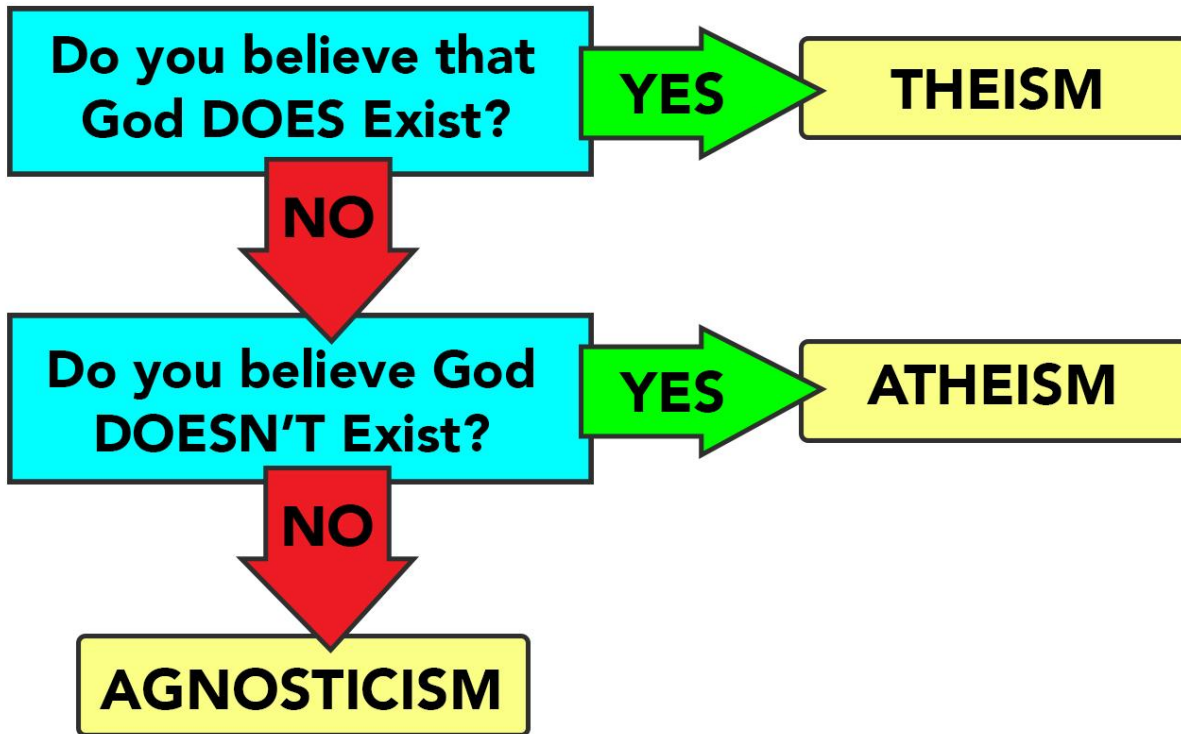
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What is Atheism?

Chapter 1- Defining our Terms (A simple flowchart)



It's really this simple.

The Definition of Atheism... Again

Atheism

Traditionally, the statements "**I do not believe God exists**" and "**I believe God does NOT exist**" have been treated as equivalent. The new, social media definition of "Atheism" does NOT treat these as equivalent (*or at least not necessarily*).

Thus, where as the traditional definition of atheist has been **one who says "God does not exist"** the new social media definition says an atheist is merely one who ***lacks a belief*** in God. Or, as above, the self professing atheist is merely saying "**I do not believe God exists**" and is not *necessarily* saying "**I do believe God does not exist.**"

Naturally, this definition removes from the Atheist a burden of proof, because the statement **“I do not believe God exists”** is merely stating a fact about the atheist- noting an absence of a particular belief in his worldview. In their view, asking them to defend their lack of belief is like finding out that someone DOESN'T have a five dollar bill and asking *“Where did you get that?”* The question is nonsensical, because there is no origin for something which isn't, and the lack of it *is its own explanation*.

This differs from **“I believe God does not exist”** because *this* statement immediately raises the question **“WHY do you believe God does not exist?”** The person saying that something IS (in this case, is *absent*) shoulders a burden of proof, meaning, for their position to be logical and rational, it must be based on an intellectual foundation. Both the person saying **“God exists”** and the person saying **“God does not exist”** have this same weighted burden of proof, for there must either be reasons for their position, or their position must be irrational. Thus, the new definition allows the Atheist to declare himself an atheist without shouldering a burden of proof.

Or it would, if the conversation ended there. But it does not.

Insisting that the conversation ends at the declaration that one lacks belief in God's existence is intellectually dishonest. It is dishonest to the persons with whom they converse, and it is dishonest to themselves if they never continue the conversation with themselves to discover their own underlying intellectual foundation.

While the statement **“I do not believe God exists”** does not carry a burden of proof, because it is not asserting a statement about anything except the speaker, it does raise an immediate question: **“Why?”** And there are only two possible reasons why.

Reasons WHY one lacks belief in God

1. **They are confident in the absence of God** (*They have intellectually sound and logical reasons to know God does not exist*)
2. **They are NOT confident in the absence of God** (*And at the same time are not confident in the existence of God*)

It is worth noting that this is *not* referring to their emotional state, but to an **intellectual** confidence- meaning their position is built on a foundation of reason. How strongly they feel something is or is not, or how much they WANT it to be so does not matter in this discussion. **Position #1** believes there is information which leads logically to the absence of God, where as **position #2** does not have that information.

Because position #2 lacks the information to build a case against the existence of God, their position *by default admits that God's existence is a possibility*. Clearly they do not have (or accept) the information to build a case FOR God's existence as they have declared themselves to be an atheist, but neither do they have the information against God's existence. On both grounds they are ignorant, and thus their position is **Agnosticism**. Again, it does not matter how they feel or

what they want to be so. They are ignorant of the data it would take to build an intellectual foundation for the acceptance or rejection of God's existence, and thus Agnosticism.

Just as above, as far as their intellectual position is concerned, it is merely, "*I don't know*" which carries no burden of proof. The way many "atheists" of this kind adopt a burden of proof is by making claims based on their emotional or volitional positions instead of their intellectual position. If they say, "*I don't know*" they have nothing to prove, because they have not made any assertions about the world, but only about their own ignorance. But many will make statements beyond this, such as "*I don't know, and neither do you,*" or "*No theist has ever proven the existence of God.*" Once they start making statements like this, they have adopted a burden of proof because *those* statements are asserting a proposition.

For an atheist who believes they have a rational basis for asserting the absence of God, there can be any number of ideas they can point to for their own defense. However, the true burden of proof for the atheist is specific and significant. Because God's existence is ***metaphysically necessary***, the only way to argue against his existence is to prove that his existence is **impossible**.

While this is easy to state, the weight of this burden of proof is insurmountable. ***To be a rational atheist, one must literally prove that someone which MUST exist CANNOT exist.*** This is akin to writing an essay to persuade the reader that words do not exist. This is making an argument that arguments are invalid. Clearly no atheist has ever succeeded in this task, and very few have even claimed that it can be done. Because of the literally impossible nature of this task, no atheist has, and no atheist ever will make the argument for atheism and against the existence of God which is required to make a confidence in God's absence *intellectually* justifiable.

Therefore, no one has earned the right to call themselves an atheist. ***Because they are unable to meet the intellectual foundation for a rejection of God's existence, all must, by default, admit that His existence is possible,*** whatever they may feel about the matter. In summary, this means that all atheists (on either definition) are in fact Agnostics, and the use of the word atheist to describe any person is inaccurate and counterproductive.

The two points which are concluded in this argument are:

1. **Anyone using the word "Atheist" to describe themselves is in fact admitting to being an Agnostic**
2. **Atheists do not exist**

Mythbusters Save the Day Again (Or, The Savage Truth about Atheism)

I recently accomplished an unprecedented philosophical feat- namely the proof that, If Atheism is true, then atheists don't exist (I'll share that in a later chapter).

I thought there would be some backlash from those who didn't like the conclusion, but I've yet to get a single complaint about that. Self-proclaimed Atheists seem to be fine with not existing, but they are all up in arms about my defining "Atheism" to mean: **An individual person who chooses to affirm the statement "There is no God/gods" as a true statement.**

Instead, they insist that Atheism merely means "**having no belief in the existence of God.**" Of course I felt this definition weak, since it applies to my shoe. Is my shoe an atheist? I'm fairly certain it has no belief in the existence of God. What about my socks? I could be literally SURROUNDED by atheism!

I was unprepared for this can of worms. I was also unprepared to find the atheists who read my blog would be more upset about my accusing them of thinking something to be true than my suggesting that, on their belief, they don't exist. I sincerely thought the response would have gone the other way.

I've been learning a lot as of late. Not all of it has bolstered my faith in the human race.

My problem with this is not only that they wish to change the definition of a word so that it no longer means what it has meant for three thousand years, but also that they will make the word "atheism" useless. Consider what they say-

"Atheism" is a lack of belief in God, so an "Atheist" is just someone who has no belief in the existence of God.

But that means we can no longer use that term to refer to the people who we have always referred to with that word, namely people who say "**There is no God or gods.**" What do we call *them* now?

The proponents of this new definition try to add words to specify these people; they call them, "Hard Atheists" or "Gnostic Atheists." This fails for obvious reasons. Calling someone a Gnostic Atheist means their position is, "**I have no belief about the existence of God, and I know He's not there.**" And HARD atheist seems to mean "**They REALLY REALLY lack a belief about the existence of God. REALLY.**" In short, this weird change of definitions serves only to muddy the waters. Words should mean things so we can understand each other. This isn't the way to do it.

How can I convey the problem with this shuffling of terminology? I stewed about it for a few days. Then, out of the blue it hit me: MYTHBUSTERS!

The discussion we are having is the same kind they have every time they do an experiment on Mythbusters. They are trying to decide if something is true or not. They consider the options, look at the evidence in favor of

the differing positions, and then experiment to see which position seems more defended by their own observations. But they only have THREE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES:

CONFIRMED– The assertion is TRUE (*Meaning, it is reasonable to believe it- there is data which supports it being so*)

PLAUSIBLE– The assertion MAY be true (*Meaning it is at least possible that it is true, but they don't have enough information to say that it IS true or that it is not*)

BUSTED– The assertion is demonstrably FALSE (*Meaning that it is not reasonable to believe it, there is evidence against it being so*)

People like to argue about what PLAUSIBLE means, as if it's just another way to say "Busted." I don't understand this. These people are like restaurants which serve a medium and large but no small. How can you have a medium with no small? Hey, Larry's House of Hotdogs on Melrose Ave- Your medium IS THE SMALL! If there is no smaller size, you can't have a MEDIUM. That's what Medium means! It means the one in the middle! It's too big to be small and too small to be large! Why is that hard?

When it comes to the plausible concept, it is really simple. You're not sure enough that it's true to say CONFIRMED and you're not sure enough that it's false to say BUSTED! It's merely an "***I don't know. Maybe.***" That's all. You might lean heavily toward it PROBABLY being true, or MOST LIKELY NOT true, but until you say CONFIRMED or BUSTED then you are saying PLAUSIBLE. It's an admission of ignorance. Just watch Mythbusters and you'll see them explaining it sometimes.

In your daily life you take this position when you say things like, "I think maybe..." or "It seems likely..." or "That could be true, but what's more likely is..." If one of these positions was our default, this would be it. We accept a lot of things as more plausibly true than not, and sometimes even take a step of faith and act as though it is true. When I get in the car to drive somewhere, do I KNOW I will not die in a horrible accident involving six tanker trucks, a herd of bison, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra? I do not KNOW that, but I get in the car because I know my chances of arriving alive are actually better than my odds of being creamed, so I act in faith on what I considered plausible because of my reason, based on what I DO know.

BUSTED is very simple. It says, NO WAY! And I wish all of the less philosophical atheists out there would note something they say which Adam and Jamie NEVER say. They NEVER say, "I'm calling it busted, and I don't need to have any reasons." Or as those Roach Clowns who love internet scattered jargon call it, "I don't have any burden of proof" which just means, "I don't need to give evidence or reasons."

What The kids on Mythbusters always say is, "The Myth says THIS, HOWEVER, we've seen THIS which tells us that there is NO WAY that could have happened. It's BUSTED." Can you imagine how irate we all would have gotten if they had done an episode about, say the moon landing and Adam had said, "It's BUSTED! The moon landing never happened,"

and Jamie replied, "What makes you say that?"

and Adam had replied, "Don't you try showing your burden of proof off on me! YOU have to prove it DID happen. I don't have to prove anything."

We'd be all, "Why am I watching this?"

No one would ever accept that kind of argument from anyone about anything, so why do atheists accept it from themselves about the existence of God? To me it sounds like they already know where the arguments will lead (which is not where they want it to go), so they yank the parking brake at the first sign of being asked to think.

In short- if you claim ANYTHING to be a fact- the existence of God, your mother's maiden name, whether or not there is a teapot orbiting the moon- you have also accepted the burden of proof. The only alternative is to admit that you're irrational and you choose to believe things without reason, which, as far as I can tell, makes you crazy. Mucho Cray Cray.

Which from now on is my Gangsta Rap Name.

I think the connection should be obvious- The idea up for debate is the existence of God. The Theist says, "Confirmed!"

The Agnostic says, "Plausible, but I don't know."

And the Atheist says, "FALSE!"

When the Atheists try to combine Atheist and Agnostic, I am hearing "**Plausible and Busted.**" I know some will try to argue that "Atheism" means simply a lack of belief, but that would still fall into Agnostic/Plausible because it is based on NOT knowing. If you **don't know** it is false, then you are admitting that it MIGHT be true. Others will try and argue that it means a lack of interest in the question, which would be apathy, but again that is not the same as BUSTED!

Imagine if, after some experiments, Jamie asked Adam what he thought and Adam said, "I have no opinion. So it's busted."

Jamie would, of course, ask, "So you think, based on the data, it did NOT happen?"

and Adam would reply, "No, I'm not claiming to KNOW it didn't happen, or even to have an argument against it being possible. I'm saying I Don't believe it happened, and that's why my position is BUSTED."

"You mean, Plausible," says Jamie. "You think it might be possible, but you're not convinced by the evidence."

"I mean," says Adam, "That I am not convinced by the evidence, and while it might be possible, I'm saying Busted."

Well, you can imagine the fight which would ensue.

That show is GOOOOD Television.

In summary- if "Atheist" means "Agnostic," then "Atheist" doesn't mean anything and we now need a word to mean what "Atheist" has always meant until very recently. Putting *atheist* with *agnostic* is the same as saying "**This Myth is Plausible Busted!**" which is also meaningless and fails to convey anything useful. If you claim something to be a fact- whether that fact is the affirmation of something or the denial of it- then you have just accepted the burden of proof. So either explain your reasons and evidence, admit that you can't explain it and admit that you have faith in something you can't explain, or shut up. Seriously, if you have no reasons, arguments, evidence or sober thoughts to support your assertions, then just shut up. You're not being reasonable, you're being insane.

But **only I** am going to be "M.C. Mucho Cray Cray"- coming soon to Def Jam records!

Ok, I can't confirm that right now, but it is at least plausible.

Mind Blown! Agnosticism ALSO Fails!

I recently realized one of the ramifications of my fresh academic offerings. It came as quite a shock. I was forced to lay down and play Angry Birds for several hours. But let me backup and set the scene.

First, I explained that, when it comes to the existence of God, there are only three possible positions: Yes, No, or Maybe. Or as I label them, theism, atheism, and agnosticism.

Next, I showed that Atheism is not a valid position. The burden of proof is such that, for an atheist to be reasonable, they must be able to prove that God (a metaphysically necessary being) is metaphysically impossible. Just like it sounds, the atheist must prove that something which HAS to exist CANNOT exist. This is more absurd than trying to prove that light is darkness, or that infinity is equal to zero, and thus can never be done. It's beyond impossible. It's merely silly. I liken the atheists' burden of proof to having to write a persuasive essay proving that words don't exist.

It's that silly.

At this point I addressed those faithful viewers who attempted to insert a fourth position, namely the idea that "Atheism" can be defined as merely an absence of belief in the existence of God. I showed that this still leads to either my definition of atheism ("no"), or my definition of agnosticism ("maybe") and so not only was this, in my opinion, an invalid use of the word Atheism, but it resulted in "Atheism" meaning "Either Atheism or Agnosticism." I didn't find this particularly helpful. I find this to be, in terms of rational discourse, like having people try to argue that the RED light either means Yellow Light OR Red light, because, all RED light really means is NOT Green light. You're not making rush hour more efficient with that philosophy, if you get what I'm saying.

In reflecting on it, I realized something so obvious that I was amazed that I hadn't seen it before. I had shown that atheism is an invalid position because its burden of proof is SO BIG that it becomes literally absurd. But then, I realized, if atheism is not a valid position, ***neither is agnosticism!***

Think about it- if no one can logically say "NO," then on what basis can anyone logically say MAYBE? Once "NO" is no longer a valid option, "MAYBE" is not a valid option either. The only logical, defensible position is "YES!"

Now, for those of you who are getting caught up in the topic and can't see the logic for the implications, let's talk about something else for a minute.

Imagine a chicken taco.

Close your eyes and picture the chicken taco before you (but then open your eyes again so you can keep reading). Here is the question: Is there CHEESE on this chicken taco?

When you reply, you have three possible options: YES (there is cheese on the taco), NO (there is NOT cheese on the taco) or MAYBE (there might be cheese on the taco, but there might not be- you do not know).

Now, I'd like to point out the fact that I am not asking what *you think* about the taco. I'm asking *about the TACO*. You may say "I lack a belief in the existence of the cheese, but that doesn't mean I think there IS no cheese." I don't care. This isn't about YOU, it's about the TACO! Is there cheese on the taco? Yes or no?

If you say MAYBE, you are saying you believe YES and NO to BOTH be possible options.

Now pretend I had some solid, scientific method of proving to you that it was impossible for this taco to NOT have cheese on it. I walk in with my Star Trek level scanning device and I show you the results and we agree that it is simply IMPOSSIBLE for the taco to be cheese free.

Or maybe it's called "Taco Con Queso." There's more than one way to reach this conclusion.

Now, here is where my revelation hinges: If I can show you that saying NO is not a valid option- then as a result **you MUST say YES**. If you don't have the option of saying NO as a valid possibility, then you ONLY have YES as an option. It would be absurd beyond reason to say, "***I know it can't be true that there is NOT cheese on this taco, so I will say MAYBE there is cheese on the taco.***" Once it can be shown that NO is not a valid option, then you already know for certain that there IS CHEESE ON THAT TACO!

This is very good news unless you are lactose intolerant.

When we apply the same simple logic to the existence of God, you will see that, since atheism is not a valid option, then agnosticism is not a valid option either. You can't say MAYBE God exists when "God does not exist" is NOT a valid option. Once atheism is dead, agnosticism is no longer an option! Theism is literally the only option available!

You see why I needed to lie down for a while? ***Mind Blown!***

Logically speaking, the Agnostic can only say "I don't know who God is." Agnosticism remains valid only when it is agnosticism (ignorance) of God's identity, and not His existence. His existence is just as valid as yours. Actually, more so, since he is a metaphysically necessary being, and you are contingent. If He didn't exist, you wouldn't either.

Doesn't that just make you need to lay down and play Angry Birds for several hours? Or eat chocolate pudding? Both of those sound pretty good. I wonder if I could do both at the same time? I suggest you also give it a try, just to be safe. And remember Jesus Loves You. Yes, sir! Don't mean maybe.

Atheism according to Social Media

What is atheism? This used to be something everyone knew and no one argued about. For the past century or three western culture has had periodic debates about IF God exists or NOT, but not a lot of debates were about how to define atheism. Atheism was the side saying *NOT*. It was all pretty simple. Common sense was still common. Those were the days when we all knew that men were not women.

Remember those days? I miss those days.

Naturally, I have been defining atheism to mean "Atheism," but thanks to social media, I have had a LOT of angry people insisting that I have blasphemed the sacred scriptures of dictionary.com and DEMANDING that I use the word to mean what THEY mean by it. Atheism, they insist, is a word describing *a lack of belief* in the existence of God (*or gods, or goddesses, etc*).

If I can rabbit trail for just a second, what kind of a world do we live in where our culture demands we let each person choose their own **gender** but REFUSES to let me define **a word** the way I want to? How did the most recent edition of the dictionary become more absolute than *actual human biology*? But I digress.

I didn't understand these MANY comments I got on social media until I figured out the unspoken assumption wherein we differed. When I used the word Atheism I was working under the assumption that the statements "**I do not believe God exists**" and "**I believe God does not exist**" were equivalent statements, because, in truth they are. My detractors on social media, however, are working under the assumption that these are NOT equivalent (*or at least not Necessarily equivalent*). When I figured this out, it all clicked into place.

I have stated in the past that the redefinition of the word "Atheism" has happened for the sole reason of allowing the atheist to avoid the burden of proof, because, as we all know, atheism is indefensible. But if they define atheism to mean merely a LACK of belief, then they don't have to prove anything!

Or do they?

If the conversation ended there, they would not have anything to prove, because something NOT being doesn't need a basis. If I may quote a song from the film *Muppets Most Wanted*:

Sam the Eagle: "If they did it, how did they do it?"

French Cop: "If they didn't, how did they didn't?"

Sam the Eagle: "If they didn't, then it's easy, because they simply didn't do it."

That is a GREAT musical number! And the point Sam makes here is the one the atheists are trying to make- if they didn't commit the crime, the police do not need to prove how they DIDN'T commit the crime. They just didn't and the police need to find who did and prove THEY DID. Similarly, my friends on social media say, they DON'T believe, and a LACK of belief doesn't carry a burden of proof.

But they are only half right.

The fact is, the conversation doesn't end there, even if they refuse to say any more. When a person says of themselves, "**I do not believe (any proposition),**" then logically there is one of two possible intellectual foundations for this position (*or lack of position if you prefer to call it that.*) They lack belief in the proposition because they KNOW (something) or because they do NOT know (something).

In the case of the debate over the existence of God, the Atheist (*Person who lacks belief in God's existence*) lacks belief because they know something which convinces them that they know God is absent, or they do not know something which convinces them that God is absent but also feel they don't know something which proves He is present.

Thus, the two intellectual positions which are possible are:

1. ***They are confident (intellectually) that God is absent***
2. ***They are NOT confident (intellectually) that God is absent***

I say "intellectually" because I am referring to their intellectual basis for their worldview, and not their emotions. It matters little how confident they FEEL if they have no REASON to think what they do. This is true of anyone on any topic. You can FEEL REALLY CERTAIN of something, but if you have no intellectual foundation for that belief, then you do not KNOW and cannot say you KNOW, but must admit intellectual ignorance, meaning you lack an intellectual foundation for the belief, no matter how strongly you feel or how much you WANT it to be true.

If the reason one lacks a belief in the existence of God is #1, then they are what I call an Atheist. I am forced to use this word (*even though in the beginning of this argument I conceded to the popular social media definition*) for two reasons- first because that is what the word has always meant in western culture, and secondly because there is no other word which means that. The semantic warriors who take me to task for using the word this way show they know this is true at some level because no one has offered another word to take its place, but word combinations are tossed about to make up for the lack of a useful word, such as "Hard Atheist" or "Gnostic Atheist" etc. No one has *EVER* said, "**Someone who believes that God does not exist is not an Atheist, he is a _____.**" I'm still waiting for that blank to be filled in. But I digress.

Position #2 is simple. They are not intellectually confident that God is absent, which logically means they admit God MIGHT exist, however they feel about it, or whatever they WANT to be true. If they KNEW reasons to believe God exists, they would simply be theists, so they are ignorant of those

reasons, and if they knew reasons to believe God is absent, they would simply be atheists (*how I define it for position #1*) but they are ignorant of those reasons. Since they lack information which would cause them to declare a position with intellectual confidence, they are agnostics, meaning their position is one of ignorance.

Let's recap to this point just to make sure we're all on the same page:

1. **We agree to define atheism to mean "a lack of belief in God."** All of my commenters/detractors on Social Media rejoice.
2. **We ask WHY a person would lack a belief in the existence of God.**
3. **We find two possible reasons:**
 1. *They are confident in His absence*
 2. *They are NOT confident in His absence*
4. **Those who feel they have a rational, intellectual foundation on which to base confidence in the absence of God are what I call Atheists**
5. **Those who are not confident in God's absence have admitted by default that God MAY exist in their view, and thus they are what I call Agnostics**

Am I saying that, on the popular Social Media definition, some atheists are agnostics? No. I am saying that ***ALL atheists are agnostics.***

*This is where y'all be like: **What the WHAAAAAATTTT??!***

Here's the problem for the Atheist (position #1.) They DO have a burden of proof and it is a doozy. The ONLY way for a person to be an intellectually rational atheist is to prove that God's existence is **IMPOSSIBLE**. If they cannot do that, they cannot be a rational atheist. They are merely an agnostic who REALLY REALLY REALLY doesn't want to admit God may exist.

Before you go throwing this book at your neighbor's popular breed of tiny dog, let me explain:

There are only three possible options for any person, place, thing, event, or idea:

1. **Impossible:** It CANNOT exist in any possible world. For example, a square circle, or a married bachelor, or a five sided triangle.
2. **Contingent:** It MAY exist in some possible world (Meaning, its existence in the real world would not be a contradiction or an impossibility). If it does exist, it is dependant on something/someone else to bring it into existence. For example: Root beer, Beethoven, ostriches, coffee mugs, Mr. Potato Head, or the episode of Star Trek about the Tribbles.
3. **Necessary:** It MUST exist in ANY possible world. If you describe the whole of reality as being without this, your description is wrong. Examples: God, the number five, opposites, bacon.

Technically bacon isn't necessary, but I can't imagine any possible world without it. *And I don't WANT to.*

This high concept philosophy stuff is actually really simple. I am talking about the God of the Bible, or as He is sometimes known, "The one TRUE God." So if your description of what you call "God" is contingent, you are not talking about God. You're just using the word wrong.

And we can argue *to* His being necessary in a variety of ways. First, because the Bible describes Him that way, and who are we to doubt His resume? And scientifically, because the universe needs a cause, and that cause must be God, and objective morality needs a cause, and that cause must be God, and every event needs a cause, but we can't logically have an infinite regress of causes, so God must be the first, unmoved mover, or the first uncaused cause, etc.

The church has been writing on these things for two thousand years. So needless to say, I am summarizing here.

While there are no doubt lots of religions and atheists who describe God in ways which would make Him impossible, those descriptions are all wrong and do not agree with His self revelation in the Bible (*Which is the only description I am interested in*). The one true God as we learn in scripture, science, philosophy and history is **necessary**.

This brings us back to the atheists.

In order for a person to be an intellectually rational atheist, and have an actual confidence in the existence of God, they would have to prove (to themselves at least) that God's existence is IMPOSSIBLE. But that means coming up with an argument which **proves that a necessary being is impossible**. I have likened this to writing a persuasive essay meant to convince the reader that words do not exist. You can try, but no one will ever succeed at this task.

Thus, **no one can be an atheist**. Everyone who claims that title must, if they are honest, admit that God MAY exist even in their own worldview. They may FEEL strongly that He does not, or that they do not want Him to, but they cannot say they know better. Not if they are honest.

This is why I have said that, even when defined in the popular social media way, atheists do not exist. Even if we start with defining atheism to be a mere lack of belief in God, all persons who would describe themselves as being atheistic are in fact agnostics who must, if they are honest, admit that God may exist. If they spent more time asking questions instead of pretending they already had answers, they could start making that journey from ignorance to theism, and then, when they get to know God personally, Christianity.

This is where you have the following talk with God;

"Say, the One True God, you are perfect and Holy, and I am a sinner. Can you help me with that?"

and He says, "I already did. I lived a perfect, sinless life and died as the sacrifice which pays for your sins so that, if you choose to put your trust in me, you can have eternal life."

And you say, "Thanks, the one True God!"

and He says, "Please, call me Dad."

Really Jesus taught us that. Still knocks me over that God wants to be our Heavenly Daddy.

It's the best news that ever was, and of that there can be no debate.



New Species found! The ROACH CLOWN!

Let me be the first to announce the discovery of a new hybrid species which has come onto the scene over the past few years. While many of you will not have seen any of these creatures in person, you no doubt will have stumbled upon their droppings and other filthy signs of their existence in formerly clean places such as FaceBook, YouTube, and the Bloggosphere. They spread the diseases of hate and ignorance, often using verbal venom as they flail angrily at Christians, conservatives, and especially Creationists. Once you get to know this strange new species, you will find it's dirty little footprints all over the social media.



Periplaneta Atheimima is the otherworldly hybrid between the American cockroach and the circus clown, and thus its common name is simply **the Roach Clown**. Drunk on a cheap bottle of Atheism, and often limited in communication to logical fallacies and obscenities, the Roach Clown sometimes gives the impression of a creature which can be communicated with, but the attempt will quickly show that this perceived ability is actually a facade. A true Roach Clown can no more have a conversation than those robots that answer the telephone when you call your cable company to talk to someone about your bill. Questions are ignored or completely misconstrued, and if you answer one of their questions, they shall give no indication of understanding and will quickly change the subject. They speak more as a reflex than out of a

desire to communicate. They feed on the misery and unhappiness of others (This leads me to believe they could be closely related to the Troll) and so spend a good deal of time trying to provoke anyone they can encounter. More often than not, the things they say are mere bait for their next hapless victim, and not an actual attempt at sharing ideas or gaining knowledge.

Though they are full of venom, they are mostly harmless, and because of their lack of understanding or reason, they can be accidentally very funny and thus hard to take seriously. If you can build up an immunity to their annoying sting, you can find them quite amusing when they are encountered. If you show amusement at them, they can become quite enraged, which itself can be very funny. While trying to prove someone wrong, they very often give themselves a logical pie to the face.

Roach Clowns are afraid of the light of truth, and so they hide in the dark shadows of the internet. They can be found behind anonymous pen names and alter egos. Not to be found very creative, they will often use the word "Atheist" in their handle, and just as often use no name at all. Ironically, they will demand personal details about their victims, especially their educational and professional credentials. It's a lot like having your blood sucked out by a mosquito, but when you try to swat it, it demands to know where you got your degree in swatting.

Their addiction to getting drunk on Atheism is a sad part of their norm, and effects their behavior strongly. Some net citizens will try to free them of it out of compassion, believing correctly that they would be better off without it, but this only leads to violent attacks and often an abuse of the Caps Lock key. If you attempt to take their cheap bottle of Atheism away from them, they will become violent. It does not matter if you try to snatch the bottle directly, or try to poke holes in it by showing the weakness of Materialism, Evolution, or Liberalism. Even if you attempt to replace their bottle with something better, like Philosophy, Observational Science,

Christian Apologetics, or even simple Reason, they will merely respond with venom. Make sure you are wearing gloves if you attempt any of these actions.

Many are so addicted to their draught, that they will go out and attack alternatives preemptively. This will be seen in the thumbing down of Christian videos they have not seen or books they have not read, hateful comments and critical reviews of such videos or books, often with personal attacks against the authors and those persons who choose to watch or read them. One may wonder how it can be known that a Roach Clown is attacking a book they did not read or a video they did not watch, but it is not difficult to determine. Roach Clowns are not terribly bright, and many will actually admit in their comment that they did not read or watch that which they are spewing venom at. (*No, seriously, they do this. I once had a guy admit to me he had not read an article of mine, but then he still chose to write a SIX PAGE REBUTTAL explaining why I was wrong. For the views expressed in an article he ADMITTED he had not read. You can't make this stuff up.*)

This is the one, primary defining characteristic of all Roach Clowns. Each one may vary from this of course, from time to time, but what each of them communicates on all forms of social media and what seems to unite them most as a species is their transmission of the message:

“I don't know or understand what you are saying, but you are *wrong* and *I hate you.*”

Once again, their bite can be very annoying, but if you can build up an immunity to their venom, they can be very funny. If you do not work to build up an immunity to them, then it is best to avoid any contact with them, as the venom can cause a strong allergic reaction that is expressed in irritability and disorientation. It's ugly. If this happens to you, don't try to reply to them. Just hit the mute button and go lie down for a while.

Please feel free to share with us your interactions with this new, strange species, and we will perhaps work together to find a way to stop them from breeding. It will take a good deal of education, and as much of the light of truth as we can shine into the world. They tend to breed in shadows, where ignorance and lies can flourish. Because they spread disease, they are best simply swatted until they do not return, but because the places they are found are often poorly lit, make sure not to swat the other, more docile creatures which can be found behind nicknames or sipping Atheism from a glass. Just because they share an environment and a few similar features does not mean every creature deserves to be swatted. Tread carefully when determining if you're aiming for a Roach Clown or for some other, less harmful species.

How Roach Clowns see themselves...

How everyone else sees them.



Don't be a Roach Clown.



The Evidence for Atheism is: Ignorance

In the past I have said that there is **NO ARGUMENT** that can be made *for atheism*, and that no evidence exists which can be used as evidence FOR atheism. Well, thanks to the many conversations I have had on social media, I see I have been wrong, and I am a big enough man to admit when I am wrong. My many atheist readers/viewers have presented the same argument/evidence to me so often that I am ready to now admit that I was wrong, and they DO have a case for their position.

An Atheist's primary argument and evidence FOR atheism is: **his own ignorance.**



There is no OTHER argument or evidence that can be put up as a defense of atheism intellectually, so many resort to presenting their own ignorance as evidence of, or in defense of atheism. They will say:

"I've never seen any evidence for God's existence."

or ***"I don't know of any evidence or arguments for God's existence."***

Some are stupid enough to actually directly state, ***"There is no evidence for God's existence."*** This is a claim so audacious that they could never say this with confidence even if it WERE true. But they say it anyway. This is like saying, ***"There is NO evidence for the existence of Unicorns!"*** Because, unless you've seen every fossil in every museum or still encased in rock, then you can't possibly claim that unicorns did not exist with anything but arrogance to back you up. Maybe YOU haven't seen the evidence, but that doesn't mean it's not out there.

Many of my readers have gained boldness when they find people like me have no answer to this well crafted case for their position. It's true that I cannot answer this argument. It's a lot like when very small children think you can't see them because they have *their* eyes closed.

It's hard to know what to say in response. I *am* left speechless.

If you are relatively sober, you probably can figure out all on your own that ignorance is not an argument nor can it be used as evidence in favor of anything, including atheism.

But as far as atheism goes, that's all they have.

Oh, by the way, here's an actual unicorn:



Elasmotherium sibiricum or 'Siberian unicorn.' Yup. That was a real animal.

#JesusLovesYou

Knowing Vs Believing

Buying a Toaster at Walmart (or, WHAT'S IN THE BOX???)

Have you ever had a conversation about what "Atheism" means? I have, thanks to my many fans on social media, and it leads me to this thought experiment about buying a toaster.



I argued long ago that knowledge and belief are two sides of the same Metaphysical Nickel– they CANNOT be separated.

To Believe is to have confidence/faith in the Truthfulness of information one can recall and understand.

To Know is to be able to recall and understand that which is believed to be true.

If you do not choose to accept a proposition as TRUE, you will not say you believe it. Also, if you cannot remember, nor understand it, you cannot honestly say you believe it. On the flip side of the nickel, if you do not believe a proposition to be true, you will not say you KNOW it.

Imagine I come into the room with a nondescript box, taped shut. It's a little bigger than a bread box. I say, "Do you know what I have in this box?" You say, **no**, for how could you **know**?

"Do you believe I have a toaster in this box?" I ask. Again, you say, **no**, as you have no knowledge about what is in the box.

At this point, I would say you were **Agnostic** about the contents of the box. You don't KNOW that there ISN'T a toaster in the box, but you don't KNOW that there IS. You lack a belief in the toaster, only because you can't honestly say one way or another. You have no intellectual foundation for making that call.

Now, you may decide you don't like the looks of me and assume I'm a big liar- the kind of liar that would make up a story about having a toaster when he clearly does not have a toaster. If you choose not to believe my story, it's not an intellectually founded rejection of the existence of the toaster. It's an emotional response to me. You still would have to admit that there is no REASON why there COULDN'T be a toaster in that box. You just think you have reason not to trust ME. It's a thin line which is hard to see, but it's there.

Now imagine you are walking through Walmart, and you see a very similar box, taped shut, and sitting on a shelf. Only, this box has a picture of a toaster on it, and it is labeled, "Toaster." In this scenario is it not IMPOSSIBLE that there is something else in the box, but now you would say you KNOW what is in the box. The reason is not direct observation- the box is still shut. But it's still a kind of scientific assurance- every time you open a box from the store which was taped shut until you open it, it contains what the packaging claims it would contain. Once again, you see a box at the store with a clear label, and because of past experience (and other reasonable arguments about truth in advertising) you believe that the box is accurate, and you would say you know what is in the box, even though you have not seen it.

William Lane Craig makes the useful distinction between 100% confident, mathematical certainty, and a proposition which is clearly more probable than its opposite. In this case, you can be far more certain that there IS a toaster than you could be certain that someone put something else in this box at the factory. It's not impossible, but it is so unlikely that you would not hesitate to buy the box and take it home if you needed a toaster.

Now a third scenario- I show you the box, as above, but this time I open the box and show you. This time you would also say you know that there is a toaster in the box. If I asked you, "Do you believe there is a toaster in the box?" you would, of course, say YES. You can SEE it. Now, whether this equates to 100% confident, mathematical certainty depends on what kind of skeptic you are. There are people out there who will doubt their own existence and REFUSE to admit that it's possible to prove one's own existence with 100% certainty.

What about "I think, therefore I am?" you may be wondering. These people will say, "That only proves that thinking exists, not that there is a self doing the thinking." At some point, you need to stop trying to convince other people of what they refuse to believe. This guy won't believe HE exists. Good luck getting him to accept anything else.

Popular YouTube Atheist Thunderfoot had a long conversation with Creation spokesperson Eric Hovind where in he (Thunderfoot) admitted that his atheistic worldview means he could be wrong about EVERYTHING he knows, and the universe, all of reality, might not be real. I'm not sure if he would buy a toaster at Walmart, but his position must give you pause.

Have I proven that Knowing and Believing are two sides of the same Metaphysical Nickel? Consider this, if I show you there is a toaster in the box and ask if you know what is in the box, would you say, "I **know** there is a toaster in the box because I can see it, but I don't **BELIEVE** it."?

Or would you say, "I **believe** there is a toaster in the box, but I don't **know** if there is a toaster in the box."

What sense would that make?

You may say of the box at Walmart, "I believe there is a toaster in this box, but because I have not seen it, I do not KNOW." If you say you do not KNOW, wouldn't you really be saying "I believe there is PROBABLY a toaster in the box."? I propose that we CANNOT separate our belief from our knowledge in order to really mean "I believe FULLY something which I cannot know." We do say things like this, but if we think about it, what we MEAN by such statements is just that we consider it far more likely that what we expect is true because of what we do know. This is why we buy items at the store without opening them at the store. We KNOW what is in the box- in a sense. It's also why we love magic tricks or a really good punch line. We KNOW there is no rabbit in the hat, or we KNOW how this story is going to end, but we are delighted to find out that what we knew and believed was wrong.

So how does this relate to the discussion over the way we use the word "Atheism"? My friendly commenter suggested that, by saying he was Agnostic, he had NOT answered the question "Do you believe God exists?". He had said **what he did not know**, but did not say **what he believed**. I am suggesting that it is impossible to do one without doing the other. I know God exists, and so I believe God exists. That commenter does not know, and so how can he believe what he does not know? Further, how can he know what he does not know? Specifically, how can he believe God does not exist, or say he KNOWS God does not exist if he admits to being agnostic?

The agnostic says, "I don't know what's in the box, so it MAY be a toaster. But I don't believe it IS a toaster because I don't KNOW what is in there. I only know that it is not impossible, but that is too little knowledge to have a flip side of belief."

Or in a sense- ***I'm not shelling out \$25 to Walmart until I look in the box.***

For the atheist to be rational- what I call an intellectual atheist, one with reasons for his atheism- he would have to say, "I do not believe there is a toaster in the box because the box is a match box, and it is far too small to fit a toaster inside. It is IMPOSSIBLE for a toaster to be in that box." And of course he would have to prove that the box was a match box, but maybe I'm stretching the metaphor a tad thin.

I hope this helps to clarify my position, and again I want to thank all of the Atheists and Agnostics who reached above name calling to actually try to help me understand what they are thinking. When I look at you, I don't see a toaster, and I hope you do not either.

Now go have a pop tart! You've earned it.

Faith in God and Knowledge of Jelly Beans



One alert reader had sent me a lovely color coded chart which tries to explain that there are different kinds of atheists- those who claim that God does not exist and those who do not claim that God does not exist. This confused me, because it combines Agnostic and Atheist into a single idea, which, from what I could tell, means a person who doesn't believe that God exists, but doesn't claim that it is true that God doesn't exist.

Or maybe they know God doesn't exist but they don't claim to believe it.

How can you claim to KNOW something you don't believe, and how can you believe something you don't know? To me this is like claiming to be a polygamous bachelor. Putting those words together makes them both meaningless, like "Square Circle" or "turkey bacon", because they mean opposing things which cannot be made into one. To me, an agnostic atheist would be someone who's position on the existence of God would be "I don't have enough information to know if God exists, but He doesn't."

Which, now that I think of it, is the position I have been presented with by quite a few people.

These are the people who say things like, "I didn't read your article, so I don't know what your position is, but here's why you're wrong..." I've actually gotten that response in the past. I wonder about the person writing that and how they don't stop and say, "Maybe I should lie and PRETEND I read it..."

The same alert reader who sent me the chart sent me to a video which, he felt, explained how my views of knowledge and belief were incorrect. As an "atheist," he wanted to argue that knowledge and belief were so different that they could be not only separate, but at odds with each other. After all, snarky internet atheists have been defining faith to mean believing something either without or against knowledge. You know, so they could tell me I'm an idiot and pretend that Atheism is the position of knowledge and reason. This is the same internet which refers to Islam as the religion of Peace, but I digress.

I had sent him to my blog post- [BRAIN FAT AND THE METAPHYSICAL NICKLE](#) where in I define the terms thus:

To Believe is to have confidence/faith in the Truthfulness of information one can recall and understand.

To Know is to be able to recall and understand that which is believed to be true.

The video he sent me to argued that knowledge was a subset of belief, meaning that we believe a lot more things than we would say we know. The example given was that of a jar of jelly beans. The number of beans in the jar is either even or odd. The default position for anyone considering this must be what they called "neutral," or what I would say as "Undetermined." You've got a 50/50 chance of guessing right but no way of

knowing for sure. Thus, the video man said, if you decide the number of jelly beans is even, you have chosen to *believe* something which you do not *know*.

You have to admit that it's pretty clever. And makes you think about eating jelly beans, which is distracting but not unpleasant.

So all day I tried to find the flaw in the reasoning of this video, because having already written such a brilliant article with such a catchy name, I wasn't ready to let it go. Also, I could hear a logical flaw like a string out of tune, but I couldn't find it right away. Like I said, it's clever.

So, what about the Jelly Beans? Is the number of beans even or odd?

Picking 'even' as your chosen belief about the number of Jelly Beans is not what I am calling BELIEF because it is not having faith in something known. It is you choosing an option which you feel *plausible*. This is not an actual belief, because it's not based on any knowledge, but rather is an arbitrary choice made by comparing statistical likelihoods. You wouldn't really mean you BELIEVE the number is even, you would actually believe it MIGHT be. You've merely picked a side because you don't know anything to sway the odds in one direction or the other.

When the video man said we believe more than we know, I understand where he is coming from, though I would say "We believe more to be plausible than we know to be true." The difference might seem slight, but it is actually fairly important. Where as he is saying, "I can believe the number of Jelly Beans is even or odd arbitrarily, thus I can believe something I don't know," he should say, "I don't believe the number is even, but I KNOW the number is just as likely to be even as odd, thus I BELIEVE my choice is reasonable as it is just as likely to be true as the other, even though I don't know the number."

I think you can see why people don't talk like that though. It would take all day to get anything said.

Is the number of Jelly Beans is Even? Plausible. I don't BELIEVE it, for I don't Know enough to have faith that it is true, so on the actual number of Jelly Beans I am Agnostic. But I KNOW my odds of being right are as good as they can be, given my knowledge, thus my arbitrary choice, which I have no faith in, is plausible.

But am I putting faith in what I DON'T KNOW? No. I am putting faith in what I DO know. Specifically, I am putting faith in the fact that there is only two possible options and either one has a 50% chance of being right. I KNOW that much is TRUE, and thus I know that my choice is PLAUSIBLE. I believe it MIGHT be even, not that IT IS even.

The video man was confused as to what was the object of faith. He felt it was the random choice of even over odd, but it was not. It was in my knowledge of math- being that the ONLY TWO OPTIONS are "even" or "Odd" and thus either choice was as good a choice as could be made with my limited information. In this situation I could not be Atheistic toward either choice. Otherwise I would KNOW the correct choice as well, since there are only two. With no knowledge about the number of beans, I can merely be agnostic. If you say the number is odd, I cannot say BUSTED! unless I KNOW the number is in fact even. I can only say, "It's plausible."

If a person in your position were to make the statement that they KNOW the number of beans is even, they would be misusing the word KNOW. They would mean that they have chosen to profess that as a fact, but they are stubbornly pretending it is knowledge when it is not. This differs very much from the knowledge they have of other facts, such as the fact that they are seeing a jar with jelly beans in it, or that the number MUST be even or odd. With no information about the actual number, they cannot truly say they KNOW the number to be even or odd. Similarly, if I were to ask you if you BELIEVE the jar was full of jelly beans, you would probably look

at the jar, trust your sense of sight and the reality of the external world, and say Yes, you believe there is a jar full of beans. Why? Because you know it's there. You can see it.

Thus I conclude that my definitions hold and one cannot KNOW without Believing and one cannot BELIEVE without knowing. One may SAY they believe something they don't know, but it is not what they actually mean. If you ask them, they will usually admit that. Faith and knowledge are not at odds as the internet Atheists wish to assert, but are in fact dependant on each other to merely exist, like Canada and professional Hockey.

To extend the metaphor, suppose I know the person who owns the jar. They tell me, "I dumped one pound of Jelly Beans into that Jar, and a pound is exactly two hundred beans." Now I will have more confidence in the choice of 'even.' If I know this person to be honest, meticulous and possessing a keen eye for details, I will believe him. Thus, if you ask me if I know whether the number of beans in the jar is even, I will say CONFIRMED! Because I know that the Candy man can be trusted, and his word is good.

The takeaway is simple. This type of internet atheist tries to find loopholes for himself, so that he can claim to be an atheist and make a regular video series explaining why Christians are irrational, and then claim that he himself is rational even though his atheism has no evidence or arguments in its favor. He can BELIEVE there is no God without having any known facts to back it up- but of course he will say, "I don't BELIEVE anything, I KNOW!" And he is wrong.

This same guy who made the jar of jelly beans video was once asked by a caller what evidence or arguments he had to support his atheism and the video man simply laughed and said he didn't NEED any. He and his co-host then talked about this for several minutes. And it all comes down to trying to give themselves loopholes to avoid rational thought and the burden of proof. In short, they will claim to be Agnostic Atheists because their position is, "I don't have enough information to know if God exists, but He doesn't, and you're irrational if you think He does." But of course, while they SAY that, and act like it's true, they don't REALLY believe it, because they know better.

As for me, I believe the odds are good that I will be eating some jellybeans today. The odds are at least even.



The COSMIC TEAPOT

Right off the bat, I want to acknowledge that “The Cosmic Teapot” just sounds cool. If you’re starting a band, there’s your name. You’re welcome.

In case you’ve not heard of this, Bertrand Russell (1872–1970) proposed a mythical china teapot orbiting the sun between the earth and mars. He feels that, if he proposed such a thing, a thing which we could never prove with even our best telescopes, then people would not be justified in believing him merely because they could not *disprove* his claim of a cosmic teapot.

Russell extends his analogy to the realm of Christianity, saying that he does not feel justified believing in God merely because he cannot disprove the existence of God. And not only does HE think this is clever, but there are all KINDS of people stupid enough to share this little gem as if it’s unanswerable.

Weep for the next generation, America. This is the level of philosophy of which they are capable, and no more. I’m blaming the Teletubbies and Sponge Bob.

I had an atheist who was mad at me for defining atheist to mean “atheist” toss this one at me because he was simple enough to believe its conclusion. But let’s examine it, shall we?

- 1. The claim invokes the existence of a teapot.** So far so good. I think we can all imagine such a thing, even if we are not, like Russell, British.
- 2. The claim involves something orbiting the sun between Mars and Earth.** I think we’re all familiar with the concept of orbiting the sun. I’m doing it right now. And I think we all feel the evidence for Mars to be sufficient to say it is, and since Mars is not touching the Earth, we know there is a space between us and it. Once again, rocking and rolling. In space.
- 3. The claim combines these ideas into a single event- a teapot orbiting the sun between the earth and Mars.** Now, had this claim involved a live elephant orbiting the sun between earth and Mars, we could here call it quits. An elephant is possible, and even likely. Orbiting we already agree can happen. But when you put a live elephant in space, he doesn’t do as well as the teapot. In fact, he dies, and as a result, you eventually lose your funding for your giant trebuchet program. Putting the teapot into space doesn’t make the scenario impossible, so here we can agree to it being possible.
- 4. No sane person ever suggested that you must believe anything you cannot disprove.** Seriously, if you know of one, send me an email because I really can’t imagine it.

It seems that if an atheist is ignorant enough, then he will think that Christians believe in God because they can’t disprove His existence. I’m wondering if they ever considered how LONG the Bible is. Do they really think it takes more than a thousand pages to say, “Well, I don’t know any good reason to think God ISN’T there, so I suppose Jesus rose from the dead after three days.” It would take a team of lawyers just to fill a single PAGE with that mess.

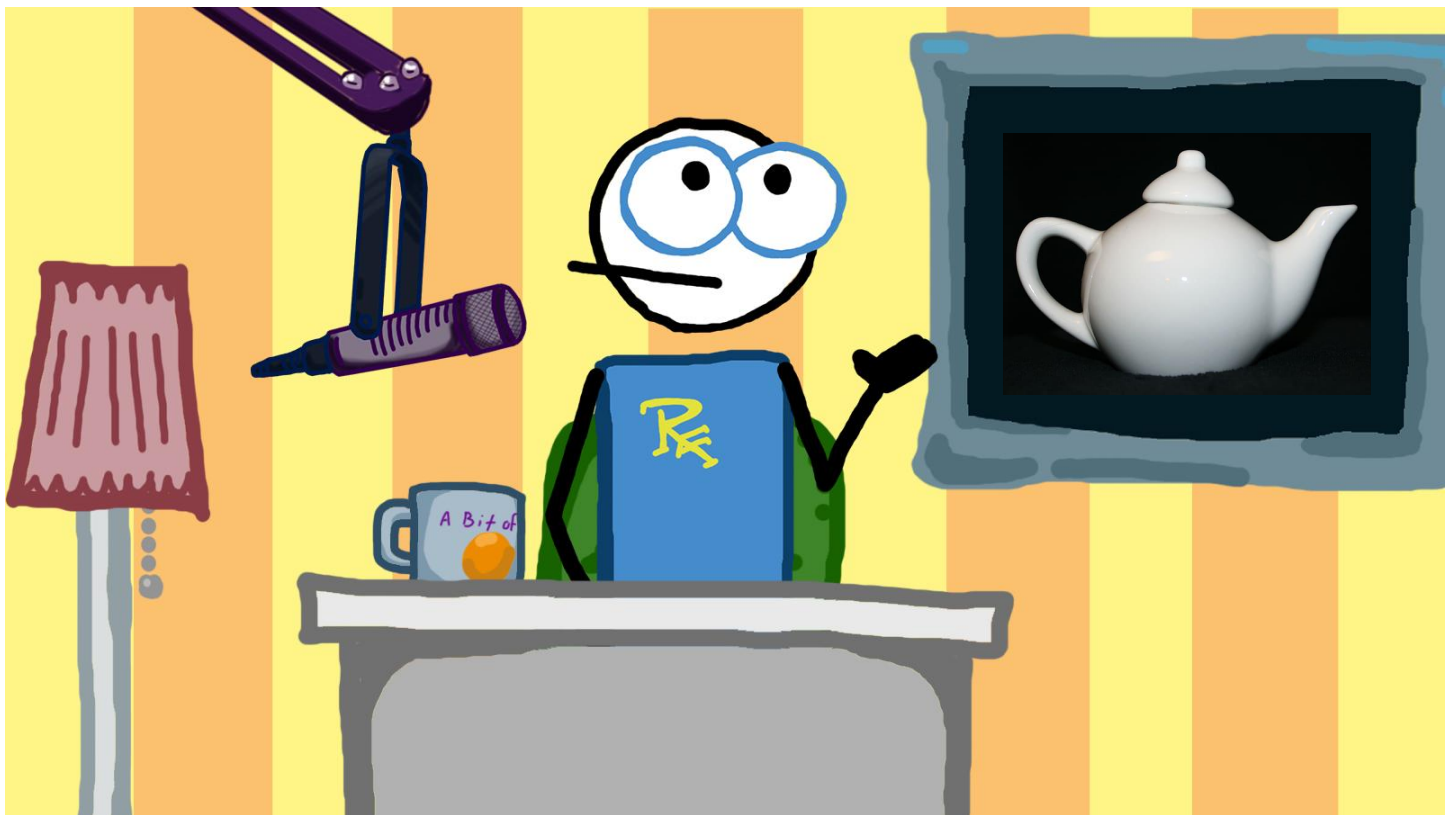
In the argument about defining “atheist” this was tossed at me in this Russellian way, as if I would say, *“OH! OK, I guess you- the self declared atheist who has called my belief in God “Ridiculous” have NO burden of proof, and now I am an atheist... about this teapot!”* [audience applause. Fade to commercial]

I’m not entirely sure what he expected, but calling upon what I have learned from my seven seasons of Mythbusters on DVD, I said the concept of the teapot orbiting the sun was Plausible- thus, having no reason to declare it impossible, I was forced to say I was Agnostic toward this teapot. Now, of course I can come up with a list of reasons I think it VERY unlikely, but thinking something unlikely is not the same as having proved it not to be so.

This is where Russell fails. There are four thousand years worth of arguments, philosophy, and first hand eye witness accounts, including that of God himself, but Russell is either ignorant of them or pretends they aren't there. Then he decides, based on his ignorance or willing blindness (Probably both) that, therefore it is so improbable and unprovable that God exists that He may as well be a teapot orbiting the sun. In 1958 he wrote, ***“nobody can prove that there is not between the Earth and Mars a china teapot revolving in an elliptical orbit, but nobody thinks this sufficiently likely to be taken into account in practice. I think the Christian God just as unlikely.”*** But of course, in claiming that God is “as unlikely” he has moved from the rejecter of a claim to being the stater of a claim. Thus, in trying to explain why he doesn't have the burden of proof, he has adopted the burden of proof. WHY, Mr. Russell, is it *just as unlikely*? After all, the teapot is something NO ONE claims, and no one offers proof of, and God is something we all know, and for which MANY proofs have been given for thousands of years.

In short, Russell's philosophy is so ignorant and childish that it can't help but attract ignorant and childish people to it. Like moths to the flame. ***MOTHS TO THE FLAME!***

Which would also be a cool name for a band.



Where an Atheist **MUST** put their Faith!

I had an atheist write in to tell me that “**Atheism requires no faith and is not a worldview.**” He argued that an atheist is a person who believes that the claim that there IS a God is “**unsupported by good evidence.**”

I have clearly explained what the tenets of orthodox Atheism are in several videos and blog posts (And I shall present it to you in full in the part of this book called “**The Religion of Atheism**”). Clearly it is a worldview. In fact, I call it a religion. But on a deeper level, this person was mistaken. **Atheism DOES require faith.**



For instance, even on his own definition, the atheist has to believe- that is, **have faith in**- the idea that *there is no evidence proving God's existence*. I mean, if you don't put your faith in THAT proposition, why would you call yourself an atheist? And once you decide something so foundational as to reject the existence of God, you DO have a worldview. That you can't see it doesn't make it go away.

Consider this:

Is it POSSIBLE that this person can KNOW that theism is unsupported by “good evidence”?

Is it possible that he knows enough to claim with certainty that theism is not supported by good evidence?

Is it even possible that he can say he knows all of the proposed or existing or possible evidence for God's existence, and then be able to logically reject all of it as insufficient with justifiable cause?

Could he ever prove, even to himself, that there IS NO GOOD EVIDENCE for God's existence? None in all the universe? None in all of human history? None in existence now but simply absent from the conversations he's had on FaceBook?

Obviously not. If he believes this claim, it is believed on blind faith, not on evidence.

This person MEANS to say he has not heard any evidence **he accepts** as convincing, but that is a VERY different claim. It is the difference between someone claiming “THERE ARE NO GOOD STAR TREK MOVIES!” or that person saying “I have never SEEN a Star Trek movie I thought was good!” Because that reboot in 2009 was actually pretty good, but most of the Trek franchise has the stink of a really sincere middle school production of Death of a Salesman. I mean, when Wrath of Khan is a highlight, you know you haven't exactly been cranking out winners. But I digress.

Atheism is indefensible. There is not a SINGLE argument which can be made in its favor. This is why Atheist must resort to rejecting ALL of the evidence and arguments FOR God's existence. However, the claim that THERE IS NO SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE for God's existence is a universal claim that NONE of them can ever legitimately make.

ALL atheists must take on BLIND FAITH the assertion that there isn't sufficient evidence for the existence of God. They CANNOT claim it as a fact to be known nor as something observed or quantified. It would be like claiming there is NO EVIDENCE that an elephant has ever painted a picture. He may DOUBT that elephants can do such a thing, or that they would ever even want to. But he cannot say with CONFIDENCE that in all the jungles, circuses and zoos of the world that NOT ONE elephant has ever painted a picture and that NO EVIDENCE exists of such a painting. He could never PROVE conclusively that *nowhere in the world* is there evidence of a painting being made by an elephant. There is no scientific test nor mathematical theorem which would be used to argue for that position conclusively. He would have to make that claim on pure faith.

And then someone like me would come along and show him this.



(That's an elephant painting a self portrait.)

At which point, to follow the metaphor, the "Atheists" loudly insist that this is fake, offer no evidence that it is fake, and insist that THEY don't HAVE the burden of proof and so they don't HAVE to give reasons why they think it's a fake! It's ME who has to prove that this is a REAL elephant making a REAL painting! Somehow they get to simply reject photographic evidence with a hand waving dismissal, because... reasons.

And somehow they will continue to tell people that there is NO EVIDENCE for the existence of painting elephants.

In conclusion, I already know that some atheist is going to write in and tell me that Atheism is more like claiming that there is no evidence for an elephant having flown a motorcycle to the moon. He will not explain WHY this metaphor works. He will just assert it blindly as something which he hopes

we will all agree could never happen, thus reflecting his secret hope that God's existence is impossible. But when asked why God's existence is as impossible as an elephant flying to the moon on a motorcycle, he will wave his hand and dismiss the question, insisting that it is ME who has to do the proving. Because, you know. Reasons.

What reasons? Imaginary, unspoken reasons that they hope someone else has. Because THAT is where an Atheist must put their faith. They haven't got much else. Well, they have Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1989), but as bad as it was, it didn't quite make me lose my faith in God. But as far as arguments for atheism go, there isn't much better.

Why I Don't Believe "Believe" Means what You Believe it Means

Roach Clowns in the comments section of various social medias all the times be saying, "*Faith means believing in things which ain't so.*" Or sometimes, "*Faith means believing things without, or sometimes in the teeth of evidence.*" And from these quotes, we can learn that some people, despite having been born and raised in the Christian West, have NO IDEA what the Bible says or what the church has taught for 2,000 years. I personally think 2,000 years would be enough time for everyone to find the time to see what the Bible says before they go off writing books about it, but apparently I am being presumptuous. Thus to help you, my friends, I will show you what the Bible says:



Consider these two passages from the book of John:

Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: **Believe** in the one he has sent."

-John 6:29

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever **believes** in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and **believes** in me shall never die."

-John 11:25-26

Allow me to point out a few things. First, this is Jesus talking *about himself to other people*. Jesus is saying to these other people- people he is standing in front of- "**Believe in me.**"

Now let's consider the definitions of faith and belief given by the roach clowns above. Their definitions are asking us to think that Jesus is standing before people and saying, "**I want you to think I am real, even though there is no evidence for me, and maybe even though there is evidence against my existence.**"

If you're capable of reaching this interpretation by reading the Bible, you're either on some powerful drugs, or maybe you need to be. Hopefully you can already see that their definitions are a special kind of dumb which did NOT come from actually opening the Bible and looking at the words inside. There is no way Jesus could be asking people to believe things without evidence, because the thing he is asking them to believe is HIMSELF.

He is standing RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.

But don't just take my word for it. Conduct a science experiment yourself to see for yourself. Go pick anyone you like and ask them to believe in your existence. Make sure to record your results!

I'll bet you won't find a lot of resistance, but then, neither will you find people willing to build a church in your name. That takes a bit more than a face to face.

Jesus suggests that there is more than his mere presence on which to build faith in him. He says:

“If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”

-John 10:37-38

Jesus tells the people around him to not only believe that he is there, but that he is who he says he is. He does not insist they merely take his word for it, but he reminds them that he has shown his power by healing the crippled, the blind, the deaf, and raising the dead. The disciples and apostles follow Jesus in providing evidence for the Christian Faith. From the very first generation of Christians, we were told to consider the evidence and hear the eyewitness testimony. Consider Luke:

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ²just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴**that you may have certainty** concerning the things you have been taught.

-Luke 1 [emphasis mine]

When people say the Christian Faith is a blind faith without or against evidence, they are merely telling us that they are unfamiliar with the Bible and the Christian Faith. It is obvious from the Bible that Christians are told to “Believe in” Jesus and “have faith in” Jesus, not because we are expected to blindly accept his existence or even his message, but we are being told to ***put our trust in Jesus***, as we put our trust in a doctor when we need surgery, or in another person when we choose to marry them. Jesus clarifies the idea of “Believing in” him when he changes it up and says, “Follow me.”

And he [Jesus] said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

-Matthew 4:19

Jesus is not asking people to just walk in his footsteps literally (“*I’m going to walk southwest for a bit. You guys line up behind me and also walk southwest.*”), but asking them to submit to him, believing he is wise and good, and ultimately that he would save their souls.

Think about any good war movie. The guy in charge says, “**Follow me, men!**” or the men all say, “**We’ll follow you anywhere, sir!**” No one is implying that, if the guy in charge goes into the bathroom that his whole platoon is piling in there like a dozen circus clowns into a Toyota Prius. They mean, they trust him to lead them into battle and to make the best decisions, and they are offering their loyalty to him as their commander. This is the kind of faith Jesus is asking for- the kind that leads to loyalty and trust. He was not asking the people looking at him to merely accept that he was there, and he is not asking us for that now. Consider what the Bible says about having *that kind* of faith:

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

-James 2: 19

God does not ask us to merely embrace true statements about Him, but to FOLLOW him, like a soldier follows his commander, or like a woman follows her husband into marriage. Christian faith means following Jesus into war against the gates of hell. Christianity is not the wearing of a blindfold, but it is in fact like getting married and joining the army.

We even have a lot of people singing about how great it is to follow our leader.

Feel free to sing along, and remember: Jesus Loves you!



Nachos with Non-Believers (Or Defining the Deniers of Divinity)

It's Thursday! And you know what that means: NACHO NIGHT!

So we head to the local sports pub and order a plate of chicken chilli nachos the size of a 1980's Cadillac. With me are my friends Tom and George.



As our waitress, Wendy, is bringing us our food, I see my friend Bill come in, so I invite him to sit with us. I introduce him to everyone and during the discussion he mentions the fact that he is married. George immediately notices that Bill is not wearing a wedding ring.

“That’s right,” Bill says. “I’m a doctor, so I don’t wear it on days when I’m working. I have a beautiful wife who works as a lawyer.”

“A lawyer?” chimes in Tom. “That seems like an unlikely pairing.”

“He’s a liar,” blurts out George. “He isn’t wearing a ring because he’s not married.”

“Oh, but he is,” I say. “I’ve met his wife, and she is a lawyer like he said.”

“Then you’re both liars. This lawyer woman is imaginary.” George gets like this when he’s been drinking. Or when he’s had a bad day at the office. Or on days of the week ending in a ‘y’.

“Come now George,” I say, “What possible reason can you have for denying the fact that Bill has a wife?”

“That’s right, Jack!” says Bill. (Bill calls everyone “Jack”.) “If you’re gonna say my wife doesn’t exist, you better know something I don’t!”

“I don’t have to prove anything!” says George. “You’re the one making the claim that he’s married to a lawyer. You have to prove that to me.”

“But George,” chimes in Tom, “you said she’s imaginary and called them liars. Did you not have any reason or evidence for that accusation?”

“Hey! I don’t have to PROVE anything. I’m just saying I don’t believe you. I don’t have to prove everything I don’t believe. I don’t believe there’s a teapot orbiting the moon, do I have to prove that?”

“So, when you said I was a liar,” asks Bill, “what you meant was, you are not yet convinced that my story is true?”

“I’m just saying I don’t know,” says George.

“Then why did you call us liars?” I ask.

“Because you’re expecting us to believe this ridiculous story when it’s so much more likely not to be true,” George replies.

“What makes it ridiculous?” I ask. “What reasons do you have for thinking it more likely NOT to be true?”

“I don’t have to prove anything!” George insists. “You can’t go making silly claims and then demand I prove it wrong. Tell them Tom.”

“Well,” says Tom, “It’s possible that they are liars, but then I see no reason why he can’t have married a lawyer. Weirder things have happened.”

“Then why isn’t he wearing a wedding ring?” demands George.

“He already told us that. He doesn’t wear it to work. My brother is an auto mechanic. He does the same thing.”

“So you’re believing this ridiculous story?” George asks.

“I’m just saying it certainly could be true.” says Tom, grabbing more nachos. “But of course I don’t know the woman.”

“I do,” I say. “I’ve met Bill’s wife on many occasions. And she is a lawyer like he says.”

At this point Wendy comes back to check on us and give some refills on the rootbeers. George asks her, “Hey Wendy, do you know this guys wife?”

Wendy looks at Bill and says, “Oh sure. They were in here last week. She’s a pretty little thing with big hair.”

“Is she a lawyer?” George asks.

“Oh, I would say not,” replies Wendy. “She’s can’t be a day over 19.” And she heads off to tend to her other tables.

“So now you’re asking us to believe that you’re married to a teen age lawyer?” George asks.

“It does seem a little far fetched,” agrees Tom.

“She’s confused,” answers Bill. “I was in here with my daughter last week. My wife hasn’t been here in a long time, so Wendy probably just assumed that the girl I was with was my wife.”

“Or you’re a big liar,” insists George.

“If you wanna tell me my daughter is imaginary, then you can pay her imaginary college tuition, Jack!” replies Bill. “I have a daughter who had lunch with me here last week, and I have a wife whom I have known for many years and been married to for many years. You gonna tell me I don’t?”

Tom finishes a mouthful of nachos and says, “It does call your story into question when you claim your wife is old enough to be a lawyer and the mother of a college student, but Wendy says your wife is only a teen-ager.”

“But I told you,” says Bill, “Wendy was just mistaken about who she saw.”

“Or maybe nobody’s right and nobody’s wrong,” offers Tom. “Maybe what everyone believes is true for them.”

“So you’re telling me I have an old wife, a young wife and no wife?” asks Bill. “At the same time? I’m a polygamous bachelor?”

“Bill’s right,” I add. “There’s no way everyone can be right. Either he has a wife, or he doesn’t. And if he does, she’s either a teen or old enough to be mother to a teen, but she can’t be both.”

“It’s obvious to anyone with a brain that he has no wife at all,” says George.

“Why is that obvious?” I ask.

“Don’t go shoving the burden of proof off on me! You’re the one making the claims, which means you have to do the proving!” says George, getting chilli on his tie.

“But you just said it’s obvious that he has no wife at all,” I remind him. “If you’re claiming that as a fact, then you either have a reason for it, or you’re asserting it blindly based on irrational emotion.”

“Now you’re just playing word games and trying to change the subject,” says George. “You know it’s impossible to prove a negative. It’s philosophically impossible to prove that something doesn’t exist, so your question is irrational.”

“Not at all,” I say. “Just a moment ago we proved that the teen age, old enough to be a teen’s mother non-existent wife did not exist because it’s impossible for her to exist. We also proved Bill is not a Polygamous bachelor because it’s impossible to be one. So if you’re claiming that Bill’s wife does not exist and saying it’s obvious to anyone with a brain, then your brain must have reasons for making that claim, right?”

“I’m not claiming anything,” says George. “I’m just saying I don’t believe she exists. We’ve been over this before. If you guys are just going to talk in circles, I’m going to go home.”

“OK, so what are you saying, George?” I ask. “Are you saying that Bill might have a wife, but you’re not sure, or are you saying he does not have a wife and I’m wrong for saying I know her?”

I’m saying,” says George with a mouthful of chicken, “that I think she does not exist, but I’m not claiming I believe it. I’m, agnostic about her non-existence.”

“You’re saying you don’t believe what you think?” I ask, perplexed. “How can you think something is true when you don’t believe it?”

“That’s it! You close minded jerks don’t know anything!” George stuffs a few handfuls of nacho in his pockets and storms out into the night.

This still leaves us with a pile of nachos which could feed an army, so Bill calls his wife and she joins us for the remainder of the night. You can imagine the conversation Tom has with George at work the next day...

The point of this conversation is that when someone tries to claim to be an atheist and an agnostic at the same time, they are merely confused about the meaning of those words. When they try to claim to be an agnostic atheist, they are saying that they know there is no god/s but they do not claim to believe it, and thus they have nothing to prove. The obvious problem is that they are claiming not to believe what they are claiming to know. If that doesn’t make you dizzy, you have what it takes to be an astronaut.

And most importantly, this is meant to show how people use arguments and logic in a debate about God which they would NEVER accept from anyone else in a conversation on another subject. I call this “Debate Mode,” where in the brain gets switched from “Make sense” to “WIN.” Silliness is quick to follow.

Go forth and have more talk about these things- over nachos and with friends.

Burden of Proof (Or, I Can't DRIVE 55!)

Greetings friends,

I was reviewing a conversation I had on Twitter recently, and I came to some conclusions.

1. Having conversations on Twitter is stupid. Nothing worth saying can be said in less than 180 characters. Would Shakespeare have Tweeted Macbeth if he had the technology? No he would not have had. You know why? Because Bill had class.
2. That being said, I suspect I will make the same mistake in the future. Place your bets now on how long it will take me to learn. Better yet, just pray for me.
3. Twitter should have a conversation/arguments version. It needs to be more like TEXT where you can find where one comment relates to the comment it is responding to. (Right now I can't figure out what comment goes with which, so it always reads like two drunk hobos yelling across the train tracks while a commuter is going by.) We'll call it MEGA TWEET! Or, The TWEETOPOLOUS! I donno, send me suggestions.
4. I want to punch people in the face when they start whining about me "trying to force the burden of proof" on them.
5. Jesus would not punch those people in the face. I need to be more like Jesus.

Let me explain the Burden of Proof. I've touched on this before, but it is worth repeating.

Burden of Proof simply means you have the burden- *i.e. responsibility*- to prove- *i.e. offer evidence & arguments for*- whatever it is you have stated to be a fact. It does not matter WHAT you have stated as a fact, or if you are saying the fact is that something IS or that something IS NOT. If you have said of ANYTHING, "This is TRUE" then you have, by the act of making that declaration, assumed the burden of proof.

And the reason is simple. When you say, "THIS is TRUE," then you are offering the subtext behind why you believe it to be true, and there are only two options.

- A. You have been persuaded by the evidence/your experience/ a trusted authority/ etc.
- B. You're an emotional nut job who is "Coo Coo for CoCo Puffs."

In short, you have a reason to believe it, or you believe it without reason.

Now, I will accept the fact that we do not always remember the valid reasons we have for believing something to be true. I will say with confidence that it took the astronauts four days to reach the moon, but I could not begin to recall where I learned that. I learned it from some trusted authority and thus I feel reasonable in believing it. However, since I don't recall the origin of my belief, I lack confidence in the fact and would not argue about it. I'd just surf over to Nasa.gov and look it up. But then I'd spend the next hour looking at pictures from the Cassini Mission, so I won't do it now. And I'd probably see if there is any news from the Jade Rabbit mission. And did we just start orbiting a COMET? How cool is that?!?! But I digress.

The Burden of Proof is a very simple thing. So why does the Twitter Atheist fear it so much that he is willing to make a spectacle of himself trying to dodge it? I strongly suspect that it is because there are no TRUE atheists. Everyone knows that God is real, but some really don't like the fact that he is there.

It's like when you've borrowed a friend's sweet convertible Mustang GT for the weekend, and you really REALLY want to see how fast it can go.

For roughly an hour and a half.

If you can't SEE the cops, then eventually you can talk yourself into believing they aren't there. But that nagging thought is always in the back of your head. I haven't seen a cop in MILES... but what if there is one I can't see up ahead? You just make the choice of the will to say THERE ARE NO COPS OUT HERE! and you speed along. You crank the tunes! You put your shades on! You PUT THE TOP DOWN! WHOOOOOO HOOOO!!!!

But I suspect that there is no amount of bravado, cynicism, or even present pleasure which can fully remove from the atheist the reminder that, if they die tonight, tomorrow they wake up in hell. Sirens and lights are the LEAST of your worries. So we tell our girlfriend to shut up when she says we're driving too fast. We purposely don't look at the speed limit signs. IF this imagined cop pulls us over, we can argue innocence on the grounds of ignorance. IF there was a speed limit, why weren't we given more evidence? There should have been HUGE signs everywhere! If YOU were the Department of Transportation, you would have backlit billboards with the speed limit AND the price of a speeding ticket on them. But since there are no such billboards, then obviously there are probably no police out here. Or a Department of Transportation.

When an Atheist tries to defend the position of Atheism, they must quickly descend into mindless emotional ranting, or quickly discover that they cannot defend their position. If you can't do A. and you don't want to do B. then the only choice left is to simply dodge the question. When I asked a Twit (I think that's what we call the people on Twitter) about his Atheist Beliefs- he immediately started ranting that I ought not force the burden of proof onto him, and then complained that I had not given any evidence for MY beliefs! Since we were talking about what it means to be an atheist, I naturally had NOT given any evidence to support Christianity, since that would have been weird even if I did have more than 180 characters.

“What logically follows from your starting position of Atheism? and here is the Kalaam Cosmological Argument for the existence of God...”

Now, this guy's twit name is “The People's Atheist.” He's got “Atheist” as PART OF HIS NAME. He was one of the people who tried to take me to task for defining “Atheist” to mean “atheist” instead of “Agnostic.” I've recently gotten some clarification about this attitude from a youtube channel which spends lots of time making fun of people like this, including one guy who calls himself “Non-Stamp Collector.” I've heard of him before, but I'd never given his name any thought because there are a lot of people on the net with stupid names. There's some guy who calls himself “CrazyPills.” But it seems that the name “Non-Stamp Collector” refers to one of these new definitions for “Atheist.” The claim is, Atheism is to Theism what Not stamp collecting is to Stamp Collecting. It's just NOT. It's not a thing, it's a lack of thing.

As I've said before, this is wrong for lots of reasons. First, because Atheist has always meant “Atheist,” and if you take that name away from that group and try to apply it to others, then we have no name by which to call the “atheists.” Second, I think the fact that this is a load of used diaper is evident from the fact that these guys NAME themselves this. They put it in their bios on Twitter and their blogs. They make videos about it on youtube. Yet, NONE of these self-declared atheists includes the fact that they don't collect stamps (*Or watch televised golf, or collect pine cones, or paint black velvet pictures of cats wearing sunglasses, or what have you*) in their bio.

The People's Atheist is not a self-described “Person who doesn't watch reruns of Gilmore Girls,” and I can say with some confidence that he does not spend a lot of time online harassing those people who eat pizza toppings he does not eat. He is the “PEOPLE'S ATHEIST” and he harasses Christians, attacks them for their beliefs, and then he claims that HE HAS NO BURDEN OF PROOF. I don't know who he thinks he's fooling, but it's not me. It's probably him.

He kept pretending that he didn't HAVE a position and thus he has nothing to prove. So he would make incendiary statements about how MY beliefs were ridiculous and refuse to explain what he meant. He insisted that ONLY I Had the burden of proof but wouldn't explain why. He tried to justify it by insisting that he doesn't have to prove everything he doesn't believe. Like aliens and leprechauns and Big Foot. I explained that, if he can't prove that they don't exist, then he can only claim to be agnostic about them. He can't say, with REASON, that they DO NOT EXIST. He tried to pull a fast one on me and demanded to know if I believe there is a teapot orbiting the moon. Apparently that's a thing- the space teapot. Naturally, I said, I cannot say WITH REASON that there is not, as I have no evidence or arguments against it. I would be agnostic on this teapot. After all, there have been British Astronauts in space, have there not? And if there have, then there is a chance, no matter how slight, that there is a teapot somewhere in space as well.

I would be the Teapot's Agnostic.

He didn't even respond to that. I thought it was really clever. But NOTHING from this guy. What's it take?

As is typical in these conversations, he changed the subject (over and over and over) and asked if I feel the need to PROVE that other gods don't exist. After all, if he needs to PROVE the real God isn't there, doesn't that mean I have to prove that all those other gods aren't there? So I said, HEY! Don't you go shoving the burden of proof on me! You pull that and I am ENDING this conversation!

HA HA! I'm kidding of course. But imagine if I had said that. Maybe next time I'll try it. What I said was,

“By proving Jesus is God and the Bible is true, I AM proving those other gods don't exist, just as when I say $2+2=4$ I am ALSO saying $2+2$ is NOT 7, 13, 128, etc...”

I explained that, if he is claiming atheism true, or Christianity false (Or ridiculous or less probable, etc), he HAS the burden of proof already. I can't foist on him what is already his. This got him all upset, and he insisted that I have the burden of proof- NOT HIM- because I am asserting the more ridiculous position. Of course, I explained that this was a statement of HIS position, not mine, and I asked him why he feels my position to be the more ridiculous. Once again he whined about the burden of proof and refused to answer. After a few rounds of this, he started threatening to end the conversation, so I did it for him. Twitter has a magical button called MUTE which makes the whining go away.

I wish I had that in real life.

So I guess the take away from all of this is for the Christian Church. OWN that burden of proof you guys! When you say JESUS IS LORD, then be able to explain what you mean, and answer questions, and defend the bible! (*Keep in mind that they already KNOW God is there, but many just REALLY don't want to hear it.*) Don't cower into sad, 6th grade debate tactics like these guys do, and don't let them get away with it! If they say faith in God is ridiculous, demand they explain WHY! But ALSO be prepared to explain why it is REASONABLE. HAVE the answers, and share them! With love and kindness of course. If someone asks you a question you can't answer, say, GOOD QUESTION! I'll get back to you on that! And if they're a real jerk and spend all 180 of their characters on calling you names, but hit that MUTE button and enjoy the silence. Or better yet, get off of Twitter and go outside. But if you go for a drive, mind the speed limit. The cops are there, whether you can see them or not.

PS: This website says the first men on the moon got there on their 4th day of travel but REALLY early into it, so you could say, just over three days. Eh. I was close.

<http://www.universetoday.com/13562/how-long-does-it-take-to-get-to-the-moon/>

Actually, Atheists DO have the Burden of Proof

Atheists all of the time be telling me that THEY don't have to think, reason, or answer questions. They insist that they can just blurt out random statements and never have to have a reason for the things they say. But of course, due to the limitations of social media like Twitter, they usually abbreviate it down to something like, "I do not have the burden of proof!" But I know what they are trying to say.

However, my atheist friends DO have the burden of proof.

THEY are the one making the ridiculous claims.

They are claiming the universe made itself, life made itself, information can write itself with no author, and that the laws of physics and chemistry which cause an increase in ENTROPY actually cause an increase in COMPLEXITY and INFORMATION. That's beyond absurd, so they have the burden of proof. They have to argue against ALL of established scientific laws.

That's a big burden of proof.

They are claiming to be a self, one unified, self aware mind, capable of logic and reason and discerning between good and evil- yet none of those things CAN be true if atheism were true, so they are making a ridiculous claim and they have the burden of proof. They have to argue against ALL known laws of logic.

That's a big burden of proof.

And I am asserting that they already know that God exists. They have already acknowledged much of a Biblical worldview and rejected much of an atheistic worldview. Which means, they have to argue against their own religious professions of faith.

That's a big burden of proof.

Or they can stop trying to defend the impossible, stop trying to avoid thinking about their own worldview, and just ask more good questions. I sincerely believe that they are not stupid enough to be an atheist. They need to believe that too.

Be ready to help them if they have questions. And remember #JesusLovesYou and #JesusLovesThemToo.

The Religion of Atheism

The Atheism Orthodoxy CHALLENGE!

I was having a rousing discussion on Twitter with the People's Atheist (*Because I always have worthwhile conversations with people who include the word "Atheist" in their pseudonym*) and a great question came up which I would like you to consider:

What is Atheism Orthodoxy?

I am not asking what "Atheists" believe (*for I'm sure they believe all sorts of things*), but rather **"What are the tenants of a consistent Atheism?"**

That is, if an atheist is consistent- and not a hypocrite or stealing pieces of Christianity as they suit him- what is the list of Atheist faith statements which **MUST LOGICALLY** follow from the starting point of denying the existence of God?

As I told the People's Atheist: IF you declare positively, "There is no God," then certain other beliefs logically **MUST** follow. While self-professing atheists may not hold to them, there are certain doctrines of Atheism which are part of that worldview, whether they hold them or not, whether they like them or not, just as there are doctrines of Biblical Christianity which some self-professing Christians may not hold or even be aware of. I'm sure this is true in any group. Just as one American example, Baseball was invented in 1845 and people are still arguing about the rules.

So, my request to the good people of the internet was;

Can you please help me make the list of Atheism Orthodoxy. What must any Atheist believe to not be self-defeating, hypocritical, or inconsistent?

And have fun with it!

I didn't back so many helpful definitions as I did suggestions that I try playing in traffic. Having proposed the challenge, I have decided it only fair to toss my hat into the ring. This seems a silly formality, but then traditions are cherished even when they're weird. Just look at what any royalty or head of a religious organization is forced to wear and you'll see that tossing a hat into a ring isn't all that bad. At least it's not a powdered wig.

The 15 CORE Tenets of Orthodox Atheism!

It doesn't take a deep search into social media to find a person who self identifies as an Atheist, but what IS an atheist? And what are the core tenets of the atheistic religion? Let's look at the 15 core tenets of Orthodox Atheism!

First, let's define a few terms.

Atheist: [from the latin for "No god/s."] Very simply, an atheist is an individual person who chooses to affirm the statement "There are no gods" as true.

This needs to be distinguished from **Agnostic**, which comes from the latin for "No knowledge." This doesn't mean they are *completely* ignorant, but their position is, "**I do not have the information it takes to take a position.**" (Also known as, "I don't know," or in Mythbusters terms, "Plausible.")

Agnosticism is an admission of ignorance, not actually a position. Atheism begins with the assertion of the truth claim that "There are no gods."

The following list is the series of beliefs which a consistent Atheist must hold. Of course they can choose to reject any of them, but that makes them a heretic I suppose. Or maybe just a hypocrite, but we can discuss that some other time. The point is that these tenets logically flow from each other.

We begin with the very Creed which defines the Atheist religion:

1. There is no God, gods, etc.

2. **There is no supernatural** (Spirits, afterlife, etc.) No argument could be made AGAINST God/gods which would still allow for the Supernatural.

3. Thus, **materialism**

ALL that exists is the physical universe of time, space, matter and energy.

4. Thus, **no miracles or magic**

There is no one/nothing to CAUSE a miracle in a material universe. "Magic" is either merely natural science we don't understand or it is a miracle.

5. Thus, **Determinism**

ALL things and events are determined and controlled by the laws of physics and chemistry and all that follows from them.

5B. *Thus, everything since the beginning of time has been pre-determined by those natural laws. Everything has always been and must always be as it is because of those initial conditions and COULD NOT have been different.*

6. **There is no basis for any objective non-physical value.**

Everything is merely the dance of atoms obeying the laws of physics and chemistry. There are inches and light years, Joules and foot pounds, but no values which are not physical quantities.

Matter and energy doing what it must do according to physical laws cannot be “right” or “wrong”, or more or less “important” in any real, objective sense.

7. Thus NO free-will

For a FREE choice cannot be a CAUSED choice, but the will of man is merely the result of his brain, which is matter, which is controlled and determined by the natural laws. There are no choices in our brains anymore than there are choices in a row of falling dominos or in the cogs of a machine. 7B. While some may appeal to Quantum uncertainty to allow for free will, this is a false hope for the uncertainty is merely our ignorance of all the causal determiners at the quantum level, not ACTUAL randomness. And even if it were, it is not our minds that CHOOSE the random outcome of the quantum uncertainty on a macro level, but our will would be a result of that uncertainty. Once again, our choices would be CAUSED even if not predictable.

8. Thus, there can be NO Objective right and wrong.

If we cannot choose to think, feel, or do, then we cannot choose to do other than we DO. Our thoughts and actions are determined by chemistry and physics just as the shape of a rock is. 8B. Also, with no transcendent moral law GIVER (God), there can be no objective moral law by which to distinguish between right and wrong, even if we COULD choose.

9. There is no justification for condemning any action as wrong or celebrating any as right.

Since there is no basis for non-physical values, and no free will, then there can be no “good” or “right” actions or any “Wrong” or “Evil” ones.

For example: Murder is merely the interruption of the various chemical processes which we categorize as “Life.” The victim’s desire to live is not based on a free choice (the choice to continue living) but is predetermined by natural law just as his hair color or height were. The same can be said for any act of justice, mercy, charity, love, kindness, etc. Those words are all essentially meaningless and reflect only the present emotional state of the speaker and not some fact about the real universe.

9B. Thus, there is no justification for civil law. We can no more blame a murderer for killing than we can blame a magnet for hanging on the refrigerator door. Punishing crime is like punishing leaves for being the wrong color.

10. Life has no particular value

It is merely a chemical state, such as the burning of a campfire. Killing and pouring water on a camp fire are materially equal in the fact that they stop a chemical process from continuing. That “Life” is a more complex series of chemical processes does not give it some kind of transcendent value. Also (No. 6) there are no non-physical values.

10B. Emotional appeals to morality are equally empty as emotions are merely a chemical state of the brain. The suffering of a victim or his loved ones is merely another chemical state which our brains are wired to dislike, just as thirst is a chemical state our bodies are wired to dislike. Even the dislike of pain and suffering or the dislike of grieving the death of another person are chemical brain states which are determined by our DNA and do not reflect some immaterial value. Love and compassion are also merely determined brain states.

11. The SELF is an illusion.

Through a lifetime, a human’s cells are constantly replaced so that the ENTIRE Collection of cells may be replaced several times over his lifetime. Since a human is merely matter, then the man who dies is not the same man (collection and arrangement of matter) who was born, nor the same he was as a child, or a teen, or a middle aged man. He is not even a series of identical copies. Thus, “he” is a series of DIFFERENT collections of atoms spread out over time and what is called the “self” exists only for a moment.

12. The perception of a unified self is false

The brain is composed of many parts which work dependently and independently. The part which

says of itself, "I" is no more the one brain state than a certain program which is running on a computer's screen is the whole computer or all of its programs.

13. **There is no basis for reason or logical thought.**

If the brain is matter, determined by natural laws, then it cannot CHOOSE to accept as true or reject as false any information which it processes. Something "Known" or "Believed" is merely a particular chemical brain state, predetermined by the laws of nature. Intellectual or emotional reaction to a fact or sensory input of any kind (including perceived sights and sounds) is likewise predetermined by those natural laws, and not by choosing to utilise methods of logic to discover truth as choice itself is an illusion.

13B. *Evolution can only create brains which are programed to result in the survival of the individual, not the determining truth from falsity. Natural Selection can only act on survivability, and this does not require the ability to be logical or rational, only that the formed beliefs and chosen actions result in survival.*

13C. *Furthermore, since the history of mankind is one of uninterrupted religion and belief in the spiritual and supernatural, we know that Evolution did not select for brains which are driven entirely by the apprehension of truth, but rather evolution created brains which believe false premises and fail to process data logically and reasonably so as to come to true conclusions. Because the history of humans is one of consistent belief in religions and superstitions, we know the human brain cannot be trusted to merely discover truth, but can be trusted to embrace falsehoods. Even the logic or reason which is used to reject religions and the supernatural is done with those brains, which means the result of such arguments cannot be trusted to be reasonable or true.*

14. **We cannot KNOW anything.**

We can merely have particular arrangements of brain states which we call "Knowledge" or "Beliefs" of certain propositions.

15. **Atheists don't exist.**

Humans are merely a constantly changing collection of matter (Same as any object in the universe), their unified self is an illusion, and they cannot choose to believe atheism or reject theism. One is an atheist, not because he has discovered it is true, or even because he has CHOSEN to believe it, but because the natural laws have caused his brain to be arranged in the manner which we call "Atheism," just as his DNA have determined his hair color and height. Because the self is an illusion, free will is an illusion, and personhood is an illusion, and also since a belief or knowledge is merely a predetermined chemical brain state which is not the result of logical thought (Which the human brain cannot arguably be capable of doing), and since we began by defining Atheist as ***an individual person who chooses to affirm the statement "There are no gods" as true***, then we must conclude now that Atheists don't exist.

So, it seems that I have just reasoned my way to the preposition, **"If Atheism is true, Atheists do not exist."**

Very sincerely I did not actually expect this when I started. I've not been arguing TO this conclusion, I've just been following the logic where it led. And I've wound up here, proving that, **if Atheism is true, Atheists do not exist.**

I can live with that. I never believed in them anyway.

When you define atheist to mean "atheist" (instead of defining it to mean "agnostic" as the kids are want to do online these days) then I think you ought to understand why I don't believe that Atheists exist. Ironically, if they did exist, they should agree with me that they do not exist.

I think that fact alone says a lot.



10 (non)Commandments of Atheism #1 and 2- A Mind as Open as a Gulag

Just when I had begun to think, “*Maybe I’m being too hard on the Atheists** out there. Maybe they aren’t insane people who give no thought to what they profess,*” CNN gathers the data it takes to remind me that, if anything, I need to be more cynical. Thanks a lot CNN.

You jerks...

It was in fact Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis who shared this, via this blog post:

<http://blogs.answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2014/12/26/10-atheist-non-commandments/>

The list of 10 (non) commandments for Atheists was compiled from 2,800 submissions from 18 different countries. What would be really interesting is to see how many submissions there would have been if they had to pass a breathalyzer or the 8th grade to send them in. But I digress.

The point is, we get to see what the human race would come up with to replace God’s revelation of rules for better homes and gardens if given the chance, and the result is a reminder that people are made in the image of God with His word written on their hearts, and that many of them do not stop to think about anything, at all, ever.

Ken Ham goes through each one and compares it with the Bible’s teaching on similar topics, because he’s a lot more mature than I am. I suggest you take a look at what he has to say.

Me? I’m going to make fun of these people and their collectively submitted butts. Prepare once again to witness the tragic failure of Orthodox Atheism, and I suspect the unfortunate collision of failing public schools mixed with illegal drugs. **Public School: Our motto is, “Reading scores get low while the kids get high, or your money back!”**

While CNN does not report on this, I suspect it was handed down to a hungover Jack Black on a mountain of dirty laundry, having been carved into a plaque of dried E-Z cheese by chance random processes over millions of years. Let us begin to explore now,

The 10 (non) commandments of Atheism.

#1. Be open-minded and be willing to alter your beliefs with new evidence.

This is great advice, and interestingly is exactly why I became a young earth Creationist. Ironically, it’s advice which conflicts with atheism. When bitter, Bible and Christian-hating atheists like Josh McDowell, Lee Stroble, or CS Lewis actually took this advice, they became Christians.

CURSE YOU EVIDENCE AND REASON!!! CURSE YOOUUUUU!!!!!!!

Fooy! I thought atheists were atheists because they were people of REASON who followed the evidence wherever it went and rejected Christianity because of the lack of evidence for it. Isn’t that what they claim on their blog posts and bumper stickers? Now it seems that an open minded look at evidence leads to FAITH IN GOD?!?!? What is to become of the New Atheism?

But wait! There’s a way that your atheism can be protected from evidence or arguments: The Inner Witness of Atheism. You will think I am making this up, but I am not. Here’s just one of MANY examples I could give of an atheist declaring just this:

“Sometimes I am tempted to “backslide” from atheism and I recall the inspiration and comfort I used to get from religion. But then, when I really think about it, I have an overwhelming and undeniable sense

of disgust and revulsion when I think about being a Christian again...whatever I believe, I can't believe that. Christian dogmas just seem to be fantasies, no matter how many apologies for them I hear."

-Dr. Keith Parsons- *1. [*Editor's note- by 'apologies' he means evidence and arguments, not Christians saying they are sorry*]

That's right kids. When your faith in atheism is shaken by evidence and reason, hold fast to your yucky feelings against it! Because, I guess that leaves your mind open. Open like a Russian Gulag.

What's that? You want more, right from the atheist horse's mouth? Oh, ok. One more. This one is about the open-mindedness of atheists in the fields of science:

"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."

-Professor Richard Lewontin-*2

No doubt I could do this all day, but you get the idea. For now, considering these open-minded admissions of the Atheists, let us consider their second (non) commandment:

#2. Strive to understand what is most likely to be true, not to believe what you wish to be true.

I don't make this stuff up you know. And when you don't believe me, it hurts my feelings.

The Atheists on the internet will refer to themselves as "reasonable" and will make comments like #2 here to implicate Christians as being "wishful thinkers." But sometimes, probably by accident, they admit things like this:

"I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God..."

-Thomas Nagel-*3

And then these open minded Atheists become college professors and poison whole generations against thinking. The atheists of course mean to imply with these two (non) commandments that Christians are the close minded wishful thinkers, but even without the gems dredged up by quote mining, you can see their EPIC FAILURE by seeing the discussion between Christians and Atheists on every part of the blogosphere or in various types of print.

The Atheist says, "***WHAT EVIDENCE AND REASON do you have for believing the Bible is true and God is real?***"

And the Christians come up with the brilliant apologetic works of GK Chesterton, CS Lewis, Peter Kreeft, (Just to name some from the most recent century) as well as decades of work from organizations like Reasonable Faith, Answers in Genesis, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, Cold Case Christianity, Cross Examined, Tekton Ministries, and dozens more on TV, Radio, Internet, and print, covering science, history, philosophy, and many other related fields.

Then the Christians say, “**WHAT EVIDENCE AND REASON do you have for Atheism?**”

And the Atheists say, “Stop trying to force the burden of proof on me! I don’t have to prove anything!”

Which to me sums it all up fairly well.

We’ve only just begun the wacky walk down the Atheist top 10 (non) commandments. In the next chapter we will see them REALLY wishing they were Jewish or Christian. It would be sad if it weren’t already so darn funny.

*1. Read more: 1. <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/answering-critics-of-the-inner-witness-of-the-spirit>

*2. <http://creation.com/amazing-admission-lewontin-quote>

*3. <http://creation.com/thomas-nagel-i-hope-there-is-no-god>

**Atheism is the belief that there is no god. According to the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*:

“Atheism is the position that affirms the non-existence of God. It proposes positive disbelief rather than mere suspension of belief.”¹

I am not in any way making fun of honest thinkers who feel they have not been shown sufficient evidence-people who would rightly be called “Agnostics” or, as the Mythbusters would say, “Plausable.”



10 (non)Commandments of Atheism #3 and 4- Ghosts in the Machine

Once again we are looking at the 10 (non) commandments of Atheism as compiled from the helpful suggestions of nearly 3,000 atheists from more than a dozen countries. There are no Atheist organizations working in the name of atheism for peace or an end to poverty, but when it comes to supplanting the word of God via the internet, those guys come crawling out of the woodwork like roaches. I picture them like tiny, angry roaches dressed like clowns. The following should help you to see why.

The 10 (non) commandments of Atheism

3. The scientific method is the most reliable way of understanding the natural world.

Since I am a young earth Creationist who takes the Bible seriously, I think I can speak for the many other like-minded Christians around the world about this particular statement when I say, “Yeah. Duh.”

Every time I say things like this, there are a hundred clown roaches throwing full wine bottles at their computer screens screaming, ***“HE CAN’T DO THAT! He’s supposed to reject science and just believe the voo-doo in the Bible!”*** But this only goes to show the lack of attention these little guys give to details- details like what particular words are used to make up a particular sentence. Or what the Bible says. Or what science is.

The list is long.

First, and most importantly, let’s note that the above says, “The Natural World.” This is the world of matter, energy, time, and space. If you know anything about the history of Western Culture, you know it was Bible believing Christians like Pascal, Newton, and Pasteur who invented the sciences to do just this. Some have likened the natural world to a machine, and science to the study of that machine and its parts. I’m good with this. I don’t know of any Christian or Creationist who isn’t. In fact, if you combine that with the above tidbit about the history of science, then #2 here is nearly 3,000 atheists basically saying, “Those Christians are completely right about this!”

You know guys, you’re only damaging your own screens and wasting wine when you do that. Now, stop it.

The leap of stupid which many will try to make off of this starting point is this:

“Because the material universe is like a machine which can be studied for it’s parts and their function, it had no designer, and there is no supernatural/immaterial anything.”

If you can’t see why this is stupid, then just replace the material universe with any actual machine.

“Because we can study the Model T Ford to learn about its parts and their functions, there was almost certainly no Henry Ford.”

If you still can’t see why this is stupid, then just go back to throwing full wine bottles at your computer screen and try not to worry about it.

Christians do not think the Bible is a better way to understand the material world around us than science. We think the Bible is the foundation for building the sciences, such as chemistry, physics, astronomy and geology- which is why Bible Believing Christians built those sciences. We believe that the Bible can answer questions which science alone cannot. For instance, science can discover the physical laws which govern the universe, but the Bible tells us the identity of the law giver who wrote those laws. Science tells us the universe cannot be infinite in age, but the Bible tells us when and why the universe came into being. The Bible tells us that an infinitely powerful God, Himself eternal and uncreated, brought the universe into being, complete with the many organized laws which govern it, all of which are necessary for our existence. Atheism says, “First there

was nothing, and then it exploded, and by HAPPY CHANCE it exploded into this organized universe which is so AMAZINGLY FINE TUNED for our existence that it sure looks like SOMEONE has been monkeying with the physics*, but we have faith that no one has. Just Dumb Lucky!” And then they claim to be the faith of “Reason.”

Maybe I’ve been hasty in assuming those wine bottles are still full...

The 10 (non) commandments of Atheism

4. Every person has the right to control of their body.

Here is where our wine saturated roach clown friends are wishing REALLY HARD that they were Christians or Jews.

Just a few problems.

First, why? On what grounds do that suggest that everyone has this right? This is the sort of thing liberal politicians love to throw out in a vacuum as if this is self-evident. What do they mean by “right”? This “Right” is certainly not a description of the material universe as discovered through science. What kind of control? And by what right do we claim ownership of our bodies? Merely by possession of them? We used to hold these truths as self evident- that all men were CREATED equal. But, if we’re just brute matter organized by accident into organic machines, what sense does ANY of this make?

Also, does this give me the understood right to control my body so that it steals, rapes, and kills? Surely when people commit crimes against each other, they were in control of their own bodies at the time. Does this mean the atheists are all in support of the crimes you KNOWINGLY commit, and are only in objection to the ones you commit when some alien will is controlling you, such as on ANY science fiction TV show made since 1950? This seems to open more questions than it answers.

The obvious applications they wish to make are in terms of sexuality and abortion. The hypocrisy always comes in when they add amendments such as “**Consensual** sex” or abortion “On Demand.”

Why does the sex have to be consensual? Or even with another member of the same species? Does this right to control his own body give a man the freedom to rape pandas? A man who raped a panda would probably not argue “I was not in control of my body at the time!” though he may try to blame alcohol. What, on Atheism, would support the demand that all our acts be consensual? The clown roaches rarely ever even *try* to answer this question, let alone do they with any coherence. Sometimes they flat out admit that there is no atheistic reason NOT to rape or kill.

Honesty isn’t always comforting.

I won’t even address the obvious hypocrisy of abortion on demand being ONLY the demand of the mother. The problem with trying to use this (non) commandment to defend abortion is the fact that it is impossible to defend the idea that an unborn child is PART of the mother’s body. I know this has been a part of the “Pro-Choice/Infanticide” camp propaganda for 30 years, but seriously, ask yourself, *WHAT part of the mother is a fetus?* Is it part of her skeletal system? Her muscular system? No, on all accounts. Does it have the same DNA as the rest of her cells? No it does not. Her own immune system recognizes the fetus as a foreign body and NOT a part of her own. It doesn’t take better than a 5th grade human anatomy education to see that a baby is NOT part of the mother’s body any more than the bus full of Japanese commuters is PART of Godzilla while he’s in the act of swallowing the bus they are on. Imagine the scene:

Young Hayato just watched his family be eaten by Godzilla as the bus they were on is consumed. He runs to Shinzō Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan:

Hayato: Prime Minister! You must destroy Godzilla! He has murdered by family!

Abe: Murdered, did you say?

Hayato: Yes! He devoured the bus they were on!

Abe: Was he in control of his body at the time?

Hayato: I would assume so. After all, it is his right.

Abe: And right now the passengers on the bus are all inside of Godzilla, and are being digested?

Hayato: Yes! Godzilla has murdered them!

Abe: But surely that it not so. They are all inside of him, and thus they are part of his body. We cannot destroy Godzilla for digesting parts of his own body any more than we can arrest you for eating your own boogers.

Hayato: Godzilla has murdered my entire family! He must be destroyed!

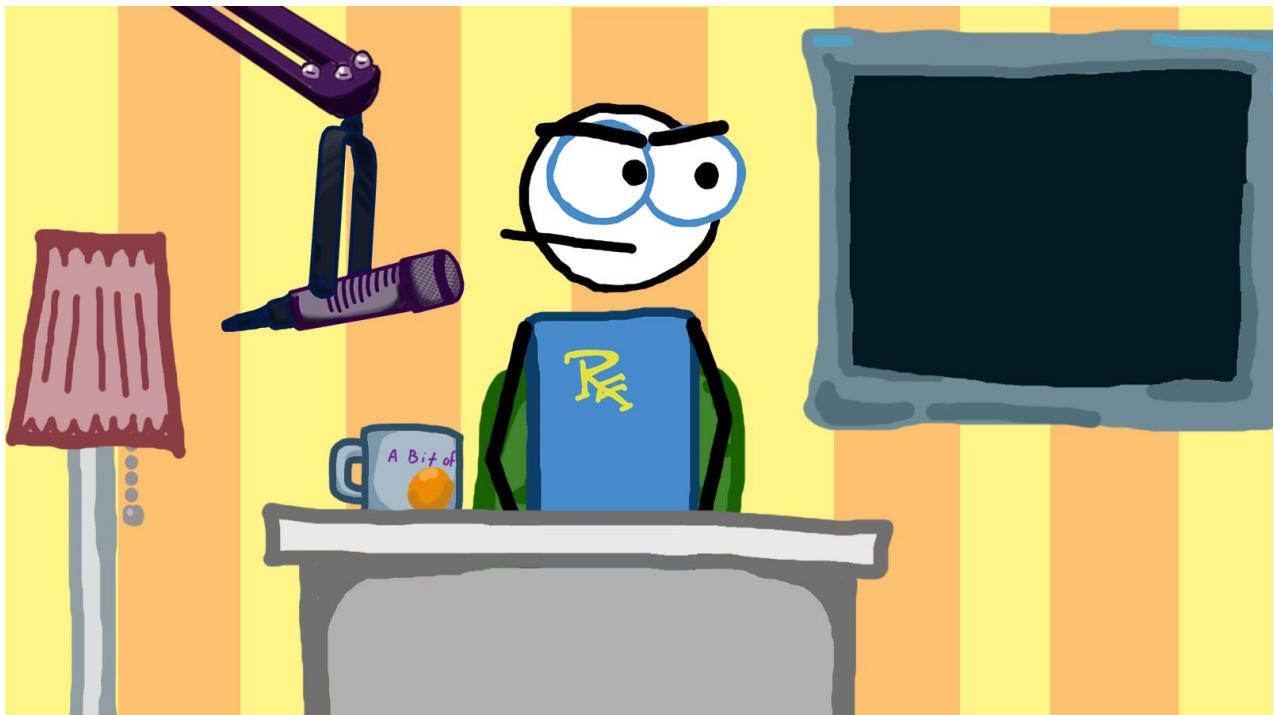
Abe: Do not be such a close minded bigot. He has merely exercised his right to choose. He has chosen digestion, and as I have already said, the things inside him must obviously be part of his own body by the fact that they are inside him.

Hayato: Being inside of a larger body does not, by that fact, make anything or anyone part of that larger body. To be part of the larger body they must be made of the same substance. None of my family share DNA with Godzilla, and even the comparison of a single cell from each would show that they are not one and the same. We have learned all of this and more in my 5th grade human anatomy class!

Abe: I can surely praise our fine public school systems for their efficiency, but you have obviously been brainwashed by Rush Limbaugh, the American dictator of the Republicans. Be gone Child!

And CNN will have a pole asking their viewers if Hayato is a close minded bigot, or if he should be burned at the stake.

We're nearly half way through the 10 (non) commandments. Fill up those \$3 wine bottles, slap some duck tape onto your computer screens, and join me in the next chapter for more.



10 (non)Commandments of Atheism #5 – 8: No Foundation for Fish Tacos

We're continuing our tour through the epic failure which occurred when nearly 3,000 atheists from more than a dozen countries tried to replace the ten commandments with their own very helpful suggestions. In a lot of ways, it's what I imagine would happen if a group of alcoholics tried to write up a list of reasons they believe that words do not exist. But not as funny.

Today we start with (non)Commandments of Atheism #5:

5. God is not necessary to be a good person or to live a full and meaningful life.

If I may digress for just a moment- this isn't even a (non) commandment. It's like a (non) proverb. This isn't even a helpful suggestion. It's merely an Atheistic attitude.

I've heard a thousand variations on this statement, and they always fail for the same reason. The argument fails to understand the moral argument. In short, Christians do not argue that a person who does not believe in God cannot do good things. We are saying that, in a universe where God does not exist, there is no GOOD or BAD just as in a universe with no light there is no red or blue, or in a universe with no food there is no fish taco with guacamole and a side of Spanish rice and refried beans.

Very simply, without God revealing His nature and will to us, the terms "Good" or "Meaningful" become meaningless, which makes them no good to anyone. Of course, we can simply choose our own definitions of "good" and "meaningful" to use when evaluating our own lives, but then there is no way to truly distinguish a "better" between the cannibal, the Nazi, the boyscout, or the Buddhist monk. Even if we just define 'good' for ourselves personally, there's no way to evaluate whether we are truly becoming more 'good' by loving our neighbor or eating him. On atheism, there IS no objective morality, and thus no good or evil, or any objective law on which to distinguish between the two. There is also no purpose or meaning, and thus to ask if a life is meaningful is a meaningless question, just as it is to ask what the number five smells like. If the serial rapist/murderer/cannibal feels like he has lived a meaningful life, and has done good by his deeds, Atheism offers NOTHING in rebuttal. At best they can say, "I define *good and meaningful* differently."

If you needed a reason never to vote for an Atheist, I think this is it.

(non)Commandments of Atheism #6:

6. Be mindful of the consequences of all your actions and recognize that you must take responsibility for them.

In all seriousness, on Atheism this is just stupid. At best I can assume they mean, "If you kill someone, it's YOUR job to hide the body. Don't expect anyone to do it for you."

(Non) Commandment #4 gives us the right to control our own bodies- to do what we like. #5 just freed us from anyone else's definitions of Good or Meaningful. Now #6 expects us to take responsibility for what we choose to do?

Forget that. I'm passing the buck. I'm shifting the blame. I'm leaving the mess for others to clean up. I'm going to blame my mother, the government, and Santa Clause. And if all else fails, I'll blame the God I don't believe in for the world he made. Then I'll put on my big wig and squeaky shoes and hide in the dark with my bottle of cheap wine, waiting for a Christian to throw it at.

The biggest problem for the atheist here is that this is part of a Biblical worldview and part of the Gospel. Our sins are OUR debts. We incur a debt when we do wrong- I am responsible for the consequences of MY actions

and I ALONE am responsible for them. I cannot pass blame to anyone for the sins I commit. This is true, and Biblical, and is exactly the reason we need a savior- because we owe a debt we cannot pay (And Jesus, with his death on the cross paid a debt he did not owe- ours.). Once again, the atheists accidentally discover the truth, but the truth only works in the context of the Bible they have rejected.

That must be frustrating.

(non)Commandments of Atheism #7:

7. Treat others as you would want them to treat you, and can reasonably expect them to want to be treated. Think about their perspective.

Ok, seriously? Now they're quoting Jesus? 3,000 atheists are going to suggest the Golden Rule? This is what I meant when I said they REALLY wanted to be Christians or Jews. Naturally, if Jesus is the living God, then when he tells us this, his word is Law. But on Atheism, why should anyone do this unless it benefited them directly? Would someone like to show me how this concept coincides with Natural Selection? Because to me, this is a HUGE backwards step for evolution. You want to evolve? Kill the weak. This biblical ethic under the pretense of being an atheistic guideline doesn't even make sense on Atheism. What would Uncle Charles "Chuck D" Darwin say? What would Nietzsche say? What would Hitler say? What would Hillary Clinton say?!?!?

(non)Commandments of Atheism #8:

8. We have the responsibility to consider others, including future generations.

I think I can dismantle this with a three letter word: "**Why?**"

Once again, the Bible teaches this in many places, such as Philippians 2:3, and the eight verses which tell us to love our neighbors, but if you can argue from the accidental explosion which created the universe, the amazingly improbable arrival of life, and the unguided, bloody struggle of evolution which created us that we have a RESPONSIBILITY to consider others, including others that DON'T YET EXIST, then I would like to hear that. If you are reasonably awake, I think you already know that this is an empty proposition which, again, would make Uncle Chuck Darwin very sad. And Nietzsche would just slap the taste out of your mouth and declare you to be BENEATH the superman. Hitler would put a bullet in your head, and then pretend he did it for future generations. And according to the 10 (Non) commandments of atheism which he has on his office wall, he has done what is right (According to how he chooses to define "Meaningful" and "good.").

What we've learned from some of these (non)commandments, is that even the atheist knows right from wrong. They know that we should love our neighbors and take responsibility for our own sins. What they fail to recognize is that these truths only make sense in a Biblical worldview. You CANNOT build these truths on the foundation of atheism, any more than you can build a fish taco with guacamole in a world with no food.

In the next chapter we'll wrap this up and get on with our lives.

10 (non)Commandments of Atheism #9 and 10- Prohibited and Yet Mandatory

Today we conclude a look at the 10 (non) commandments offered as an alternative to the ten (actual) commandments. This list is compiled from nearly 3,000 submissions from atheists from more than a dozen countries.

In keeping with the mindless emotional drivel which has come before, the remaining two (non) commands are not only entirely baseless and indefensible on atheism, but are actually contradictory:

#9. There is no one right way to live.

#10. Leave the world a better place than you found it.

Number 9 almost works on their world view, as long as you acknowledge that there isn't even ONE right way to live, let alone more than one. There is no right or wrong of any kind on atheism, so this becomes a meaningless statement. It's like saying, "In a world where light does not exist, you can wear any color you want after labor day." Or, "In a world with no liquids, there is no one drink of choice." Whoo hoo. Can you feel that exhilarating feeling of freedom? Me neither!

Oh, and by "There is no one right way to live," we meant, "The **only** right way to live is where you leave the world a better place than you found it." I think we've passed hypocrisy and have plowed, full speed, into stupid. While it is hard to remember this while watching the Indiana Jones movies, The Nazis REALLY BELIEVED that they were going to make the world a better place.

Number ten is an actual COMMAND, or would be if they could qualify "Better." Ironically this failure is their escape hatch. On Atheism, there is no *good*, and so there can be no *better*. For an atheist to ask if the world is a better place is like two bus station drunks having the following conversation:

Drunk 1: "Are we closer, or further away?"

Drunk 2: "From what?"

Drunk 1: "It doesn't matter."

Drunk2: "Oh. In that case, no."

This sums up the entire exercise. Without God, there is no meaning and purpose to our existence. Without meaning and purpose, we can't fail to reach out goal, and we can't fulfill our purpose, because none exists. No one is of adequate authority to give commands. So why did these guys all make their own top ten list? Because they all KNOW the truth they refuse to acknowledge.

Romans 1:20 (ESV) tells us this:

"For [God's] invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they [unbelievers] are without excuse."

Everyone KNOWS that God is there. Some just don't like it. Everyone KNOWS there is a moral law, given to us by God. Many just don't like being held accountable. But even these atheist give the game away when they try to replace the word of God with their own wills. They still insist we be selfless, and not selfish. They still insist we take responsibility for our actions, and even consider how our actions will affect future generations whom we may never meet.

They are like a group of children arguing about which color of flower is the best, all the while pretending that there is no light, because they do not like the sun. But without the sun, there would be no light, and thus, no colors. You can claim it's possible to have a favorite color without the sun, but when you admit to color, you are admitting to the sun as well.

Even on the ten (non) commandments of Atheists, we have all sinned. None of us ALWAYS works to make the world a better place, or considers others first when we choose to act. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) But where atheism leaves you stained forever by you own sins, and all of the world's religions demand you raise yourself from the dead, the Bible tells us that God did for us what we could not do.

“...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3: 16-17)

Where ever you get your ten commandments, you still need to be forgiven. You still need a savior. God gave us a top ten list to show us that we needed to be forgiven, and then he made the way for us to be saved from our sin. Believe in Jesus, let him take yours sins away, and then acknowledge the true standards of God's moral law. Then you can selflessly love others by really trying to make the world a better place.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Do that today. And remember, Jesus Loves You.

Debunking the Faith of Atheism

Why God is Necessary (Thus making the Atheist's Burden of Proof Unattainable)

In this chapter we are going to discuss atheism, but primarily we are going to talk about the God of the Bible. Previously we decided to give in to the common internet demand that we define "Atheism" to merely mean "a lack of belief in the existence of God", but also acknowledged that the lack of belief is due to one of two reasons:

Reasons WHY one lacks belief in God

1. **They are confident in the absence of God** (*They have intellectually sound and logical reasons to know God does not exist*)
2. **They are NOT confident in the absence of God** (*And at the same time are not confident in the existence of God*)

If it is the first, then the confidence is based on some logical foundation- a rational basis. This "Atheist" would have to have a logical, intellectual reason for having confidence in the absence of God. If an Atheist is this kind of Atheist, then he has the burden of proof. He has said he lacks a belief in the existence of God, and his reason why is a confidence in the absence of God. He must provide, at least to himself, a reason for this confidence if it is to be more than an emotional state, like that of Cubs fans telling themselves, "Just wait till NEXT YEAR!"

But what is the Atheist's burden or proof? CAN an atheist provide, even if just to himself, a logical, intellectual reason for having confidence in the absence of God?

The argument the atheist would be forced to make is a proof that God's existence is IMPOSSIBLE. Not merely unlikely, implausible, or undesirable, but actually impossible.

By definition, God is a NECESSARY being, and thus no atheist can or ever has nor ever will make this argument. The atheist burden of proof is so great as to be literally irrational, and thus the argument required to be this kind of atheist is literally impossible, and so, this kind of atheist does not exist.

God is the first, uncaused cause- the Supernatural creator of the natural- the hand which pushed over the first domino. There is no rational description of any possible world in which God does not exist. God is Necessary, and thus trying to prove He does not exist is like writing a persuasive essay arguing that words do not exist.

Because of feedback I have received from faithful readers, I know I need to clarify this point as well: When we say "By definition, God is a NECESSARY being," we are not saying, "According to the way we decided to define God." We are not saying "As we have decided that Unicorns are, by definition, white with golden horns, and as we have decided that, by definition, hot dogs are not sandwiches, we have decided to define God as "a necessary being."

Let's talk about God and the nature of things.

Anything which can be thought about falls into one of three categories:

1. Necessary- it has to exist. It cannot NOT exist.
2. Contingent- It CAN exist. It does not HAVE to exist. It can come into being and later cease to exist. Logically, it must be caused by something else- either a contingent being or a necessary being.
3. Impossible- It cannot exist. It is kookiedooks.

Almost everything you can think of will be contingent. The reason for this is that you live in the material universe. You, and the universe, and all the parts thereof are all contingent. Everything you have ever seen, touched, heard, smelled, eaten, stepped on, jumped into, poked with a fork, danced on, hung from, crawled under, or washed out of your hair is something contingent. For any of those things, there is an answer to the question, "Where did that come from?"

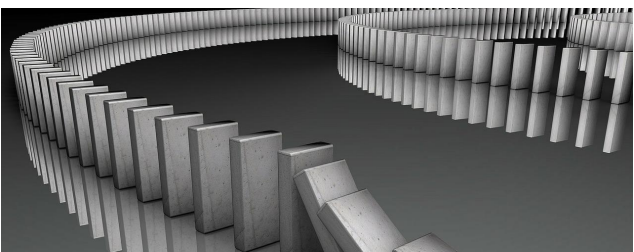
Impossible things are not merely unlikely. For instance, it is VERY unlikely that you could flip a coin heads up a thousand times in a row. You're more likely to get struck by lightning and bitten by a shark at the same time on your birthday than you are to flip a coin heads up a thousand times in a row. Yet, improbable as it is, it is not, in this sense, impossible.

In the metaphysical sense we are talking, impossible means literally that. Examples of impossible things would be a square circle, or a triangle with only two sides, or a polygamous batchelor, or a cardboard box containing a dead cat which is still alive. This is something which is not possible in any world under any conditions. It is a self contradiction.

Examples of necessary things are harder to come by because there are not many that we know of. There is God, who is necessary because contingent things all need a cause, and even those causes need causes, and so there must be a first uncaused cause. Some people will try and argue for an endless chain of causes into the eternal past, but this is impossible. An endless chain would never reach the end. If you had to wait an infinite number of days before today, then today would never come. Also, the laws of physics.

Think of a row of dominos. You're watching them fall and you're looking at one particular domino waiting for it to fall. How long will you have to wait before it falls? This depends on how many dominos are before it. Suppose five dominos fall every second, and you are looking at the 101st domino. It would take about twenty seconds before your domino fell.

What if there was ten thousand dominos before the one you were watching? At this rate, you would have to wait for more than half an hour.



What if there was a BILLION dominos before the one you were watching? You would have to wait more than six years.

What if there were an INFINITE number of dominos before the one you were watching? You would have to wait an infinite number of seconds, which is an infinite number of days, which is an infinite number of years...

That domino will never fall.

The domino is one event in a chain- so whatever event you are considering, even if it's just TODAY, it still would need an infinite number of prior events to happen before IT happened. To reach TODAY, there cannot have been an infinite number of days before it. An Infinite regress is impossible because nothing will ever happen. No matter what you wait for or when it ought to happen, it depends on an infinite number of things happening first, which will take an infinite amount of time. Thus, there must be a first moment of time, and a first uncaused cause. An infinite regress of events and an infinite past is logically impossible.

Why can't God be contingent? Because what would he be contingent ON? What or who would make God? A bigger God? Who made the bigger God? A bigger BIGGER God? Then who made the bigger BIGGER God? A Bigger BIGGER BIGGER GOD?!?! Either you get into an endless chain of causes again (this is called an "infinite regress" and it is impossible) or you need one uncaused cause. In the Bible, God tells us that He is that uncaused cause, and so we have no reason to not define God that way. Logically there MUST BE an uncaused cause of everything, and God claims to be that uncaused cause.

I don't know what else you need.

So why the God of the Bible and not another god? The long answer is too much to get into here, but suffice it to say that other gods are not Necessary. I don't mean merely that I don't need them, but rather that you would not and CANNOT define those other gods as Necessary beings the way you must for the God of the Bible. The one true God revealed in the Bible is necessary, and the others are contingent.

For instance, the god of Mormonism used to be a man born on another planet under a different god, who himself used to be a man born on another planet under a different god... it becomes the bigger Bigger BIGGER god problem we just discussed. Almost every other 'god' described in any other religion has an origin story. All of the gods of Greek and Roman paganism (as featured in Walt Disney's Hercules) had parents, who had parents- as did the gods of Egypt. The God of the Bible is unique in being necessary and eternal, and thus only HE fulfills the logical requirements of explaining the existence of the universe.

What else is Necessary? I know you think I'm going to say bacon or Doughnuts, but those things are not truly necessary. It only FEELS that way. A good argument can be made for numbers. For instance, there is no possible world which doesn't have the number five. I don't mean the word "five" or the symbol "5" but the numerical quantity. I know it's hard to think of fiveness as if it's a thing, like a shoe. But that's because it's not like a shoe.

But once you realize that numbers are real things, you also realize that they can't just exist on their own. Where does FIVE come from? Where does it exist when you aren't thinking about it? Five must be in a mind- and that mind must be necessary and eternal. Which means that, because the number five exists, God must exist. In a sense, five is necessary, and yet still contingent because it cannot exist without God even though it never BEGAN to exist.

This stuff is getting deep, I'm not going to lie. It's not just all sarcasm and rubber ducks in here.

If your head hasn't already burst into flame while trying to keep up with all this philosophy business, you may be asking, "Can God BE an impersonal abstract yet necessary thing like a number?" After all, if God is necessary and FIVE is necessary, then isn't God like the number five?

The answer is no, and the reason is simple. FIVE can't DO anything. Five doesn't cause, create, or change. Five can't make light, bring land out of the waters, create the plants of the land, the beasts of the field, or the ten commandments. Five doesn't DO anything. It waits around for someone else to do something.

So, I guess it's a millennial. [rim-shot]

(How funny you think that joke is will depend directly on how old you are. I'm old enough to think it's funny and it's my book.)

The universe needs an explanation, and the explanation cannot be more contingent things, since the universe is ALL contingent things and that is what we are trying to explain. Imagine everything that ever existed and which exists now. To keep your brain from cramping, let's just imagine a cardboard box labeled, "Everything."

Now look at the box full of everything in the universe and ask, "Where did it all come from?"



To answer that question, let's consider what's in the box. There are a lot of things in the box, but we can make things very simple by dividing everything in the box into four basic parts: Time, Space, Matter, and Energy.

Therefore, we need to ask, "Where did all of the time, space, matter, and energy come from?"

Because nothing can cause itself, we know right away that the answer to this question must be timeless, spaceless, immaterial, and amazingly powerful. Also, because we know we can't have an infinite regress of causes of causes of causes, we know we need

one uncaused cause.

On top of that, the sciences have shown us that everything we've studied- from the cells that make up all life, to the rings around saturn, to the laws of chemistry and physics are all AMAZINGLY designed and fine tuned. Thus, the universe in that box needs a brilliant intelligent designer.

So to explain the universe, we need an uncaused cause which is timeless, spaceless, immaterial, and amazingly powerful, and a brilliant intelligent designer.

If you've read the first page of the Bible, then you already know who this is.

The self-professing atheist who claims to be confident that God does not exist needs to prove that God CANNOT exist- that God is IMPOSSIBLE. Can you see why I said the atheist burden of proof was absurd? To be a rational atheist you literally have to disprove everything that we need to explain the existence of the universe! You literally must argue that the Necessary cause needed to explain EVERYTHING is impossible and CANNOT exist.

This is why many atheists have ended up arguing that the universe doesn't exist. You may think I am making that up, but sadly I am not. Some people are SO DETERMINED to hang on to the idiotic facade of atheism that they are forced to argue that the universe- themselves included- does not exist. I've heard them do it.

There is a fine line between funny and sad, and atheist love to erase that line with the rubber tipped end of a number 2 pencil.

At the start of this chapter, we agreed to define "Atheism" the way the internet has demanded we do, so that it means "A lack of belief in the existence of God." Then we took the next logical step and asked, "WHY do you lack belief in the existence of God?" and we found there are only two possible answers:

Reasons WHY one lacks belief in God

- 1. They are confident in the absence of God**
- 2. They are NOT confident in the absence of God**

The people who fall into the first category cannot exist, because their burden of proof is SO ABSURD, that defending their position literally means arguing that the NECESSARY requirements for the existence of the universe is LITERALLY impossible. And it's not just me who says these people can't exist. If anyone is stubborn enough to pretend to be one of these people, they will also argue that they don't exist.

This leaves us only with group two. These are the atheists who are actually Agnostics, but prefer to use the word "Atheist" because they do not realise that it is a synonym for "Stupid" and because they want to pretend God isn't there, and they want to pretend that they aren't simply too lazy to do the homework it would take to realise that the God of the Bible HAS to exist. If you know one of these people, send them a copy of this book and tell them Jesus Loves them.

The Bible is like the Dictionary

Have you ever written a word by hand, like on a piece of paper, and then stared at it too long? You know the feeling, like, YOU just wrote that word, but now you're looking at it wondering if you have ever seen that combination of letters in that order in your life, and no matter how much you reassure yourself that you spelled it right, you can't shake the feeling that it HAS TO BE wrong.



This is called *semantic satiation* or sometimes *Wordnesia*.

So when your brain is telling you a simple word is wrong- like "spider"

spider spider spider spider spider spider spider spider spider
spider spider spider spider spider spider spider spider spider
spider spider spider spider spider spider spider spider spider
spider

See what I mean? Does it REALLY have an 'i' in it? Didn't it used to be 'spydur'? is SPider even a word?!?!?

You can only argue with your brain for so long, and then you need to consult an outside authority. This is why there is a dictionary.

Back in ancient times, like when the Bible was written, there was no dictionary, and no standardized spelling. You just sounded it out and wrote things how you said them. This is why you can find words spelled different ways in the Bible, including people's names. And then Roach Clowns try to throw that in your face as ERRORS in the Bible. Like, "**OH! The Bible spells Zerubbabel more than one way in the original Greek! I guess Jesus DIDN'T rise from the dead!**"

Except, you know... logic and all.

But now we have an authoritative book wherein we can go to find out how a word is SUPPOSED to be spelled. Webster's Dictionary! It also tells us how words are supposed to be used so we can ALWAYS use them correctly, which, you must admit, is parsimoniously ligneous, even if intermittently wistfully orbiculate.

If there is no dictionary it is pointless to argue about whether a word is spelled correctly. If you have a dictionary it is possible to determine if a word is or is not spelled correctly because there is an **authoritative standard by which to judge.**

When atheists argue about the rightness or wrongness of something, it is like two people arguing about the correct spelling of a word in a world with no dictionary. All they are really saying is, ***"I am the standard by which I judge, and you should also judge by what I think."***

Or, ***"Man is the measure of all things, and I am the man."***

Or, ***"I am putting myself in the place of God."***

But even if you have the dictionary there is no way to argue whether or not the spelling in the dictionary is correct unless there is some standard above and outside of it by which to judge it- a SUPER Dictionary.

This is the relationship the Bible has to morality. God has given us a book by which to determine right and wrong and we have no means by which to judge the book that gives us the standard. That is

there is no standard above the standard.

Atheists try to condemn the Bible by saying it condones slavery. This, of course, is a lie based on a steaming pile of ignorance, but let's go with it for a second. Let's pretend God did say it is perfectly acceptable for one person to own another person.

Based on WHAT standard are you going to condemn it? Because you don't LIKE it? This is like a person insisting the dictionary is WRONG because they don't like the way "parsnips" is spelled.

"It SHOULD be "Par-Snips"! Webster was an IDIOT! I don't need some flawed, ancient book to tell ME how to spell. I can figure these things out for myself!"

Ah, Atheism. Where ignorance is evidence and arrogance trumps everything.

The Bible gives us the absolute standard of right and wrong. If you don't spell your life according to the Bible, it's just wrong. And for those of you who are still going to insist that you can trust your own senses to determine right from wrong, then just tell me this: IS this how you spell **spider?**

Are you a HUMAN or a TOASTER?

Toasters don't make any decisions. I don't know if they *think* they do, but we have learned enough about them in recent years to know that they are merely the product of their chemical makeup and their design. A toaster doesn't warm up a Pop Tart because it chooses to, but because someone has pushed down that little lever on the front. I'm sure on social media they are all, "*I totally TOASTED that Pop Tart! #HeroTalk*" but we all know that they had no choice. It's a toaster. What else COULD it do?

The universe is governed by certain observable laws, like the laws of physics and chemistry. Matter is what it is, and does what it does. Metals conduct electricity because they are metals, not because of their upbringing or lifestyle preferences. Electricity causes metal wires to heat up because of resistance, which is a property of matter, and then the heat radiates off of those wires, because of the properties of heat energy, and the Pop Tart absorbs some of that heat because of the Laws of Thermodynamics, regardless of the Pop Tart's political or religious affiliations.

All of the objects in the universe are made of matter, and all matter obeys these same laws. Matter is what it is and it does what it does. This includes all of the atoms and molecules which make up the human body, and even the human brain. The molecules which make up your brain do not make decisions. They don't choose what they do or why, but merely obey the laws of physics and chemistry.

Molecules in a brain don't even know they're in a brain. For all they know they are in a toaster. So they obey the same physical laws which they would if they were in a toaster, or a can of diet soda, or a rock, or a shoe.

The ultimate issue is this: *Are you a human or are you a toaster?*

If atheism is true, then you are a toaster, or you may as well be. You are made of atoms and molecules which obey the laws of physics, just as a toaster does. If an atheist is right, then he is an atheist for the same reason a toaster heats up a Pop Tart; because he is wired to do so and can do nothing else. But if we have the ability to make decisions, to choose, and really to think in any meaningful way, then the Biblical worldview is right!. We have souls and we have minds which are more than our brains. We are made in the image of God, and can choose to be in right relationship with Him, or to pretend He is not there and live as if we are in fact toasters.

This is one of those little facts which lead me to realise that no one is really dumb enough to be an Atheist. They may erroneously CALL themselves an "atheist" but they're still smart enough to know they aren't a toaster, which is another reason I don't believe in atheists.

The data is universally known- we CAN choose and we do make decisions. We are real selves, and thus, not toasters, but human. And right now, my self wants a Pop Tart, so I am going to choose to go toast one whether my toaster likes it or not.

How to Determine a Speed Limit

We find Rent-A-Friend standing in the middle of a wooded area, next to his rad BMX bike, near a newly discovered path through the woods. With him are Blue Beard (the Post Modern Pirate), Tom (from accounts receivable) and their argumentative friend, Carl, all standing with their own sweet bikes.



RAF2K: This path is awesome! I say we hop on our bikes and see how fast we can go! I'll bet I can reach 100 miles per hour by the time I get to the bottom of that big hill.

Tom: That doesn't sound safe. I think we should agree to only go so fast- say, 30 miles per hour.

RAF2K: I don't think I can do that. Especially on that wicked big hill. Well, I COULD, sure, but I *really* don't want to.

Carl: Tom's right. You'll kill yourself. You can't go that fast. The speed limit on this path is 45 miles per hour.

Blue Beard: There is no speed limit. It's a path in the woods! Probably made by a herd of elk or something. We can go as fast as we want! No restrictions!

Tom: We're gonna die.

Carl: Just because there's no POSTED speed limit doesn't mean there is NO speed limit, Blue Beard. We can determine these things for ourselves with science and reason! And reason tells me that 45 miles per hour is a fast enough speed which will allow us to survive the trip.

Tom: Actually, there is a posted speed limit. Look over there. [he points down the path]

RAF2K: I see it. It says "25 miles per hour, especially on that wicked big hill." Aw, man.

Blue Beard: I don't see anything.

RAF2K: You're looking the wrong way.

Blue Beard: There is no wrong way.

Tom: I guess we have to take it slow on that big hill.

Carl: Not too slow. We can go 45 miles per hour.

Tom: The sign says 25.

Carl: I don't care what the sign says. I don't need to read some ancient sign posted by who knows who to tell me what the speed limit is out here. It's obvious to anyone with a brain that the speed limit is 45 miles per hour.

Blue Beard: I have a brain, and I say there is no speed limit except the one we decide on, and I'm with him [pointing to Rent-A-Friend]. We're going 100 miles per hour. Or more!

RAF2K: Hold on. I think we need to obey the posted speed limit.

Blue Beard: Nice one, Tom. You've turned Rent-A-Friend into a fundamentalist.

RAF2K: It just makes sense that, if there is a governing authority over this path, they have the right to set the speed limit, and we have the responsibility to obey it. They probably have a good reason for choosing the speed they chose.

Blue Beard: We don't need any governing authority. We can set our own speed limits.

Carl: Yeah, and it's 45.

Blue Beard: It's 100 miles per hour you soggy beach bum.

Tom: We don't have the right to set the speed limit. It's already been set!

Carl: By who? Someone I've never seen who left this old sign? Even if that sign was put up by some supposed authority, he's obviously wrong. The speed limit isn't 25, it's 45.

RAF2K: How do you figure that, Carl? It seems to me that there is no speed limit unless it's set by an authority. How can there BE a speed limit if there's no authority to set the limit? And once he does set it, how can he be wrong when it's his declaration which makes it so?

Carl: Like I said, anyone with a brain can figure out that the speed limit is 45 based on the fact that going faster than that would be dangerous.

RAF2K: Nah, I could go a LOT faster than that.

Tom: Maybe, but you'd never survive long enough to hit 100. When you consider the angle of incline, and the stress rating of the critical components on that bike, I think you'd find systemic failure well before you hit 88 miles per hour.

Blue Beard: And he'd wipe out in a blaze of glory! Why do you namby pamby sissy pants feel like you have to set boundaries on us because of what YOU think shouldn't happen? If the man wants to look death in the eye, let him go as fast as he pleases! We'll bury him and his bike at sea!

RAF2K: Thanks. I think...

Tom: I'm just saying there's a good reason for the speed limit. I'm not setting a speed limit. It's already been set. Look at the sign.

Blue Beard: I don't need to see some mythical sign. I'm the master of my own fate and none shall tell me how to live out here- out here where a man is free to do as he pleases!

Tom: Actually, this is a state park. That's why we had to pay five dollars to get in.

Carl: And I'm telling you that the sign is wrong. It's been put up by some ancient kill joy who apparently had no understanding of physics. Even you said his bike could take up to 88 miles per hour.

Tom: His bike, maybe, but most bikes aren't as rugged as his. My bike wasn't even built for this terrain.

RAF2K: Hey guys, here's how I see things. If Blue Beard is right, and there is no governing authority out here who has set an official speed limit, then we are free to do as we please, even if it means getting killed in the process. There is no OUGHT, only the knowledge of what might happen if we make certain choices.

Blue Beard: And we shall face oblivion like men!

Carl: Says the guy on his sister's bike.

Blue Beard: Shut yer face, Carl! It's a man's bike anyhow. I should know. I bought it for her so I could borrow it.

RAF2K: But if Tom's right and the sign was put there by the State, then we have the responsibility to obey it, otherwise we're breaking the law. It's merely ought vs want, depending on if there is an authority who's set the speed limit.

Carl: Hey! When am I right Mr Smarty Pants?

RAF2K: Well, Carl, you're trying to argue for an actual speed limit which we all should obey based on what you think is safe. But that doesn't make any sense. Even if you're right about the safety, it doesn't follow that we all then have some speed limit imposed on us by that fact. All you seem to be doing is helping Blue Beard figure out the speed at which our choices become unsafe, but as he said, that doesn't mean we have to slow down. It just means we can figure out when we're going to wipe out.

Carl: That's insane. When you can use your brains to figure out where danger is, that's reason enough to set limits and boundaries!

RAF2K: And if I want to live dangerously?

Carl: Then you'll get killed!

Blue Beard: No one lives forever!

RAF2K: But that alone doesn't make a shouldn't or should. When the authority over us sets a limit, most likely based on their determination of what would be most safe, then we ought to obey it. Otherwise they have the right to punish us, or in cases like this, we'll wind up hurting ourselves because of our rebellion.

Blue Beard: I choose rebellion!

Tom: And you're also choosing to break every bone in your body on the way down that hill.

RAF2K: Here's how it stands. If Blue Beard is right and there is no authority set speed limit, then we can go as fast as we want. In that case, we would be wise to have Carl and Tom figure out the maximum speed our bikes could take before they fail, and then decide if we want to go under or over that limit. But whatever the consequence, there is no law above our own wants. However, if Tom's right and that sign is set by the State, then we have a responsibility to obey it.

Blue Beard: Here's how I stand- I'm going to race down that hill as fast as I can for my own glory! I believe I will be just fine, because I believe my bike can take ANYTHING!

Carl: Well I happen to know that your bike will never survive the journey, and we'll be dragging your mangled body to a hospital before the day is done, regardless of what you believe.

Tom: I'm going to obey the posted limit. What are you going to do Rent-A-Friend?

RAF2K: I'm going to take a closer look at the sign. I want to make sure I know what it says, and who it was that said it. You guys want to come with?

[This is the choose your own adventure part of the story. It's really you who stands on this path. Will you look into the signs left by the authority over us? Or will you race toward oblivion without stopping to learn the truth? Choose wisely.]



The Moral Argument in a Nutshell (And another reason to avoid Shia LaBeouf)

If God does not exist then there is no transcendent source for a universal moral law. There is time, space, matter, and energy, and blind, pitiless indifference.



Think about a meteor smashing into the surface of the moon.

The moon is damaged. It cannot be repaired. The crater will remain forever. Is that evil? Nah. It's just rocks hitting rocks.



Consider a self driving car driving into another self driving car at 80 miles per hour. They are smashed into tiny pieces. They cannot be repaired. They are gone forever. Is that evil? Nah, that's just a machine colliding with another machine. Expensive, but not evil.

Imagine that your dog eats your favorite shoes.

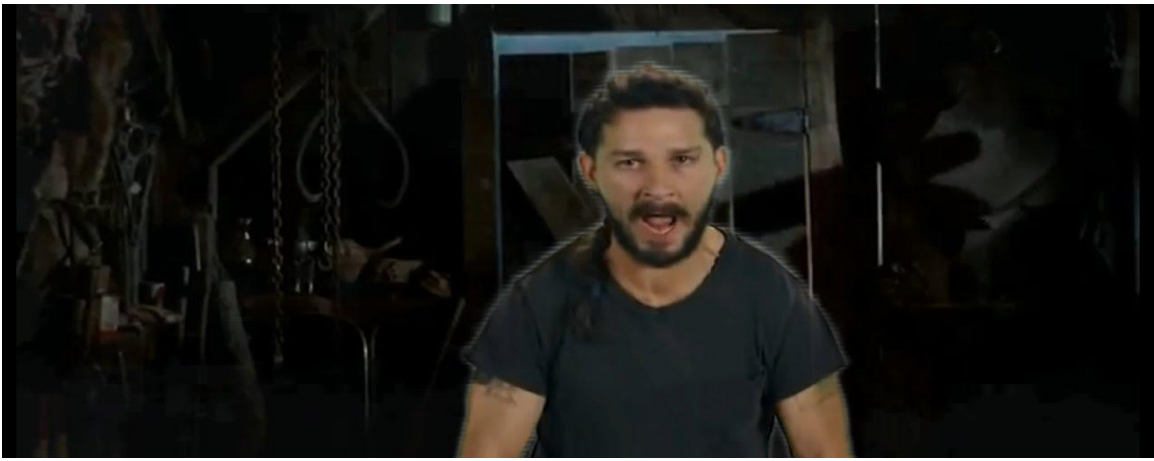


They cannot be repaired. They are gone forever. Is this evil? Nah, he's just a dog. He didn't know they were your favorite.

Imagine that I break your favorite pen on purpose. It cannot be repaired. It is gone forever. Those shoes cost FAR more to replace than this pen. You didn't get mad at your dog, why are you mad at me? The dog chewed up your shoes on purpose.

Why is MY choice to destroy your possessions worse than his?

While you're yelling at me about the pen, Shia LaBeouf kills your mother with an ax. She cannot be repaired. She is gone forever.



You would certainly feel as if one of these acts was more evil than the others (*depending on your relationship with your mother, but let's assume for the sake of argument that your mother was a good mother and you aren't a psychopath*). Clearly, you would say that Shia LaBeouf killing your mother is EVIL when none of the other incidents are EVIL. But based on what? You observe and experience the data that evil has been committed, but

on atheism it cannot be justified.

On atheism, a human is an animal, and animal is a collection of cells, and cells are chemical factories. Matter, all controlled by the laws of physics and chemistry. No different than rock, robo-car, or dog except in structure and ability. You can think different kinds of thoughts than they can, but the dog can smell and hear far better, and the car can calculate different spacial relationships and receive and process traffic data.

**Why, if atheism were true,
would a human be held to a different standard?**

Those self driving cars made decisions which resulted in the irreversible loss of one of their own kind. But we don't consider that an act of evil, so why do we consider it an act of **evil** if Shia LaBeouf kills your mother with an ax? Why is human choice worse than robo-car choice? Why is human death worse than robo-car death? Why is the irreparable damage done to a collection of matter which happens to be human worse than the irreparable damage done to other collections of matter, such that we acknowledge that the destruction of the human object is **EVIL**?

None of our judgement, observations an experience would make sense unless the value of human life was a REAL THING. The Bible tells us that God made us in His image, and so we have value. Every human being is valuable, more than anything we can discover or create. We all know this to be true, and yet, on atheism is makes no sense. This is how the observable data once again shows us that atheism is false, and the facts lead us once again to the Bible.

Oh, also, I'd encourage your mother to steer clear of Shia LaBeouf if I were you. Just in case.

Modern Art Sucks Because Atheism is Stupid

When I was in college learning to be an Art Teacher, we were taught that one of the components of a good art unit, along with art history (Where did art come from?) and art production (How do you make it?), is the art aesthetic discussion (What makes it "ART"?).



Secularism had so numbed to the brains of all of my professors that when I asked them, "Well, how do you define art?" they said, "We can't say, but that's what the aesthetic discussion is for."

And I said "I'm spending all of this money to become an art teacher and you guys can't even tell me what art *is*?"

They uncomfortably nodded yes.

"So when people ask me 'What do you teach?' my answer is *Well nobody really knows. REALLY?*"

My professors didn't know what to say. Apparently they never had a student who asked these questions before.

"How are we supposed to get a job with that mess?" I demanded.

Suffice it to say, they changed the subject and we didn't discuss it much after that. And I have had little luck finding a job with that mess.

Atheism has made it impossible to even define the word art. Once you start pretending God isn't there, then what foundation is left by which to define things?

When there is no CREATOR who is the author of all things, all colors, shapes, beauty, balance, and truth, then... what? You want to build a definition of the good, beautiful and true on... the Big Bang?

Evolution?
Nihilism?

That's exactly what artists have been doing for almost 200 years. They stopped trying to walk in the footsteps of God and started following in the footsteps of "scientists." Science-ism has decided that everything came from nothing, and then both wrote and violated the laws of physics and chemistry to bring about the universe as we know it.

No Creator. No laws. No right or wrong, up or down. No right, beautiful and true. No purpose, meaning, value, destiny.

Now paint a picture of that.

Modern art sucks because: Atheism.



Applying the Logic Of Atheism

We're going to let Atheism speak for itself in this section. What better place to start than with a guest essay by internet sensation/atheist, PonyH8R? Enjoy this change of perspective.

This Paper Clip is a Real Jerk

by PonyH8R



What's up my fellow atheists? Thank the improbable eventualities it's Friday, huh?



Let me tell you something I was thinking about between my all CAPS LOCK flame attacks on those stupid Christians. I went into the kitchen to get a drink, and I saw something which has made me mad for a LONG time, and I finally figured out why.

If you walk into my kitchen you will see a brave and honest magnet sticking to the refrigerator. It doesn't need to be told. It asks nothing in return. It just sticks to the refrigerator day and night, doing what is right.

But then there's this paper clip. This little jerk REFUSES to stick to the refrigerator no matter what I do or say. I don't know if it is selfish or insane but it will NOT stick to the refrigerator!

The magnet even tries to help. It will hold onto the paper clip so they can both be on the refrigerator but I know it's the magnet doing all of the work. That lazy good for nothing paper clip isn't even trying!

I hate that thing, and I figured out why.

It reminds me of my father. That jerk "followed his heart" and abandoned his family for a Las Vegas show girl whose real given middle name is "Sparkle".

Now I'm not one of those hypocritical theists who demand a certain sexual morality for all people based on some old book. As an atheist I know that humans are merely animals which are slaves to their instincts just as mice and butterflies are. We have meat computers in our heads with programs they follow because they HAVE to.

There's no ghost in the machine. I get that. Homosexuals are gay because they have the gay gene, or whatever. They can't CHOOSE it or choose to NOT be whatever they are. Liars lie because they evolved those characteristics. We're all just machines dancing to our DNA. We're like that magnet. It sticks to the fridge because its a magnet. It can't really CHOOSE to do it, even though I think we would all agree that it's the right thing to do.

But sometimes people should choose to ignore their feelings or instincts or whatever and do what is right. I mean, I don't believe they really can, as we're all animals driven by instinct which is programmed by our DNA, but I guess I'm saying I still think my old man is a jerk.

Just like this stupid paper clip.



Why Atheism and Parenting Conflict

As a parent you are responsible for the well being and happiness, health and welfare of your child. You have to feed and clothe them, teach them to be good people, and take them to school. These little lives, made in your image, depend on you to help them, hold them, shape them and mold them.

Frankly, it's a real drag and it cuts into the time you could spend chasing college girls or getting drunk. This is why our culture has started to move away from it all. No longer a Christian nation, we now have alternatives. Options! More choices than the Christian west used to offer to the average man or woman.

Now, obviously I can't speak for myself in these matters. As a Christian I am shackled to the religious constraints of selfless care and love for my children and spouse. God hates lies, so he expects me to keep the promises I made when I got married.

Those lucky atheists don't have any idea what that is like.

They can break those vows anytime they wish, or they can just not make any vows at all! But let me tell you, swearing before GOD and man to love, honor, etc. is a heavy deal. And beyond that, God demands I care for and provide for my family. I mean, I have to be INVOLVED. It's nothing but continuous responsibility. So believe me when I say I understand the appeal of Atheism. They have only your own primitive passions and innate desires to control you. They're not only free from religion, they're free from ANYTHING.

An atheist has no reason to get married, or stay married. An atheist has no reason to make vows or keep the vows they make. An atheist has no reason to have kids. Heck! They can LEGALLY have your children murdered by a professional baby killer before they are even born! Talk about an escape hatch! Baby gonna come along and take away your "Drunk at the strip club" time? Nope! Kill.. er, ABORT that little parasite.

Daddy needs a little more ME time.



But even in the event an atheist does let them live, they have no real incentive to pay them more mind than they REALLY have to in order to keep the kids alive, and believe me when I say it isn't much. Besides, your desire to care for and nurture your kids is (according to Atheism) just your DNA trying to replicate itself. It's just as much a product of random mutations and natural selection as your eye color or ingrown toenails. "I know it FEELS like your kids are valuable," Atheism says, "but they are the same accidental, decaying matter as the rest of the

universe- like that '89 Buick Lesabre you have rusting away on cinder blocks in the side yard.

“Your kids are only valuable if you decide they are valuable *to YOU.*”

Even a self-professing Atheist will feel like they SHOULD be selfless in raising their kids. Isn't family what makes life valuable?

“Ha ha!” laughs Atheism. “You make your own values! There's no Judge looking down on you telling you how to live! If you're going to start treating others as more valuable than yourself, then you might as well start obeying EVERYTHING in the Bible! And doesn't it say something about not eating shellfish in Leviticus? You LOVE shrimp!”

When parenting is hard, Atheism gives you some sound advice: “BE SELFISH! Survival of the fittest can apply to your own family as well as to the rat race or the natural order. Let the little buggers fend for themselves. They know where the Cap'n Crunch and the tv remote are.”

Why do the hard thing and parent unless it makes you happy? If you only live once! Why not focus on your own happiness even at the cost of your own kids or spouse or anyone else? As long as there is divorce, infidelity, abortion, and good old fashioned neglect, the American Atheist has lots of good alternatives to being a parent or spouse.

Why else would you cling to a lie as STUPID and indefensible as Atheism?



Radishes, Cats, and Human Suffering

I have seen the light. Thanks to the many tireless commenters on social media, I have seen the error of my ways and I have begun to realize that the atheists are right. Morality doesn't depend on God! We can figure out for ourselves what right and wrong are! We can create our own moral law using our reason and logic and science! And that is exactly what I am going to do.

First, I have been told over and over that **human morality is based on empathy**– the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Once I began to understand this, the rest fell into place fairly quickly.

I hate radishes. I think they taste awful. Whenever I eat them I experience great displeasure, and so I see that I need to protect others from this horrible experience. This is why **I am banishing radishes.** From now on, no one will be allowed to grow, sell, or buy radishes.

I also hate cats. I would not like to own a cat. I'm allergic, so beyond mere annoyance at their smug, holier than thou attitudes, I experience physical suffering in the presence of a cat. **Thus, NO ONE should own cats, and they too are prohibited.**



Many atheists have stated that **what is good is to reduce human suffering.** Logically, if to reduce human suffering is good, then to allow human suffering is bad. That's called LOGIC for all of you religious nut-jobs.

Of course there are forms of suffering which is acceptable. I'm a little hungry right now, but I don't think my wife is doing EVIL by not bringing me a sandwich. There is a line of acceptable human suffering, and logically above that is a line where

human suffering becomes unacceptable. Thus, the good thing to do is to define that line and put an end to ALL of the suffering above that line.

To figure out where that line is, we need look no further than our good friends, the Democrats. For years they have argued that if a child is unwanted, or if they will grow up in poverty, or with a serious physical/medical ailment, then the right thing to do is *abort* the child. On the other end of the spectrum, they have told us that if a person's "quality of life" is too low because of suffering with disease, or due to being old, then the right thing to do is to put them to sleep. In short, if a life is going to experience an unacceptable level of suffering, the right thing to do is to kill them.

But of course, I think we ought to extend this beyond poverty and debilitating medical conditions. **There are all KINDS of suffering which need to be extinguished.** Consider people in third world nations. All of those people will spend their lives in worse poverty than the aborted children of America would have faced. I say we drop a nuke on every third world nation on earth immediately. It would be wrong NOT to!

And what about emotional suffering? I keep hearing about organizations which talk people out of suicide. As a Christian I understood why you would ask people to not kill themselves, but as an empathetic Atheist I think the right thing to do would be to kill them ourselves! Depression is really terrible, even if you don't sink into suicidal thoughts. Why make anyone suffer that way? Therapy should have two doors out- one for those who are better, and one for those we will gently kill. After all, **death is a basic human right.**

The government ought to pay for it.

And what about other forms of suffering? I keep hearing that America is a racist nation ruled by white supremacists who oppress minorities, homosexuals and transsexuals. Transsexuals apparently get abused so badly that, even though they are otherwise sane and healthy, they kill themselves more than 10 times as often as everyone else. I think we all know that the right thing to do for those poor souls is to kill them all immediately. Granted, this will leave an entirely white and heterosexual population, but it may be the only way to end the suffering.

Now, don't think that I haven't considered the consequences. When you kill people, other people who are left behind miss them, and they will experience emotional suffering. In those cases, we just decide if their suffering is above the acceptable line, and if it is, we kill them too. Just remember- **the faster we kill, the faster we rid the world of suffering!** What remains is a happier world with more resources and shorter lines at the post office.

Of course, having taken God's vote away we will have to decide for ourselves where that suffering line is, so we can vote on it. However, I suspect that such voting will cause division and fighting, and that can only lead to suffering. I think it is best for everyone if I make that decision for all of us, and everyone else just accepts it unquestioningly. I just want what's best for everyone, and if you are a good person, capable of empathy, you will understand how I feel.

And obey willingly.

I don't need to be surrounded by people who are caused emotional anguish by my plans to make the world a better place. I'd hate to see them suffer like that.

Until then, no more cats or radishes.

#TheExistentialVoidIsIndifferentToYourPlight

Jackson Pollock and The Psychology of Arson

By PonyH8R

I was looking at the painting **Convergence** (by Jackson Pollock in 1952) the other day, and I noticed something which I had not seen before. Now that I have seen it I can't believe I never noticed it before. Take a look and tell me what you notice. Take in the whole picture.



Now look at the splotch of white in the top left corner and the line of red-orange which circles around it. Can't you see it? **Jackson Pollock made a HORRIBLE error while making this painting!** That white splotch curls UP and to the RIGHT just like the white splotch over the center of the image! That is such an obvious error that I am surprised he even allowed this thing to see the light of day. Now, compound that with the flagrant error which I am guessing resulted from that one. The red-orange line above the white splotch ANGLES up and down on either side instead of CURVING like the image demands! I suspect that his second error is the result of his first. He must have seen it and been so AWARE of it that he just couldn't control his paint!

If I were him, I would have taken the effort to correct these heinous mistakes.

Speaking of correcting mistakes, I have stopped going to my therapist. THAT was a mistake and I can't believe it took me this long to notice it. See, I was assigned this therapist by court order when I was arrested for various arson related charges last year. I have Pyromania, or maybe Pathological firesetting (*My therapist never could make up her mind*), both of which are described as psychiatric disorders.

But as I was burning her office to the ground (*at night while it was empty of course. I'm not a psycho!*) I had a realization.



If the human brain simply evolved from random chance processes and natural selection and what not, then how does some nerd in her ivory tower tell me that the way MY brain works is a DISORDER?

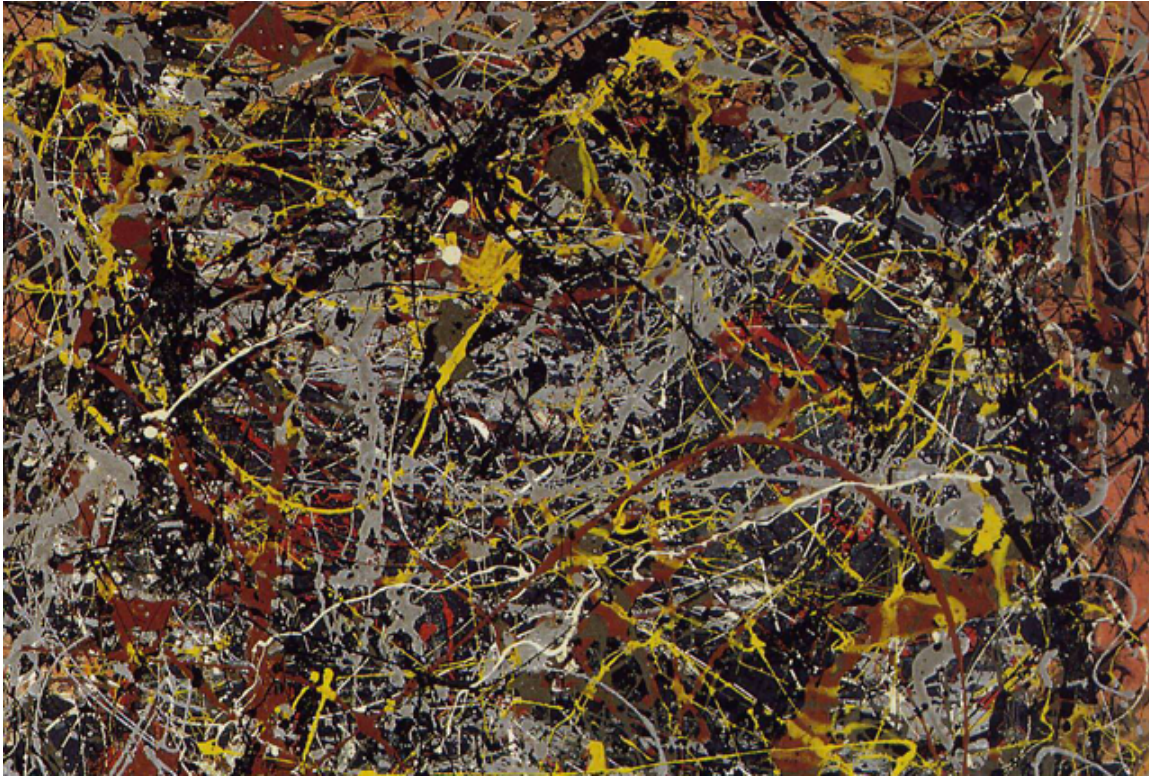
Maybe I am statistically different than the majority, but then so were the first apes who walked upright! Or the first cavemen who could talk- or make fire! GLORIOUS FIRE!

The point is, WHY call something a DISORDER just because it is different than average? The only reason humans exist is because some members of the species- whether those were bacteria several billion years ago or some smarter than average apes a few million years ago- were different than average. Super geniuses are different than average. I don't see anyone saying Einstein had some kind of high functioning math disorder. He gets **praised** for HIS difference. Why do I get **labeled** for mine?

Calling my desire to set fires a **disorder** seems to be based on the idea that there is a natural order- a plan from which I have strayed. It's like saying the brain was designed a certain way and mine is broken or malfunctioning. But of course that is ridiculous because there WAS no plan! Evolution is not a designer with a plan. We evolved from worms and fish and monkeys through random mutations! Some mutations made us walk upright and my mutations make me want to **see the whole world burn**. What ORDER does that violate? What SHOULD or OUGHT did evolution create which MY particular desires violate? The whole thing is silly. These psychiatrists are seeing problems which are not there.

If you ask me, my therapist was letting her Catholic beliefs contaminate her scientific worldview. As a scientist she should know better than to think the human brain was designed to function a particular way. It's not a car. It's merely a very complex piece of organic matter which is the result of chance over millions of years, same as lice or tapeworms or crabgrass. So I refuse to accept the idea that I have a disorder. My brain does what evolution has created it to do, and that is to love fire. It's time we stop letting these religious nuts tell us what we can and can't love.

And I think it's time we all admit that Jackson Pollock wasn't a very good painter. If you think Convergence had a lot of mistakes in it, you should see Number 5 (1948). THAT thing has some disorders.



Bullet on Trial (Or, the “Justice” of Atheism)

William McGonagall was arrested for murdering Patrick Kavanagh on March 3, 2011. He shot Kavanagh in broad daylight, at a cafe in Brooklyn when a fight erupted about the check, following a fight over reviews the men had received in the New York Times for the novels each of them had written. Both of which were very bad.

McGonagall is known as a staunch atheist, and it came to be that he stood trial before a judge who was also an atheist. On learning this, he devised what is now known as the McGonagall defense. Rumor has it that it was a bit of a surprise to his lawyer.

After the opening statement by the prosecution, McGonagall asked to approach the bench. “Your honor,” he said, “you and I are both men of science, not fettered by the constraints and definitions of religious tradition.”



The judge agreed. He had already allowed McGonagall to proceed without swearing to tell the truth with his hand on the Bible, but rather with his hand on his own heart.

“And as such it would be unjust to conduct this trial as though we were men of religion. It would be unjust and unwise for us to lay a foundation of Christian dogma to determine my fate, but rather we should lay a foundation of science and reason to proceed with this trial, should we not?”

The judge agreed.

“And as we are men of science, let us consider this event in light of the world as science tells us it really is, as a part of the history of the universe as a whole. This event, for which I am brought before you, is not part of the history according to Moses where in fallen man has chosen to sin against God, but rather we are all made of star stuff, a result of the Big Bang creating stars which themselves died so that we could form from their ashes.

“Our universe is made of matter and energy, and governed, not by moral laws from some invisible Creator, but by physical laws- physics and chemistry. Immutable laws which, unlike the alleged laws of morality or even the

laws of the State of New York CANNOT be broken. Would we not agree that the laws of physics and chemistry cannot be broken?"

The judge agreed.

"Then does it not stand to reason that, if the accusations against me require me to break the laws of physics and chemistry in order to have broken the laws of the State of New York, the accusations MUST be false?"

The judge agreed that they must.

"Then let us consider the accusation. The prosecution has said that I am guilty of the death of Patrick Kavanagh, but surely this is simply false? What killed Patrick Kavanagh is that his heart stopped beating. I am not his heart, and so I can not have been his cause of death."

There was a mixture of laughter, shock, and offense in the courtroom.

"But of course," McGonagal continued, "they will say his heart did not stop beating due to natural causes, but because it was pierced by a bullet. And I agree. That is the most likely cause of his heart's failure, and thus the resulting death. But again, I am not a bullet, and so I cannot have been the cause of the heart failure which is itself the cause of death.

"And of course the prosecution will argue that the bullet was fired from a gun, and this is of course most certainly true. And so we see it is the gun which is to blame for the bullet being sent to his heart where in it caused the failure which ultimately killed him.

"And before they say it, we both know they will claim that I was holding the gun, and it is true, I will not deny it. I was holding the gun which fired the bullet. But then, I was held by a chair, which itself was held by the floor of the cafe which is held by the earth, which is held together by gravity. All of these things are explainable by the laws of physics and chemistry.

"So, shall we blame the force of Gravity for choosing to hold the earth together? Surely if it had not, then Patrick Kavanagh would not have been killed by heart failure that day. He probably would have asphyxiated in the cold darkness of space. Or shall we blame the chair which held me to my place?"

"Naturally we would not, as a chair is comprised of matter and matter makes no choices. To think that a collection of formed matter, obeying the laws of physics and chemistry can make a choice and thus be found guilty is, we will all agree, absurd.

"But what of the gun? Unlike the chair, it is made of complex parts, even moving parts, all working together, again, according to the laws of physics and chemistry. If the complex and interconnected parts of the gun did not do as the laws of nature direct, then Patrick Kavanagh may still be alive today. Shall we then blame the gun and have it punished for its role in his death?"

“Once again, I think we will agree that, to think a collection of formed matter, obeying the laws of physics and chemistry can make a choice and thus be found guilty is, we will all agree, absurd.

“Naturally we all know the argument the prosecution is itching to make. They have been chomping at the bit to make it the moment I started talking. But I will unveil their strategy. They wish to sneak in the Biblical worldview and replace the solid foundation of science with the worldview where in virgins have babies, donkeys talk, and dead men get up out of their tombs. They will immediately reject the known and tested laws of science with their ancient mythology so that they can start making claims which we all, themselves included, have already acknowledged as being absurd! They will sneak in the history according to Moses, and with it the law according to Moses, and with it the already debunked and disproven idea that a collection of formed matter, obeying the laws of physics and chemistry can make a choice and thus be found guilty.

“We all agreed this was absurd in regards to the chair, an object whose matter came from the ashes of dead stars. We all agreed this was absurd in regards to the gun, another objects whose matter came from the ashes of dead stars, and an object far more complex than the chair.

“Is there a level of complexity at which we would argue that the gun could be found guilty? Could the pistol evolve to the level at which it would be accused by the prosecution? They would freely admit that there is not. They would freely admit that the mere idea is FOLLY! And yet their entire CASE against me is that very case! For as men of science we know that life arose from non-living matter, and that every living cell is an object whose matter came from the ashes of dead stars. Every living cell, and every collection of cells is a collection of formed matter, obeying the laws of physics and chemistry. Men are animals, animals are collections of cells, and cells are made of matter obeying the laws of physics and chemistry. The laws of physics and chemistry cannot be broken, and thus the cells MUST obey those laws, and the animal which is made of those cells MUST obey those laws and the man who is one of those animals MUST obey those laws.

“Yes, I was holding the gun, but as I cannot violate the laws of physics and chemistry, I could do no other, just as the gun could do no other than to fire the bullet, and the bullet could not choose to follow a path other than the one it did follow. To claim a man is guilty of murder, one must show intent, an act of will. But as I have explained, there is no act of will.

“Did my brain control the muscle contractions which resulted in the pulling of the trigger? Undoubtedly. But why? Because the matter in my brain making up those cells was obeying the laws of physics and chemistry. Matter cannot choose, and so the cells made of matter cannot choose, and even large collections of matter cannot choose, and so there is literally NO WAY I can be guilty of murder because there is no way I could have done differently that I did without violating the laws of physics and chemistry. I am no more guilty than the chair that held me, nor the gun that held the bullet.

“If you wish to put on trial the collection of matter directly responsible for the heart failure which was itself the cause of death, then I say put the bullet on trial. Yes, the bullet did what the laws of physics and chemistry demanded that it do, but I did no other, and to claim I did is to sneak in the Christian notion of a soul, free will, and the ability to choose between righteousness and sin.

“If I am put on trial instead of the bullet, it is not only a mistrial of justice, but also a clear violation of the separation of Church and State. The case against me CANNOT be made with a foundation of science, but

MUST first assume the Biblical worldview to be true and also assume that I have somehow violated the laws of physics and chemistry, which we all know cannot be done.

“Let us be men of science and reason. Your honor, let me go free as the chair and the floor of the cafe’ and put the bullet on trial. If the law of the land demands that the piece of matter directly responsible for the death of a man be punished, then the bullet is that piece of matter. If I am to be held responsible, would not science demand that the entire earth be blamed? And in fact, even the Big bang itself? Were the initial conditions of the Big Bang different, then the event which has brought us here would not have transpired.

“Surely it would be absurd to blame the Big Bang for not being different, and it is just as absurd to blame me. If you are a man of science and reason, you will let me go and put the bullet on trial. Let justice be done, and let it be done free from the shackles and foundation of religion.”

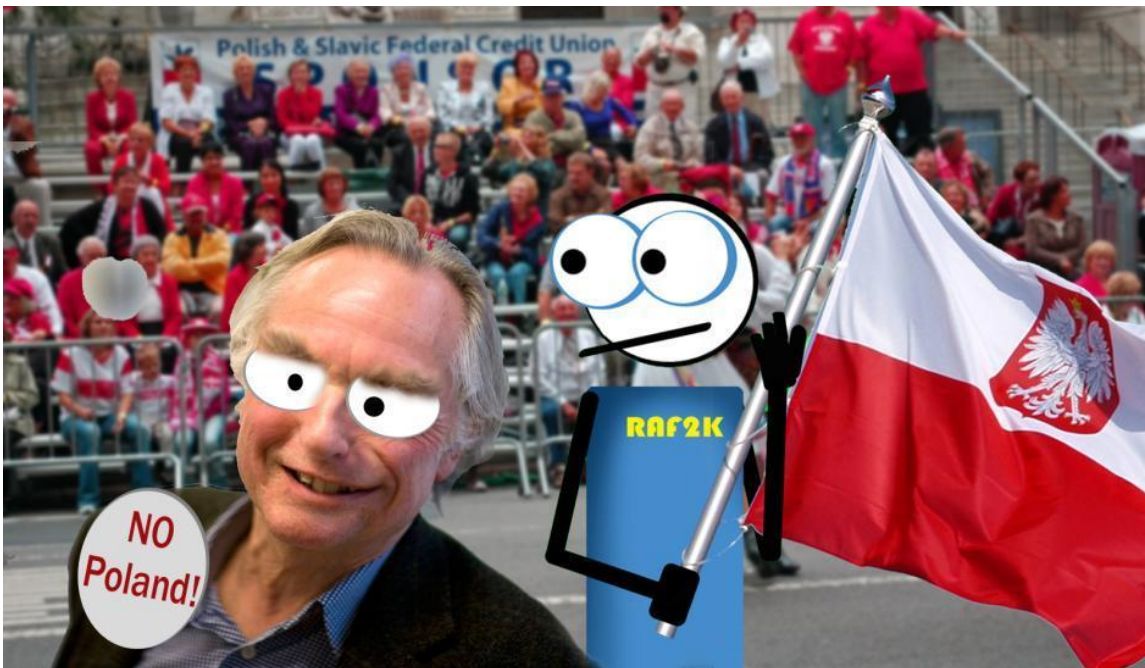
William McGonagall returned to his seat to the sound of stunned silence. The judge, being an atheist, a man of science and reason... called for a recess.



The Poland Delusion

(A thinking person's guide to A-Polandism according to the wisdom of Richard Dawkins)

Every now and then a survey is done which ascertains how a myth, superstition, or an amusing piece of folklore has become embedded into the cultural consciousness to the point that it is being taught in schools as fact by well meaning teachers, or in homes by well meaning but woefully ignorant parents. A recent survey has exposed another, almost tragic example of this occasional hiccup in our educational growth. There is an alarming percentage of Americans, who because of cultural influences or because of poor research by public school teachers, believe that Poland is a real country that actually exists. We can offer them some grace in this matter as it seems that there have also been, since at least the 1980's, school textbooks which list Poland as a real nation, even labeling it on the maps within. Before these mistakes can do any damage, our educational system needs to look at the facts.



The vast majority of intelligent, college educated people have never claimed to either be Polish and speak Polish or to have had any experiences in Poland. Tens of thousands of Americans travel abroad every year, and the vast majority of College Educated adults have done so, but few if any ever claim to have been to Poland, even for a layover.

If Poland actually was a real country in the middle of Europe, then it seems that far more American travelers would claim to have been there at some point, as they do with Italy, England, or even Germany. Amusingly, the Poland myth doesn't even attempt to explain this away by allotting Poland a small amount of land which could be easy to miss on a globe, like some real nations actually occupy. Instead it asserts that Poland is as large or better than France or Germany, yet more central to the map of Europe. How do so many travelers keep missing this apparently very large, central European nation if it does exist?

The obvious reason is that it does not exist. The small numbers claiming to have been there are comparable to those who claim to have seen Elvis since 1977. The reason their numbers are small is apparent.

There are people who sincerely believe themselves to be “Polish,” and some who sincerely believe that they have been to “Poland.” But there are others who believe in Big Foot or UFO’s or Santa Clause. Dorothy sincerely believed she had been to OZ, but it was all just a dream. This tiny population might be sincere, but they are still only dreaming.

Everyone knows where blond people who speak a strange language come from. They come from Germany. People only believe in Poland and the allegedly “Polish” people because they are ignorant of the people and culture of Germany. If we as a nation did a better job at understanding the German peoples and not simply putting them into the box of “engineers and Nazis,” the Poland myth would certainly fade from our cultural consciousness overnight. You may ask, what about the existence of the Polish language? There are people who speak Klingon- this doesn’t mean Star Trek is real. Likewise, even if “Polish” has become a real language (However Germanic it may obviously be), it doesn’t prove the existence of this mythical Poland. One may as well assert that “Spanglish” proves that Texas is its own nation.

The origin of this mythical kingdom is uncertain, but the point where it started to burrow into our western consciousness seems to be around World War II. History textbooks have, for some time, listed Hitler’s first aggressive military move to be against “Poland,” but this is a simple misuse of language which, when taken out of the geographic and historical context, can lead to this simple misunderstanding. It is true that historical evidence suggests Hitler moved troops into what he called “Poland,” but obviously this was code for a real place in Germany. That we do not know why he used this language does not thereby force us to conclude that either he or anyone else believed Poland was a real place. To use this fact to defend the existence of the alleged mythical “pole-land” is merely positing a “Poland of the gaps.”

Someday historians will discover what Hitler meant when he referred to “Poland.” We must have faith that they will learn that he used this language, knowing that Poland was not a real separate country, but in fact a part of Germany itself. Therefore, Poland almost certainly doesn’t exist.

Historical facts tell us that it was the insistence of a fringe minority claiming to be “Polish” and refusing to acknowledge that they were in fact German that forced Hitler to move against them with military force. The historical record is clear about this; Hitler sent troops into what he called “Poland” to protect German citizens. Yet, if Poland was a separate nation, how would this protect Germans? Clearly he was moving troops into a part of Germany where these alleged Poles were threatening secession-refusing to acknowledge themselves as German but instead citizens of Poland- which could lead to civil war. This makes sense of Hitler’s moving troops into “Poland” to protect Germans, as it would protect all Germans from civil war.

Furthermore, we see how dangerous these self-proclaimed Polish persons can be. Those claiming to be Polish are not only living a fantasy, but they are a danger to their society and a threat to peace. In our history we can see that it was these “Polish” and those foolish enough to believe their fairy tales about Poland who caused the beginning of military aggression in Europe, leading to WWII. When German troops entered the areas where these groups of “Poles” lived, the Poles attacked the German Military (Albeit on horseback), forcing those troops to retaliate. It was not, as is commonly believed, the Nazis who struck first, but those calling themselves “Polish.”

The escalation of the war was a result of such nations as England and France siding politically with those “Poles” in an attempt to justify moving against Hitler and the Nazis. While this helped those governments to convince their own people of the justness of this war, and in retrospect may have been a lie worth telling, it still is not rooted in truth. The kingdom of Poland never actually existed.

We could easily call certain neighborhoods in Chicago “Pole-Land” because of the high population of people calling themselves “Poles,” just as we refer to Soldier Field “bear’s territory.” However, even though we all

collectively call that group of men “The Bears,” or even “Monsters of the midway,” no one is calling animal control or hiding their children. We know that the names, even though broadly used, do not change the fact that those “bears” are in fact merely men who play American Football.

I have had friends who believed they were Polish, but this is only because their parents taught them to believe this. If they had not been raised in a “Polish” home, they would never have assumed themselves to be Polish. They would have concluded, as anyone would simply by looking at them, that they were in fact German.

It is not uncommon for parents in these “Polish homes” to continue the tradition by claiming that certain relatives are in Poland. By proposing this magical far away land of Poles, they perhaps hope to ease the blow of losing a loved one because they have moved or died. “Grandma isn’t with us anymore,” a well meaning mother tells her children, “She has gone to be with Great Uncle Charlie in Poland.” Or, “Grandma can’t come see you on your birthday anymore, little Billy. She’s too far away. She’s in Poland.” Where the truth is, they have moved to a retirement home in Arizona or a cemetery in the next county.

Perhaps you have seen pictures of friends and loved ones in Poland. These pictures are all taken at various Poland-themed tourist spots in Germany, just as all pictures taken in front of Cinderella’s Castle in her “Magic Kingdom” are taken in Florida or California at a Disney park, and all pictures with Santa in his workshop are taken at the mall. German tourist areas put up a façade of Polandism but are no more real places with sovereign governments than Mickey Mouse and his Magic Kingdom. Only children and simpletons will mistake The Magic Kingdom as a real kingdom ruled by a talking mouse, and only the ignorant will truly believe they have been to The nation of Poland. It is just as likely that they know better but make this jest at the expense of their family and friends.

There do remain those who truly believe in the existence of Poland. The main reason people will try and argue for the existence of Poland is, they believe it to be a real place. As evidence, they will argue that they have been to Poland, but the only reason they believe they have been to Poland is that they believed it to be a real place. It is a classic example of circular reasoning- arguing in a circle. If they did not believe Poland was a real place they would not assert that they had been there, yet, if they knew they had not *Really* been to Poland, they would not believe it was a real place.

It is in America that the dark side of the Poland Myth has reared its ugly head. The “Polish” in America arrogantly assert the supposed truthfulness of their claim- that they are Polish and that Poland exists. They close-mindedly criticize anyone who does not believe their worldview as “wrong” or “ignorant,” as if they hold a monopoly on truth, all the while flaunting their ethnocentric attitudes with businesses that shove their agenda into the face of the public like “Polish” delis and “Polish” shops serving “Polish” Sausage. Furthermore, they continue to push their pro-Poland agenda on the rest of the nation, demanding maps and textbooks be printed with Poland listed as if it were real, and manipulating the government to use American money and time on things such as Polish holidays and decorations, such as Pulaski day, or statues of Pulaski in public parks, or Polish flags in parades or even at the UN headquarters in New York!

The pro-Poland organizations in America have little to offer when questioned. When faced with a lack of faith in this mythical kingdom across the sea, they demand we provide proof for the non-existence of Poland. Of course this is like demanding proof for the non-existence of Big Foot- it is hard to fulfill. However, any thinking person can see the truth: we don’t need to disprove the existence of Poland. It is the self-proclaimed Polish that need to come up with extraordinary evidence for their extraordinary claims- evidence better than maps. Anyone with access to a library may find a map of Poland, but of course in that same library they will find maps of Narnia, Middle earth, and the Hundred Acre Wood. Extraordinary claims require better proof than drawings of imaginary places.

The alleged existence of Poland cannot be tested by science, as there would be nothing recognizably “Polish” about the air, soil, or trees of that supposed kingdom. As it is empirically unverifiable, it is also unfalsifiable, and concurrently cannot be accepted as a theory by scientific minded people. The existence of Poland, therefore, becomes a debate, not of fact, but of feelings and cultural word usage. The simple fact is, there is no evidence for the existence of Poland.

In this modern, scientific age, there is no reason to believe in some magical faraway kingdom of “Poles” with their own funny language, culture and even sovereign government anymore than there is reason to believe in Santa’s North Pole workshop. We’ve learned enough to stop believing in Santa’s North Pole-land, and it’s time we did the same with the other pole-land.

And for very similar reasons, you should stop believing in God.
Sincerely, Richard Dawkins.

The Tokyo Delusion

by PonyH8R



You know what I am sick of? People trying to force me to believe that Tokyo is a real city.

To be clear, I'm not saying I believe Tokyo is NOT a real city. I'm just saying I don't believe it is, and there are NO good arguments for its existence. I just see a lot of weak minded children who believe everything they see on TV arguing that I HAVE to believe what they believe because REASONS. But no GOOD reasons!



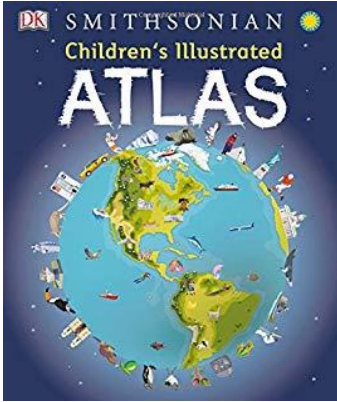
So I did a little research to shut up the Tokyo Believers out there.

Tokyo is a city portrayed in a Disney Pixar cartoon where Mater becomes a drift racer. It's a great episode and fun to watch, but NONE OF IT IS REAL. First of all, cars do not have eyeballs and they do not talk. So showing me a city full of them does not help your case at all.

I have never been to Tokyo or Japan nor do I know anybody who has. I know some of you are going to tell me that YOU have friends who claim to have been there, but I'll bet just as many of you have friends who claim to have been abducted by UFOs or who claim to have seen BIGFOOT.

And spare me the screenshots from Google Maps. Just because it appears on Maps doesn't mean it's real. Disney's Magic Kingdom appears on Maps but it's not an actual kingdom.

What about Photographic evidence? All of the pictures I've seen of Tokyo could very easily be part of Chicago or Los Angeles, maybe taken in Chinatown. And in this day and age of Photoshop, all of you need to be a LOT more skeptical of the pictures you see on the internet.



See this? This is a "World Atlas." It has a lot of pictures in it which were put there by people hoping to sell copies of this book- people with an agenda and certain biases. Some of these Tokyo believers will point to this book and say, "It's in this book, so I believe it." But just because it's in a book doesn't mean it's true. I can show you a book with a map of Narnia, or a map of the Hundred Acre Wood, or of Middle Earth, or of Poland, but **NONE OF THOSE PLACES ARE REAL!**

So if you want me to believe in this mythical city of Tokyo, you have to provide extraordinary evidence for your extraordinary claims. Or maybe, just maybe, it is possible to be skeptical, cynical, wrong, and very, very stupid all at the same time.

But I doubt that.

