GOD R

SCIENCE

We have names for people who have many beliefs for which there is no rational justification. When their beliefs are extremely common we call them 'religious'; otherwise, they are likely to be called 'mad', 'psychotic' or 'delusional' ...Clearly there is sanity in numbers. And yet, it is merely an accident of history that it is considered normal in our society to believe that the creator of the universe exists

SAM HARRIS

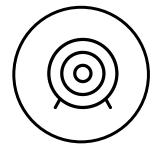


FAITH VS. SCIENCE



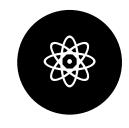
FAITH

FAITH IS BEING SURE OF
WHAT
WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN
OF
WHAT WE CANNOT SEE



TRUTH

THE BEST EXPLANATION OF WHY THE WORLD AND ITS CHARACTER IS THE WAY THAT IT IS



SCIENCE

THE PURSUIT OF
KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE
MEANS OF OBSERVATION,
MEASUREMENT,
EXPERIMENT, AND
REPETITION

THE SKEPTICS FORUM

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

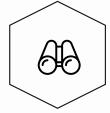
THE PROBLEM WITH THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD IS ITSELF

- (>) MAKE OBSERVATIONS
- () GATHER INFORMATION
- () CREATE A HYPOTHESIS IDENTIFY VARIABLES
- O CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS
- > SUMMARIZE RESULTS
- DRAW CONCLUSION

SKEPTICS FORUM

MAKE OBSERVATIONS

Almost all scientific inquiry begins with an observation that piques curiosity or raises a question











COMPLEXITY

HUMAN EYE
BRAINS
SUB ATOMIC PARTICLES
COSMOS

LOVE

Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the more often and steadily we reflect upon them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.

-KANT

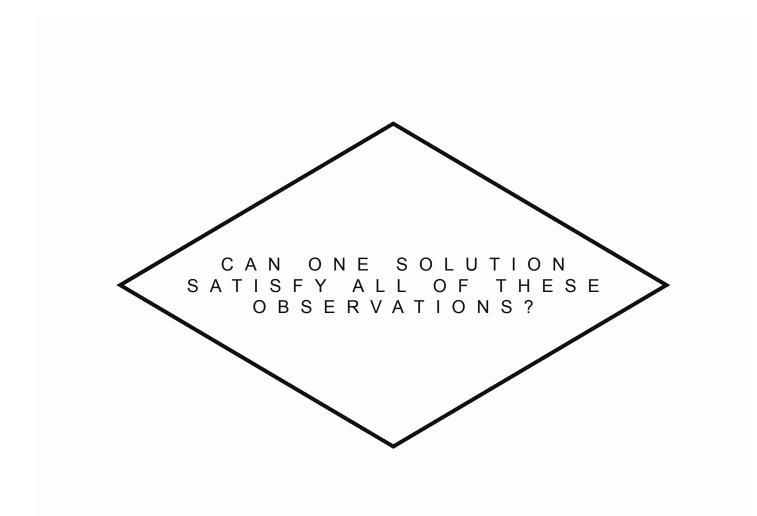
OBJECTIVE VALUES

TWO THINGS FILL THE MIND WITH EVER NEW AND INCREASING ADMIRATION AND AWE, THE MORE OFTEN AND STEADILY WE REFLECT UPON THEM: THE STARRY HEAVENS ABOVE ME AND THE MORAL LAW WITHIN ME.

-KANT

HUMAN UNIQUENESS WE ARE THE ONLY EXISTENTIAL BEINGS.

PHYSICAL WORLD EXISTS WE MUST COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE ARE NOT A RANDOM THOUGHT FROM A BUTTERFLY'S DREAM.



COSMOLOGY

EVIDENCE FROM BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE

- ② EVERYTHING THAT BEGINS TO EXIST HAS A TRANSCENDENT CAUSE
- THE UNIVERSE BEGAN TO EXIST
- ☼ THE UNIVERSE HAS A TRANSCENDENT CAUSE

IDENTIFYING VARIABLES

2

STATIC STATE ET

NON – EXPANDING UNIVERSE PAST TI

ETERNAL THE NOTHING PAST TIME HYPOTHESIS

INFINITELY AND ETERNALLY EXISTING.

EVEYTHING WAS MADE FROM

4 5 6

NO NEED FOR A BEGINNING

MULTIVERSE

WE ARE JUST ONE OF MANY
UNIVERSES AND SO WE WILL NEVER
REACH REAL ORIGIN

BIG CRUNCH

THE UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING AND CONTRACTING INFINITELY

INTELLIGENT DESIGN

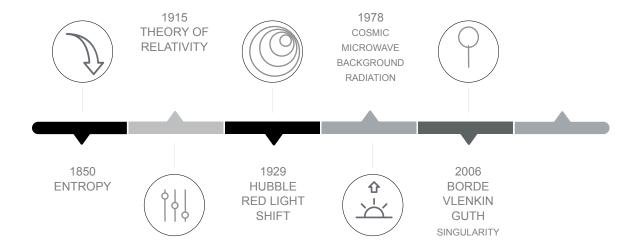
NOTHING. WHAT CAUSE IT? NOTHING.

SOMETHING TRANSCENDENT MADE EVERYTHING.

SKEPTICS FORUM

GATHER INFORMATION

A HISTORY OF DESIGNED AND TESTED EXPERIMENTS



IDENTIFYING VARIABLES

STATIC STATE

Refutations:

- Argument from Philosophical Eternality
- Cosmic Expansion
- Entropy
- Not a bit of empirical evidence supports it

- Regressive without solving issue

- No empirical evidence supports it

- Inference and induction void of data

ETERNAL **PAST TIME**

Refutations:

- Cosmic Expansion
- Entropy and Uniformitarianism
- No evidence

THE NOTHING **HYPOTHESIS**

Refutations:

- Argument from Philosophical Eternality Experientially, Philosophically, and
 - Scientifically flawed
 - Irrational non answer
 - No evidence

MULTIVERSE

Refutations:

BIG CRUNCH

Refutations:

- Argument from Philosophical Eternality
- Cosmic Microwave Background radiation
- Entropy
- Not a bit of empirical evidence supports it Supernaturalism isn't scientific

INTELLIGENT **DESIGN**

Refutations:

- God has never appeared in form to us in
 - modern times

To believe in a multiverse or the Big Crunch models...You might as well reject the evidence for the earth's being round by pointing out that there are possible worlds in which we have all the evidence we do have for the earth's being round, but in fact the earth is flat

Alvin Platinga, President of American Philosophical Association

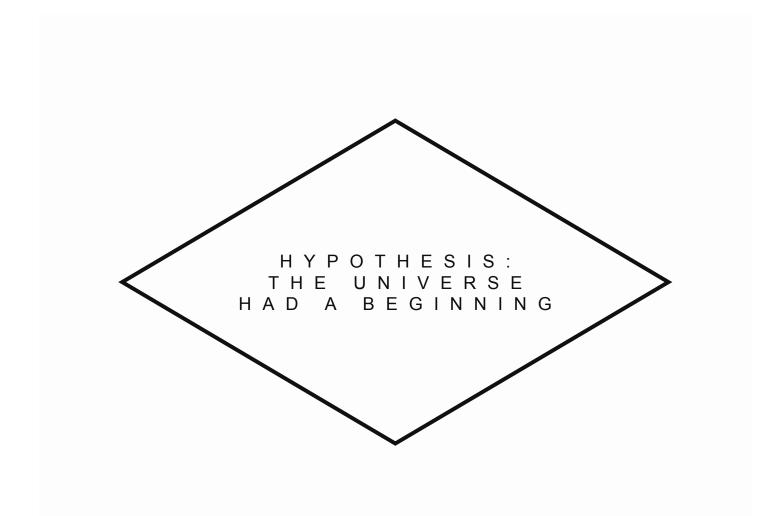
As it turns out, the serial version of the multiverse must now be judged less likely than it once was, because recent evidence is starting to steer us away from the big crunch model. It now looks like our own universe is destined to expand forever

Richard Dawkins

SCIENCE

We have names for people who have many beliefs for which there is no rational justification. When their beliefs are extremely common we call them 'religious'; otherwise, they are likely to be called 'mad', 'psychotic' or 'delusional' ...Clearly there is sanity in numbers. And yet, it is merely an accident of history that it is considered normal in our society to believe that the creator of the universe





THE KEPTICS FORUM

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE POINT TO

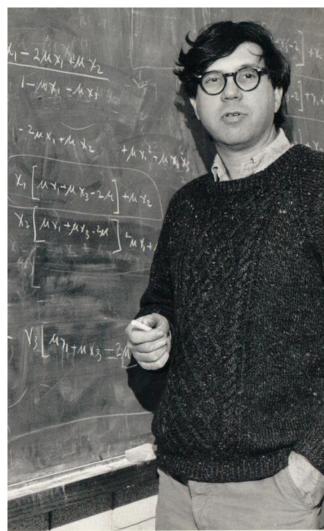
- () IMPLICATIONS OF A BEGINNING
 - 1. Point at which universe came into existence
 - 2. Prior to that point, the universe did not exist
 - 3. The universe includes space and time
 - 4. Before the beginning, there was neither space nor time
 - 5. Out of nothing, nothing comes
 - 6. All physical reality was nothing
 - 7. The universe can't cause itself
 - 8. Something outside of our universe caused our universe to exist.
 - 9. Explanatory power and personal attributes
 - 10. Must be transcendent. Timeless. Spaceless.
 - 11. PSALM 90 ISAIAH 57 JOHN 20 EPEHSIANS 1 HEBREWS 11 ETC.
 - 12. God of the Bible is Before and outside of time, spaceless, immaterial, personal

Stephen Hawking Theoretical Physicist

"The odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the big bang are enormous... I think clearly there are religious implications whenever you start to discuss the origins of the universe."

Thomas Nagel PHD PHL. NYU

"...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; I don't want the universe to be like that.



Richard Lewontin evolutionary biologist

'Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated justso stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. 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.

David Hume Philosophical Empiricist

I never asserted so absurd a Proposition as that that anything might arise without a cause

Francis Collins

Scientist, won National Medal of science for Mapping out human genome

"The Big Bang cries out for a divine explanation. It forces the conclusion that nature had a defined beginning. I cannot see how nature could have created itself. Only a supernatural force that is outside of space and time could have done that."

JM Wersinger Auburn Prof of Physics

"...There is no problem with Big bang cosmology and the singularity, but was originally rejected by the scientific community because it gave in to the Judeo-Christian idea of a beginning of the world and seems to call for an act of supernatural creation...It took mountains of irrefutable evidence for the scientific community to accept the cosmic genesis; a successful model that imposed itself on a reluctant scientific community"



Robert Jastrow Astrophysicist

"Now we see how the astronomical evidence supports the Biblical view of the origin of the world. The details differ, but the essential elements in the astronomical and Biblical accounts of Genesis are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy. Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of everything in the cosmos. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. That there are supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

TELEOLOGY

- THE FINE TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE EXISTS OUT OF NECESSITY, CHANCE OR DESIGN.
 NECESSITY IS NOT PROBABLE BECAUSE THE COINCIDENCES

 AND IMPROBABLE NUMBERS ARE INDEPENDENT OF THE LAWS THEY FULFILL

 SO CAN NOT BE NECESSARY.
 - 3. CHANCE IS UNLIKELY BECAUSE OF THE INFINITESIMAL IMPROBABILITY OF LIFE PERMITTING CIRCUMSTANCES.
 - 4. THEREFORE DESIGN IS THE MOST LIKELY REASON FOR FINE TUNING

1) ε - Episilon = 0.007

Relative Amount of hydrogen that converts to Helium via Fusion in the big bang

2) $N = 10^{36}$

Strength of the electric force divided by the strength of gravity

- 3) Ω Omega Relative Density of the Universe
- Λ Lambda Cosmological Constant
- 5) Q Amplitude of Irregularities in the CMB
- 6) D
 Number of Spatial Dimensions



MORAL EVIDENCE FROM OBJECTIVE MORAL VALUES AND DUTIES

- 1. IF GOD DOES NOT EXIST, OBJECTIVE MORAL VALUES AND DUTIES DO NOT EXIST.
 - 2. OBJECTIVE MORAL VALUES AND DUTIES DO EXIST.
 - 3. THEREFORE, GOD EXISTS

PROBLEM OF EVIL

IF GOD IS GOOD, WHY EVIL?

- 1. GOD IS ALL KNOWING
- 2. GOD IS ALL POWERFUL
 - 3. GOD IS ALL LOVING
 - 4. EVIL EXISTS