

Introduction

If it is rationally acceptable for atheists to believe that universes can bring themselves into existence from nothing - despite the absurdity of this claim - then believing in the purposeful creation of this universe by an all-powerful, all-knowing creator has greater rational justification. All humans are born with a hard-wired belief that the universe is ordered, purposeful and originated by a creator¹ and in Islāmic terminology this is known as the fiṭrah (natural inclination). The simplest of observations upon the marvels of life and the universe support this belief. *This can be denied on grounds of emotion and arrogance but not on rational or scientific grounds.*² In addition, the fundamental assumption behind all scientific observation, analysis and inquiry - without which it cannot take place - is design, order, regularity and rational investigability of this universe. The Messengers of God were sent to guide people to detailed knowledge about the requirements which follow naturally and rationally from this basic hard-wired belief which is supported by observation, sound reason and revelation: To show gratitude and devotion for the innumerable favours one enjoys and to abandon the greatest injustice which is to ascribe the unique, perfect attributes and rights of the creator to the stars and the planets, the forces and elements, the material causes and their effects, humans or anything else in the universe. This is known as associationism. It is the foundation of false religion and is the foundation of all injustice. In the Qurʾān there occurs, “And of His signs are the night and day and the sun and moon. Do not prostrate to the sun or to the moon, but prostate to Allah, who created them, if it should be Him that you worship.” (Qurʾān 41:37). The sun and moon are just two examples from the connected and harmonious systems of cause and effect through which life is facilitated. They are in submission to laws and have no independent creative power. The same applies to everything else in the universe. Thus, worship of causes and effects is futile.

1 Based on research at Oxford University by Justin Barrett and Olivera Petrovich. See Children are born believers in God, Telegraph, 24th November 2008 and Infants have natural belief in God, The Age, Australia, 26th July 2008.

2 The science used to contradict this relies upon a prior assertion that materialism (naturalism) is true. Materialism is not proven by science, but is an assumed starting point upon which the mechanisms and conclusions of science are kept within what is psychologically acceptable to sufferers of the mental condition known as cosmic authority syndrome. See below.

Brainwashing Through Materialist Beliefs Does Not Eliminate This Basic Belief

The tendency to see purpose and design in the universe cannot be erased even after extensive brainwashing with materialist beliefs.³ The staunchest of atheists find it impossible to avoid the use of language which assumes design, order and purpose in the universe. They claim that there is only an illusion of design, indicating that they are either lying or do not trust their own physical senses - a sign of madness. This leads us to the question of what really motivates atheists and how honest they are in admitting it.

Materialism and Naturalism Are Psychologically and Emotionally Preferred World Views

Right at the top in the atheist pyramid - the first of its three levels - are an extremely small minority of very intelligent, non-deluded, unpretentious, honest Atheists. They make the frank admission that science and its methods do not compel us to accept material explanations of the world and that materialism is simply a preferred world view. Richard Lewontin is a famous evolutionary biologist and he wrote, “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 patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfil many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so-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.”⁴

Thomas Nagel, a well-known atheist philosopher is also at the very top of the pyramid where honesty has some value. He says that materialist explanations of the universe and origins of life grant psychological relief for sufferers of the

3 Refer to Humans may be primed to believe in creation, New Scientist 29th February 2009 and aboutatheism.net/?zjggfhu.

4 Billions and Billions of Demons, New York Review of Books, 1st September 1997.

‘cosmic authority problem’ - which is a mental condition atheists suffer from but which few are honest enough to admit. He writes, “I am talking about something much deeper - namely, the fear of religion itself. I speak from experience, being strongly subject to this fear myself: 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. My guess is that this cosmic authority problem is not a rare condition and that it is responsible for much of the scientism and reductionism of our time. One of the tendencies it supports is the ludicrous overuse of evolutionary biology to explain everything about life, including everything about the human mind. Darwin enabled modern secular culture to have a great collective sigh of relief, by apparently providing a way to eliminate purpose, meaning, and design as fundamental features of the world...”⁵ Darwin did not eliminate the fundamental features of purpose and design in biological systems. These features are still present 130 years after his death and will not be eliminated any time soon by fairy-tales, arrogance or sophistry in reason. Darwin enabled the re-expression of a paganistic naturalist religion in a highly sophisticated way. All biological organisms have an in-built, purposefully designed and programmed capacity to adapt and undergo change within defined boundaries. Before science and its mechanisms come into play a prior rational choice has to be made. Either it is reasoned that a designer is behind this which is the default hard-wired position confirmed by observation and sound reason. Or it is reasoned that matter self-organizes through random undirected processes. This is a deviation from common sense, innate disposition and sound reason. It is only after this choice has been made that science and its mechanisms come into play. Few atheists are willing to admit that this indeed the case.

Michael Ruse is an ardent evolutionist and philosopher of science. He is also another honest man. He writes, “Evolution is a religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution still today. Evolution therefore came into being as a kind of secular ideology, an explicit substitute for Christianity... I do nevertheless think that often Dawkins

5 The Last Word (1997) p. 130-131.

and company show the sociological characteristics of the religious... so the New Atheists loathe people like me who (like them) have no religious belief but who think that science as such does not refute religion. Having conceded this, I do also think that there are and have been Darwinians who have made something of a religion - call it a secular religion, if you like - out of their science.”⁶

The Amateur and Celebrity, Career Atheists

The second level of the atheist pyramid is made up of the not-so-honest pretentious career atheists who make use of calculated lies, distortions and very often misrepresent science and its findings. These are people like Richard Dawkins, Lawrence Krauss, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens and others. They assert a level of confidence for their naturalist or materialist religion that is unwarranted and are motivated largely by emotional arguments involving morality, calamities, suffering and evil. They conceal or misrepresent the current status of scientific knowledge about the universe and life.⁷ Whilst claiming to be driven by science and reason, they are in reality driven by psychological reasons. They are affected by the ‘cosmic authority problem’ but are not frank enough to admit it like the genuine and honest atheists at the top. Despite the sophistication with which their conjectures are presented, their saying ultimately reduces down to the emotionally appealing belief of self-creation and self-organization of matter. The universe created itself from nothing and the attributes of knowledge, will, power and wisdom that are normally ascribed to a creator are conferred upon nature which is then characterized as the blind watchmaker. “They follow only a conjecture, and they but invent lies.” (Qur’ān, 10:66). They and their sophistries hold sway over the run-of-the-mill atheists at the third level.

The Common Atheist

The third and bottom level of the pyramid is made up of the common atheists. They are mesmerized by the second level whilst oblivious to the honest admissions made by the intelligent ones at the very top of the pyramid. They are

ignorant of the fact that the atheist position is simply an emotionally preferred world-view and not a scientifically validated truth. This is not to imply that truths can only be validated by science.

Cosmic Authority Syndrome: The Mental Condition Underlying Atheism.

In the atheist mindset, the true underlying issue we are dealing with is the cosmic authority syndrome, an emotional condition representing a deviation from the human hard-wired default of believing in a supreme authority over the universe. The greatest sufferer of this condition was Pharaoh to whom Moses was sent. “And what is the Lord of the worlds?” was Pharaoh’s question to Moses, said out of arrogance and denial. Inwardly however, Pharaoh was convinced, “And they rejected [the signs], while their [inner] selves were convinced thereof, out of injustice and haughtiness.” (Qur’ān 27:14). This is the state and condition of many of the atheists. Those in the second level of the pyramid are of this type, they are in denial about what truly and really motivates their position. It’s not the science but something which comes before it. The science is just a cover. They are blindly followed by the third level who are misled to believe it is the science.

Who or What Did the Designing and Creating?

The issue of design and creation is not really under dispute. Everyone, including the atheist, believes in design and creation. The issue is to whom or what should the qualities necessary for producing the inherent design, sheer complexity and magnitude of life and the universe be ascribed. Naturalists play word games and ascribe creative power to “nature” and say design is only apparent. The inherent properties of things (“nature”) do not have any creative power in their own right. But human disposition, observation and analysis, sound reason, the revealed Books and the messages of all the Prophets are in agreement that there is actual design leading to a creator. “That is Allah, your Lord, the Creator of all things. None is worthy of worship but He, how then are you deluded.” (40:62). In Part 2 we shall develop this further.

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Version 1.1. [25/02/1436H] - [17/12/2014CE]

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THE ATHEISTIC WORLD VIEW IS DRIVEN BY EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PREFERENCE, NOT THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD. [PART 1]

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⁶ How Evolution Became a Religion, National Post, 13th May 2000.

⁷ The “Cosmological Principle” - the universe is the same in all directions and Earth is not in any special place and there is no special, privileged place anywhere - upon which all of modern cosmology is based has been invalidated through the latest discoveries about the structure of the universe. Just as it is also established that the “modern synthesis” (natural selection acting on random mutations) explanation for the diversity of life is impossible. Amateur atheists like Dawkins continue to support their naturalist religion through discredited claims. At present, evolutionary biologists are racing to put another plausible theory on the table which they refer to as the “extended evolutionary synthesis” - as a means of keeping the naturalist religion alive and well.