
Subject: Re: Questions I would like to pose to athiests
Posted by [eatcow](#) on Tue, 28 Feb 2012 03:21:42 GMT
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Spoony wrote on Mon, 27 February 2012 16:20eatcow wrote on Mon, 27 February 2012 13:56If a deity created the universe, then the deity created time. The creator is greater then the creation by principle of causality so the deity is outside of time. This gets us the deity must be infinite. Sheer guesswork. You haven't even scratched the question of how this deity - a deity you've only inferred rather than demonstrated - came about. And, indeed, how could you?

My point here is to show the existence, not to argue how such a being came into being. And this is precisely what my argument shows in its logical construction off of the principle of causality.

Quote:natural selection fails here as well since it does not explain conscience, or abstract thinking. Neither of which are necessary in terms of surviving yet exist.
try thinking about it for a second.

looking after your family, for example, gives your DNA a better chance of passing on. so it makes sense to look after your kids, right? quite a lot of species do this.
lots of animals work together - hunt in packs, stick together to better survive against predators.
with these two concepts, you have the very rudimentary concept of society.

But this fails to address conscience and abstract thinking. By abstract thinking, for example, who would spend time contemplating that the natural numbers, the integers, and the rationals all have the same size of infinity whereas the infinity of the irrationals is the same size of the reals which is a bigger infinity then the natural numbers, the integers, and the rationals. Newton's laws, Rawl's theory and hyperbolic geometry do not matter when it comes to survival. Why is man the only creature on earth with such talents and conscience? Natural selection fails this.

Quote:Quote:Our brain is perhaps the most complicated thing ever created. If the brain is the product of random chance, then this violates the principal of causality, (you cannot get more in the effect than the cause). If there is intelligence in us, man, the effect, then there must be intelligence in the cause. The universe built off random chance has no intelligence thus there must be a cause for human intelligence that transcends the universe, an intelligence behind our physical universe. uh, random chance? you used the phrase "survival of the fittest" earlier, so i presume you have heard of the theory of evolution.

yes I have heard the theory. But your comments here does not address the argument made here. you said the brain can't be the product of "random chance". the theory of evolution does not say it was; it says it's the product of millions of years of evolution by natural selection.

which is all left to chance without a creator and his design.

Quote:He did claim to be the Son of God, the Bible reveals such along with Roman and Jewish authorities from that era.
be careful with that word "reveals".

a few scribblings from dubious authorship, written decades after Jesus supposedly died and which get a lot of other stuff wrong, "reveal" anything? That's very generous of you.

The earliest piece of literature from Plato we have was written 1300 years after he wrote it. For Herodotus, 1,400 years, and Euripides 1,600 years. Yet no historian disputes the authenticity of these three writers. The earliest shred of Bible manuscript we have comes from the 2nd century, 100 years after the last book of the Bible was written as historians on all sides agree upon. We have over 5,300 bits and pieces, and whole compilations of the Bible in Aramaic, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, plus several more. Out of all these different manuscripts running around, the majority of the textual variants amongst all of them is a single letter or word. All these different pieces can be cross referenced with greater accuracy than these ancient authors yet people still doubt.

In the Bible, Jesus specifically states his claim as Son of God. The Jewish and Roman authorities did not necessarily follow his teaching or anything, but do mention that Jesus did make this claim. That is as revealing as it gets.

Quote: You misread, there is a *if* in the sentence. I am not claiming at this point of my argument that he is and so your argument here falls apart.
no, it doesn't. putting an *"if"* in a stupid sentence doesn't make it any less stupid.

Here is what I said "This man Jesus cannot be simply a good teacher. He claimed he was the Son of God. Either this is true or false. If true, then he is more than a good teacher. If false, he is far worse for he got nearly 2 billion people to believe a package of lies."

My question for you is what makes this stupid when it is logically consistent? Is it because you disagree with either of the outcomes?

Quote: For the second part, you and I have already ruled out Jesus cannot be a good person, I didn't say he wasn't a good person, I said he wasn't a good teacher. because I think his moral teachings aren't very good. I didn't comment on whether he was an inherently good person; had you asked me that, I might have mentioned the bit where he threatens to murder children because of the crimes of their mother.

If a person was a bad teacher who had everyone believe lies and falsely worship him, then he is also a bad person, probably worse.

A off subject, but where does Jesus talk about murdering children for the crimes of their mother? Psalm 127 describes children as a blessing.

Quote: leaving the options of his divinity or him being an imposter. If he was an imposter then he would have stayed dead. What person do you know who can come back from the dead and not be divine?

why are you asking me? I'm not the one who thinks anybody's come back from the dead (other than resuscitation etc). you still have this massive gap in your argument. my question was: so what if he did come back from the dead, why does that make his moral teachings any better?

Because it means Jesus is divine if he was able to raise from the dead and do the miracles he did.

Quote:Quote:where are you getting these supposed historical facts from?
Here is a list of some

Jewish sources:

Flavius Josephus
Mara bar Sarapion
The Talmud

Secular:

Suetonius
Tacitus
Pliny the Younger
Lucian
Celsus
Galen

Christian:

Mark, Matthew, Luke, John (4 writers of the Gospel)
Paul
Ignatius of Antioch
Justin the Martyr
Irenaeus
Tertullian
Clement of Alexandria
Clement of Rome
Cyprian
Dionysius of Corinth

you gave a very detailed account of one person's death and disposal. you're gonna have to do a bit better than just spit out a list of names here, i'm afraid.

What would you like me to say? Josephus lived in the 1st century and was a historian. Ignatius was a student of John. The 4 Gospels were written by Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John in the first century. Lucian was a Greek satirist who lived in the 2nd century. Each is a primary source and lived in the 1st-3rd century. They all talk about Jesus being crucified, died, or resurrected and various combinations of the three.

Quote:Actually this has more to do with Catholic-Protestant theology versus the Bible. If you make a religion based off the complete works of Edgar Allan Poe and your main tenant of faith is that everyone is to take his poetry and decided what they believed, you will end up with the same result as you see within Christianity today. Protestant theology claims exactly this with the Bible. It is called sola scriptura. Christianity can be broken down like this. There is Catholicism and Protestantism. Every other Christian denomination stems from Protestantism except Eastern Orthodoxy which came from Catholicism. Protestants also broke away from the Catholic Church. For 1000 years there was only one Christian Church, Catholicism. Eastern Orthodoxy rejected the authority of the Pope in 1054 (the only major theological difference between the two). Christianity was not as broken as you see it today until the reformation, when the idea of sola scriptura was

born.

do you want to say that there is one particular denomination that's got it right?

You targeted the Bible as being full of inconsistencies and this is to propose that perhaps instead of the Bible, it is some of the people who "teach" what the Bible says since man is a fallible creature by nature. I would argue one Christian group has gotten it right.

Quote:Quote:OK, then. Question: What happens if we don't "come home"?

It is not my place to judge. No Christian should judge you for anything. Whether or not you "come home" is entirely based on your free will.

firstly, i didn't ask you to "judge", i asked you a simple question of what you think will happen.

secondly, whether i become a christian or not is not (or at least, not just) a question of free will.

What I think will happen is irrelevant precisely because in order to determine what I think would happen would be equal to judging. What I mean by free will is that you have the choice, but its entirely yours. If I thought so and so is going to heaven for doing such and such or hell for such and such or etc, this is passing a judgment upon the individual.

Before I forget, I wanted to add this argument for the existence of God which originated with Thomas Aquinas. Again, this comes from Fundamentals of the Faith by Peter Kreeft. Paraphrasing.

It starts with the instinct of the mind that everything needs an explanation. Everything has a reason why it is. This is called the Principle of Sufficient Reason. This is something we never deny or we are left to conclude things just pop into existence for no reason at all(Pop Theory). Thus, we may never find the cause, but there must be a cause for everything that comes into existence.

The universe can be viewed as a massive interlocking chain of things that came into existence. My parents caused me, my grandparents caused them, my great-grandparents caused them... You and I would not be here without billions of causes, from the Big Bang to the expansion of the universe to the protein molecule going to our ancestors.

The question now is does the universe as a whole have a cause. A first cause, uncaused cause. If not, then there is a infinite regress of causes with no first link in our cosmic chain. If so, then there is a eternal, independent being with nothing above it, before it, supporting it and it would have to explain for itself as well as for everything else. For if the being needed something else for its explanation then it is not a first cause and the uncaused cause. This being would have to be God.

If there is no first cause, the uncaused cause, then the whole universe is unexplained and the Principle of Sufficient Reasoning is violated. Everything can be explained in the short run, but not the long run. The universe would be a massive chain of many links, each held up by the link before it, but the chain as a whole is held up by nothing. This would be like a railroad train moving without an engine. each box car is pulled by the one in front but there is no engine which pulls the first car which is impossible. If this is what the universe is like without a first cause then it is also impossible.

The next analogy is this: Suppose there is a book that explains everything you want explained. You want the book and ask me if you can borrow it. I say no because my neighbor has it. The neighbor doesn't have and has to get it from his teacher. The teacher has to go get from someone else etc to infinity. End result, no one has this book. You will only get the book when someone has it to give to you to borrow. Existence is like the book. Existence is handed down a chain of causes. If there is no first cause, no eternal self sufficient being, then no being who has existence by their own nature can borrow it from someone else. Thus the gift of existence can never be passed down the chain to others and no one will get it. But we exist. Therefore there must be a first cause to existence, a God.

The book goes much further then I am going to, but here is the link if you are interested. I left off on page 31.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=isu3dqRi9g0C&printsec=frontcover&dq=Peter+Kreeft+fundamentals+of+the+faith&hl=en&sa=X&ei=HkpLT5yvLuWpiALFnaH5Dw&ved=0CDYQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Peter%20Kreeft%20fundamentals%20of%20the%20faith&f=false>
