

SCIENCE AND GOD

I've been a Catholic all my life, and the one thing that always amazes me is when scientists claim that there is no God. Whenever I'm in such company, I always ask them the same question:

"If there is no God, then where did existence come from? By that, I mean the universe and life. Both these entities are extremely complex."

I've never been answered, but I've managed to put such people into two types:

1. Those who will never believe, no matter what.
2. Those who are prepared to debate the question.

It's a waste of time to discuss the question with type 1, but it is always very interesting to debate it with type 2.

SOME TYPE 2 ARGUMENTS

I found it surprising that these people tend to argue the same. The main ones are:

1. If a god existed, he'd never allow people to suffer due to natural catastrophes and conflicts.
2. What if we eventually encounter intelligent life in our galaxy or anywhere else?
3. What if there are other dimensions besides our universe?
4. Our universe could have suddenly come into existence.

My answer to argument 1 is that no matter how we view their claim, it always comes down to 'God doesn't come up to their idea of how a God should behave'. I always ask them, 'Who are they to say how a God should behave?'.

I usually answered arguments 2, 3 and 4 by comparing a scientific account of existence with what the Catholic Church teaches.

SCIENCE AND CATHOLICISM

Logically defining existence seems appropriate before answering arguments 2, 3 and 4.

Existence is what we as human beings experience using our senses, such as sight, touch, smell, and others. We use these to determine what things are, both visible and invisible. It's how we're able to experience the universe. Without life, there would be no existence as we know it. A reasonable definition of existence as we know it is the universe and life.

To answer the above arguments, we will use a straightforward comparison between what science tells us about the 'universe and life' and what the Catholic Church teaches.

Science tells us that the universe came into existence around 13 to 14 billion years ago, caused by a mega outpouring of energy called the BIG BANG. The most remarkable thing about this is that this enormous amount of energy didn't just cause a load of confusion, as an explosion would; it created an organised entity that consists of billions of galaxies, made up of billions of solar systems, each with a sun having planets and moons orbiting the sun.

All this means that it's an extremely complex universe, with laws controlling how it functions and evolves.

Science also tells us that life was introduced billions of years after the Big Bang. Today, life has evolved into plant and animal life, growing from a simple original cell structure. This ability was due to what is known as DNA, and life's evolution took hundreds of millions of years.

In simple terms, DNA is a list of instructions found in the cells of most living things. These instructions are accessed in a specific sequence, each one interpreted and then acted upon to make the life form grow into the entity it is. This infers that life is very complicated, and because DNA performs a predetermined task, it must have a purpose.

Science tells us that everything in the universe is what it is and where it is because an intelligent **BEING** or non-intelligent **THING** made it so. For example, a car is where it is because it was driven there by a human being and designed and built by a human being. A flood is what it is because a river bursts its banks, an unintelligent thing, and the river bursts its banks because of a tremendous downpouring of rain, another unintelligent **thing**.

From a scientific point of view, all this begs the question, what caused the universe and life, two very complex entities, to come into existence? Was it a being or a thing? Their complexity rules out anything just happening into existence.

Because of their complexities, the only logical answer is an intelligent entity, a being. This is supported by DNA, which we know has a purpose. A purpose must be thought of, which a thing cannot do.

We can assume that the being who created the universe and life must be an extremely super-intelligence. Logically, such a being would never waste its time creating something without a purpose, and just creating a universe would have no purpose. Is this why life was introduced?

Creating intelligent life, such as human beings, but which dies after around a hundred years and then there's nothing, also has no purpose.

A question we may ask is why human life has evolved to become so intelligent that it can design and build transportation devices that can

take people into space. Human intelligence is far beyond that of any other life form, making it special and unique. Why only human life?

Human beings can think of a project, design, and build it. They also have intelligence that allows them to think, love, have compassion, hatred, love, decision-making capabilities, and many others. Human beings are very complex life forms.

If the super-intelligence had a purpose for creating the universe and life, what would it be? It seems logical that just creating the universe has no purpose, so how does intelligent life give it one? As we have mentioned, making an intelligent life does not necessarily have a purpose, especially if nothing happens after death. However hard I tried, I could get no further using logic and science to get answers to my questions about any purpose this super intelligence had for creating existence, that is, the universe and life. THERE WAS NOTHING IN SCIENCE TO TAKE ME ANY FURTHER

This is when I turned to religion. Does religion help?

As a Catholic, I looked at what the Church teaches. I was amazed to see how it matched my ideas about logic and science, the creation of the universe, life, and the purpose of existence.

The first thing it teaches is that there is a super-intelligence we call God, who is 'infinite in all perfection'; that is, he cannot do anything wrong, such as create something without a purpose. It then goes on to answer my question about the purpose of creating existence, which is related to what happens to human life when we die.

It teaches us that whenever a human being is conceived, it's given an immortal soul. God has promised that if human beings obey his laws, which we call commandments, then when a person dies, its immortal soul will live with God in an idyllic place called heaven for all eternity. This is a great promise, answering the question about what happens to us after our human death.

To achieve all this, God also gave human beings free will so that they alone decide whether to obey his commandments or not. This is his challenge to human beings. God cannot change their decisions; only try to persuade them not to disobey. He is so keen to have people gain his great promise that the church tells us he sent his only son to earth to show and tell people the best way to achieve it.

It was gratifying to realize that what the church teaches is uncannily similar to what science tells us about the universe and life.

My other questions about other beings in the universe and alternative dimensions and universes were now easily answered. If God has a purpose for them, then why shouldn't they exist?

