

## DESIGN & QUESTION OF WHY IS THERE SOMETHING RATHER THAN NOTHING?

The believers in God have us asking, "Why is there something rather than nothing?" They mean us to take it for granted that, "It is created by God" is the answer.

So no matter how useless or messy a universe is, it is made by God and that is why it exists. The believers reasoning ruins their argument that design shows that God the great designer exists.

But what if we ask, "Why is there order in the universe when there could have been none at all?"

The "answer" is that the universe is designed so God designed it. It is insulting to seek to answer the question with God. It is evil to ignore the evil and disorder in the universe to focus on the seeming order to show there is a God. People's suffering is too important to be put aside in order that you might open up the way to faith in God. The evil and waste and disorder overwhelms the order. There will come a time when the whole universe will be wreckage. It shows Satan is God and we should serve him if it shows any God exists! The believers are being flippant for what would you say about society rewarding a man who does more evil than good for the good he does?

The question about order is interesting. If there was no order they would still be saying that the universe is created by God for God is still the only answer for, "Why something rather than nothing?"

No matter how much a universe looks like it is not the work of God, they have found a way to still say it is his work! If you have to act like a faith addict to believe in God then even if there is a God, belief in him is not good for us.

Why is there something rather than nothing? The scientific and religious answer is in essence that all things came from nothing. Nothing then has the potential to become something. God cannot do the impossible so God cannot make something from nothing unless it is possible for nothing to become something. That is to say that nothing has the potential to become something. For nothing to change into something, nothing must contain the seeds of what it would become - I am taking inspiration from Heraclitus. Nothing had to contain the seeds of life for it to change into life. The problem for religion is that if nothing has that power then nothing can become something WITHOUT GOD.

The argument states that even without design we would still need God to explain why anything exists! Thus the stress the believers put on design is hypocritical and a distraction. It is just emphasised because it is useful to get the believers convinced. The question is why is there something rather than nothing not why is there design rather than non-design?

If God made all things from nothing then he designed nothing into something even if that is all the designing he did. But that cannot be done. The design argument is refuted by its root doctrine - the underlying presumption that creation is true.

It is simply false that why is there something rather than nothing is a religious question or a merely religious question. But pretend that it is a religious question. The religious answer can only be, "All things exist because God wanted them to." But that is not an answer. It means God's purpose was doing what he wanted. It was not about us. If you help a person because you want to and not because it is good, you are not doing it for the person but to satisfy the desire. It is insane to imagine that a being such as God would be that like us and eager to be as selfish.

Scientific experiments can never show that God wanted to make all things. You can never see the desire of another. Or their intentions.

Why there is anything at all rather than nothing? Christians say the reason is God. Is it the existing that matters in terms of indicating there is a God and not the design? Or is it the existing that matters first and foremost for it is the starting point with the design a runner up? Put that way the argument is that even if there is no design at all in anything it is clear that God still exists. What matters then is not the design or lack but the existing. The design argument whether there is a God or not is about manipulating people to believe. But believing in God as designer with insufficient or no interest in whether he is creator is just belief in a pagan style God. The design thing would only be a small thing.

Life is a mess. The wild varieties of creatures all different and all wonderful and all flawed shows simply that life arose by chance. You would expect all that difference to appear if chance is the ultimate cause of all life. Design is in the eye of the beholder.

Science cannot even find that artificial intelligence would explain the seeming wonder of life in all its forms. So how is it supposed to help us suspect God?

## WORKS CONSULTED

- A HISTORY OF GOD, Karen Armstrong, Mandarin, London, 1994
- A HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY, VOL 6, PART II, KANT, Frederick Copleston SJ, Doubleday/Image, New York, 1964
- A PATH FROM ROME, Anthony Kenny Sidgwick & Jackson, London, 1985
- A SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE, Louis Berkhof, The Banner of Truth Trust, London, 1971
- AN INTELLIGENT PERSONS GUIDE TO CATHOLICISM, Alban McCoy, Continuum, London and New York, 1997
- AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS, John Hospers, Routledge, London, 1992
- APOLOGETICS AND CATHOLIC DOCTRINE, Part 1, Most Rev M Sheehan DD, MH Gill, & Son, Dublin, 1954
- APOLOGETICS FOR THE PULPIT, Aloysius Roche, Burns Oates & Washbourne LTD, London, 1950
- AQUINAS, FC Copleston, Penguin Books, London, 1991
- ARGUING WITH GOD, Hugh Sylvester, IVP, London, 1971
- ASKING THEM QUESTIONS, Various, Oxford University Press, London, 1936
- BELIEVING IN GOD, PJ McGrath, Wolfhound Press, Dublin, 1995
- CONTROVERSY: THE HUMANIST CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTER, Hector Hawton, Pemberton Books, London, 1971
- CRITIQUES OF GOD, Edited by Peter A Angeles, Prometheus Books, New York, 1995
- DIALOGUES CONCERNING NATURAL RELIGION, David Hume, William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London, 1907
- DOES GOD EXIST? Brian Davies OP, Catholic Truth Society, London, 1982
- DOES GOD EXIST? Herbert W Armstrong, Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, California, 1972
- DOING AWAY WITH GOD? Russell Stannard, Marshall Pickering, London, 1993
- GOD A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED Keith Ward, OneWorld, Oxford, 2003
- GOD AND PHILOSOPHY, Antony Flew, Hutchinson, London, 1966
- GOD AND THE HUMAN CONDITION, F J Sheed, Sheed & Ward, London 1967
- GOD AND THE NEW PHYSICS, Paul Davies, Penguin Books, London, 1990
- GOD IS NOT GREAT, THE CASE AGAINST RELIGION, Christopher Hitchens, Atlantic Books, London, 2007
- GOD THE PROBLEM, Gordon D Kaufman, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1973
- HANDBOOK OF CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS, Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli, Monarch, East Sussex, 1995
- HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY, VOL 2, Frederick Copleston SJ Westminster, Maryland, Newman, 1962
- HONEST TO GOD, John AT Robinson, SCM Press, London, 1963
- IN DEFENCE OF THE FAITH, Dave Hunt, Harvest House, Eugene Oregon, 1996
- IN SEARCH OF CERTAINTY, John Guest Regal Books, Ventura, California, 1983
- JESUS HYPOTHESES, V. Messori, St Paul Publications, Slough, 1977
- NEW CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, The Catholic University of America and the McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., Washington, District of Columbia, 1967
- ON THE TRUTH OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH, BOOK ONE, GOD, St Thomas Aquinas, Image Doubleday and Co, New York, 1961
- OXFORD DICTIONARY OF PHILOSOPHY, Simon Blackburn, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996
- PHILOSOPHY AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, Colin Brown, IVP, London, 1973
- RADIO REPLIES, Vol 1, Frs Rumble and Carty, Radio Replies Press, St Paul, Minnesota, 1938
- RADIO REPLIES, Vol 2, Frs Rumble and Carty, Radio Replies Press, St Paul, Minnesota, 1940
- RADIO REPLIES, Vol 3, Frs Rumble and Carty, Radio Replies Press, St Paul, Minnesota, 1942
- REASON AND RELIGION, Anthony Kenny, Basil Blackwell Ltd, Oxford, 1987
- SALVIFICI DOLORIS, Pope John Paul II, Catholic Truth Society, London, 1984
- TAKING LEAVE OF GOD, Don Cupitt, SCM Press, London, 1980
- The Cambridge Companion to Atheism, Edited by Michael Martin, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2007
- THE BIG QUESTIONS, Simon Blackburn, Quercus Books, London, 2009
- THE CASE AGAINST GOD, Gerald Priestland, Collins, Fount Paperbacks, London, 1984
- THE CONCEPT OF GOD, Ronald H Nash, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1983
- THE HONEST TO GOD DEBATE Edited by David L Edwards, Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1963
- THE KINDNESS OF GOD, EJ Cuskelly MSC, Mercier Press, Cork, 1965
- THE LANGUAGE OF BELIEF, A SCIENTIST PRESENTS EVIDENCE FOR BELIEF, Francis S Collins, Free Press, New York, 2006
- THE PUZZLE OF GOD, Peter Vardy, Collins, London, 1990
- THE REALITY OF GOD AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL, Brian Davies, Continuum, London-New York, 2006
- THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BELIEF, Charles Gore DD, John Murray, London, 1930
- THE TRUTH OF CHRISTIANITY, WH Turton, Wells Gardner, Darton & Co Ltd, London, 1905
- UNBLIND FAITH, Michael J Langford, SCM, London, 1982
- WHAT DO EXISTENTIALISTS BELIEVE? Richard Appignanesi, Granta Books, London, 2006
- WHAT I BELIEVE by Anthony Kenny, Continuum, London – New York, 2006
- WHAT IS FAITH? Anthony Kenny, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1992

WHY DOES GOD? Domenico Grasso, St Paul, Bucks, 1970

Why I Became an Atheist, John Loftus, Prometheus Books, New York, 2008