

## The Universe is Purposeful

Consider the following two facts. First, you're alive. **How likely** is it that you're an accident? Second, you're smart enough to think about the world and wonder how you fit into it. **How likely** is it that your thoughts are accidentally meaningful?

Fred Hoyle was always good for a turn of phrase. He once compared the odds of an accident manufacturing intelligent-life to the likelihood of a tornado moving through a junkyard and "accidentally" assembling a functioning Boeing 747.

In fact, the math is much worse. After all, a tornado is something not nothing, and a junkyard is many things. Hoyle saw this and confessed that the odds of a protein organizing by accident were like a solar-system full of blind men solving Rubik's cubes at the same time – practically zero.

To grasp the problem, consider that there are  $10^{82}$  atoms in the universe, and  $10^{22}$  planets. Yet the odds of a life permitting world are just 1 in  $10^{138}$ . **We live on that world!** Is it radical good-luck, or were we put here on **purpose**? **If so, by what or Whom?** That's the question! Scientists ought to follow evidence where it leads, like it or not. Maybe you should too.

## You Have a Purpose

Perhaps the best evidence for God is you. If the universe came from nothing and exists for no real purpose, then the same goes for everything the universe contains. Notice this carefully. If *homo sapiens* are just a random glob of atoms, then we aren't more important than any other random glob of atoms. Yes – even you! Ideas carry meaning, and meaning has consequences.

I dare you to explain why owning your pet is morally acceptable, but owning your neighbor isn't. If the universe is an accident, why isn't slavery the same as pet-ownership? If racism is evil, why isn't speciesism?

Why is it morally acceptable to gas and burn the insects that trespass on "your home," and the dandelions that trespass on "your lawn," but it wasn't acceptable for Hitler to gas and burn the persons who trespassed on "his Reich?" Be honest and notice the distinction that makes the real difference! Why must you be tolerated? Why shouldn't you tolerate HIV or Covid-19 as well? **Why are you special?**

Because you are a person with a purpose. To enjoy life with God, and share your life with others. If you are really a "you" then God is real! Maybe you should trust that **HE IS**.

Genesis 1:1 – Isaiah 44:24 – Hebrews 11:1-6

## Is God Real?



**If HE IS, then as Creator, God holds the copyright on His universe and has a perfect purpose for everything in it – including you.**

**If He isn't, then the universe has no purpose, and *homo sapiens* are a random physical accident – not morally better than a hickory tree, a housefly or the HIV virus. That includes you too.**

**The question is...**

## Is He or Not?

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## Faith & Evidence

The reality of God is not simply a matter of faith. Some **believe** in the reality of God (theists). Others believe in the non-reality of God (atheists). Still others believe that the reality of God isn't important enough to warrant a decision one way or the other (agnostics).

Notice that each holds a positive belief in something. They **trust** in the accuracy of their own **persuasion** despite a lack of proof. That by definition is **faith** and we all practice a version of it. The begged question is "whose faith corresponds to the **evidence**?" You have to decide what best explains the following. What merits your informed-trust?

## The Universe Began

For most of human history, educated people assumed that the universe always existed. Einstein "spoiled the punch" when his theory of general relativity predicted an expanding universe. If the universe is expanding, then it must have burst into existence from nothing at a first cosmic moment – a **genesis**. Astronomer Fred Hoyle mocked the idea by calling it "the big-bang." The name stuck.

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The expansion of the universe is now settled science on account of a measurable **redshift** in light reaching Earth from distant sources; and from **background radiation** left behind by the big-bang. The redshift was noticed by Edwin Hubble in 1929, and the background radiation by Penzias and Wilson of Bell Labs in 1965. Two inferences follow from the data. First, since the speed of light in a vacuum is constant (the "c" in  $E=mc^2$ ) – space itself is expanding. Second, the universe **began**. That's the science. Here is the logic. Since everything that begins is caused to begin, the universe was caused to begin too. **By what or Whom?** Well – that's the question!

The most ancient extant culture on Earth has worshiped a **Creator** of heaven and earth for thousands of years. Their sacred-texts (The Old Testament) say that: "In the beginning **God** created heaven and earth." They also notice that God "stretched out the heavens."

2,700 years before Hubble looked through his telescope and saw evidence of the beginning, a Hebrew prophet named Isaiah wrote that God created and stretched out the heavens. How did he guess right about that? What if he didn't guess? What if he **listened** to God and **believed** Him? Given the **evidence**, maybe you should too.

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## The Universe Is Meaningful

Why does this paragraph make sense? Why is 2+2 always 4? Why aren't there circles with sides? Why is it wrong to shoot school-kids with an AR-15? Why is it right for others to see you as especially important, and tolerate your place in the world and peculiar view of it? **Because the universe contains meaning.**

Is it really "smart" to trust that meaning organized itself from nothing at all? To be objective, meaning must come from a **Perfect-Source**. **From what or Whom?** That's the question! Since the universe began, it didn't supply its own meaning, just as this sentence didn't write itself down. Same goes for the meaning in you. The reality of meaning implies the reality of its **Author**. When we claim otherwise, we deny that meaning is real. **It's a Trap!**

You can't deny the reality of meaning without using meaning to do it. To argue that meaning isn't real proves its reality! This is called self-refutation, and we ought to avoid it like afternoon-traffic. Philosophers ought to find meaning by seeking the **Headwaters** of meaning itself. Maybe you should too.