

The
Spark

The
LIGHT

The Planet

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This is an educational work in progress. As I double check sources and get input from scientists, I am modifying the information in this book. Where evidence may be questionable I have placed markers noting such. I welcome feedback on this educational resource.

DH

Purpose

In an effort to bring the best scientific evidence to light and get beyond biases and world views, I have created and compiled this project.

Assumptions: There is such a thing as reality.

There is a way to know things and the best known and provable things are called Truths.

Science is just one of the ways of discovering and knowing truths.

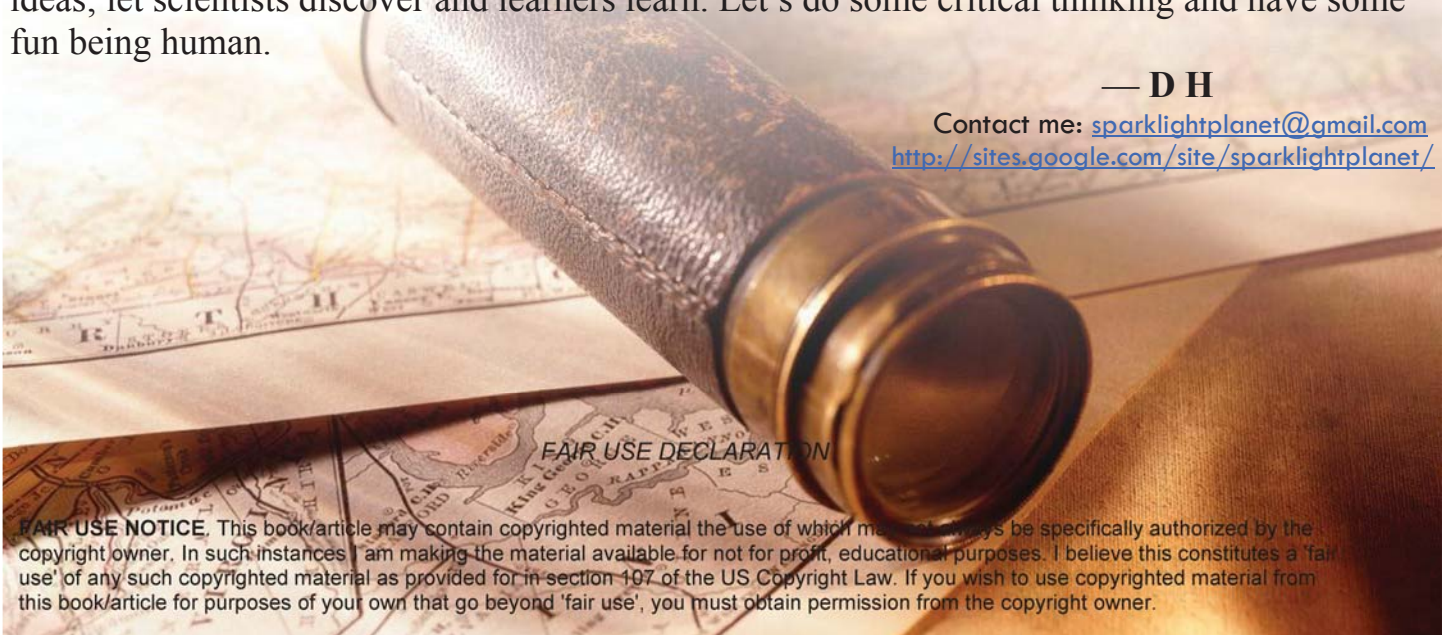
We do not make up truth/ reality. We discover it. Truth is outside humanity, otherwise each person's view is a perception, therefore only perception = truth. In this view there is no truth, just opinions and perceptions—everything becomes relative— the majority, the most powerful, outspoken—dictator overpowers all other “preferences.” In this world there is no wrong, injustice, evil, etc. It's all relative— unknowable and a primordial ooze. Science becomes either irrelevant, because it is dependent upon human perception (relativism) or it becomes the only truth.

So unless you want to live in a world where nothing matters, including you, then there is Truth, knowing and discovery. It all matters because there are answers, and everyone should be free to explore, learn and express their views no matter what the conclusions are. Responsibility of ideas; let scientists discover and learners learn. Let's do some critical thinking and have some fun being human.

— D H

Contact me: sparklightplanet@gmail.com
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This is a gateway project, which I hope will intrigue you and lead you to the excellent resources noted in this book and further research.



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Science

What is Science and what is it not.

Webster's definition:

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/science>

- Main Entry: **science**
- Pronunciation: \ˈsɪ-ən(t)s\
- Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *scientia*, from *scient-*, *sciens* having knowledge, from present participle of *scire* to know; perhaps akin to Sanskrit *chyati* he cuts off, Latin *scindere* to split — more at [shed](#)

- Date: 14th century

1 : the state of knowing : knowledge as distinguished from ignorance or misunderstanding

2 a : a department of systematized knowledge as an object of study <the *science* of theology> **b** : something (as a sport or technique) that may be studied or learned like systematized knowledge <have it down to a *science*>

3 a : knowledge or a system of knowledge covering general truths or the operation of general laws especially as obtained and tested through [scientific](#) method **b** : such knowledge or such a system of knowledge concerned with the physical world and its phenomena : [natural science](#)

4 : a system or method reconciling practical ends with [scientific](#) laws <cooking is both a *science* and an art>



- Main Entry: **scientific method**

• Function: *noun*

• Date: circa 1810

: principles and procedures for the systematic pursuit of knowledge involving the recognition and formulation of a problem, the collection of data through observation and experiment, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses

Scientific Method Outline

Problem- What are we testing? The question

Research- Have others tackled this problem? Observation

**Formulate a hypothesis— write and if/then statement.
Assumption to probability**

Design the experiment/formulate your problem or issue

Collect observations, summarize data or evidences

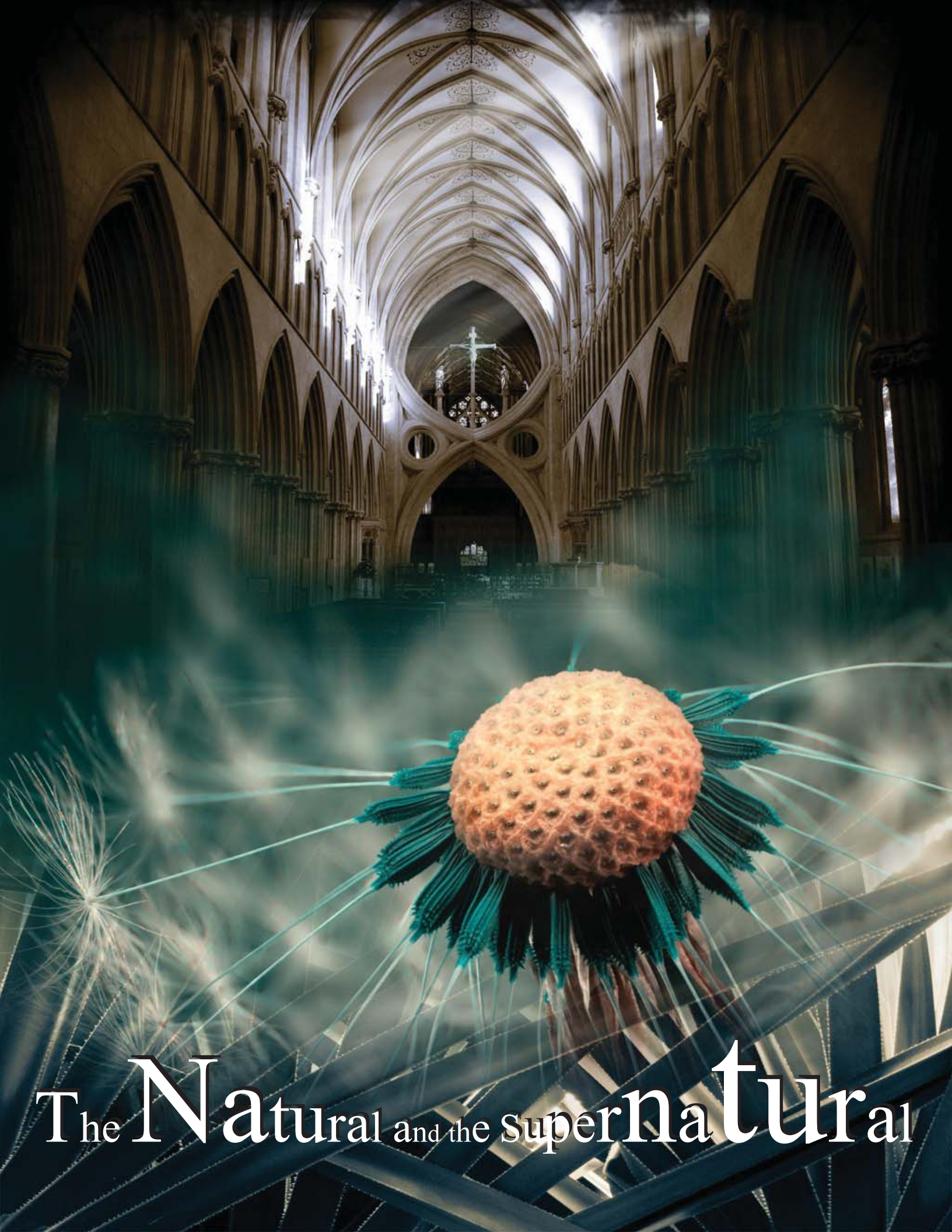
Conclusions— a working statement about truth—a theory back by evidence

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/ee/what-is-science>

Two kinds of Science

- Observational — I saw it, but can't recreate it— a volcano
- Experimental — I recreated the conditions and observed— fly mutation

Anything stated **to take or be** millions / thousands of years has not been scientifically observed. It often relies upon assumption and belief.



The Natural and the Supernatural

The Natural and the Supernatural

Why is our culture, almost globally caught up in ideas and dreams of the supernatural?

Writer Arthur C. Clarke postulates as follows:

Clarke's Three Laws are three "laws" of prediction formulated by the British writer and scientist.

They are:

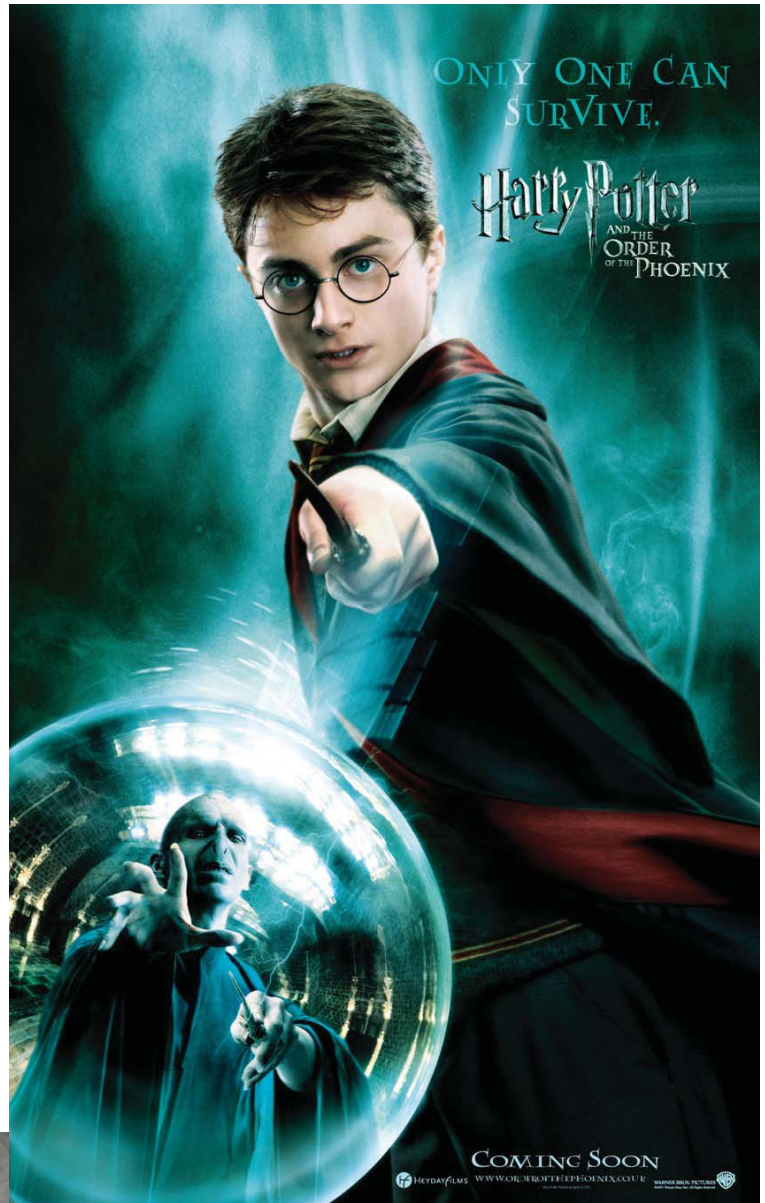
1. When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.

1. The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible.

3. Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarke%27s_three_laws

"Profiles of The Future", 1961



"Any path to knowledge is a path to God—or Reality, whichever word one prefers to use". Arthur C. Clarke

Can the Supernatural be proven?

<http://peace-of-mind.net/>

<http://www.examiner.com/crime-history-in-rochester/famous-supernatural-events-19th-century-america>

<http://www.virtuescience.com/mystery.html>

The Natural and the Supernatural

Science is one of the ways mankind learns about our world, it is just one among many ways of discovery. Science is in progress and tied to humans, fallible and changing as we learn and discover more about our world.

So what is science and what is it made up of?

Science is made up of logical and rational thinking about our world. It seeks to make working schemes/ statements/ beliefs about what is and what should be. It is based on observation and evidence. It includes belief in the before mentioned things. A belief is rational if based on enough evidence and it agrees with what is known about the world and reality. Faith is trusting in evidences. Faith either has a foundation and justification, or no foundation = delusion.

Belief: trusting in what is observed, reproduced, and proven.

Faith: acting on your beliefs, making judgment calls—laws, and sometimes believing in something you don't currently have all the evidence for— and assumption, imagination, a leap of faith.

Some of the world's greatest scientists use belief and faith to jump beyond the evidence and propose a theory before the evidence was found, and because of their faith, they discovered amazing things.

Science is not Science fiction, anything on TV or movies, and unfounded theories based on little or no evidence / observation. Science is not necessarily what is widely accepted.

The Supernatural

How much do we know? How much does all humanity collectively know?

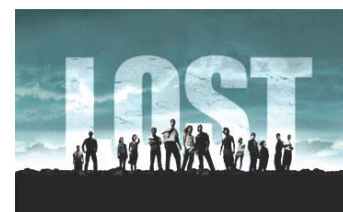
You may say, “a lot” “everything” or “almost nothing.”

We are discovering, learning, and exploring every day. We know more, but as many scientists will tell you, the more you learn, the more you realize there is so much more to learn. For example: the cell, DNA, the oceans, outer space. Enough?

Our world (though we like to think we are more scientific, rational, and naturalistic) is toying with and seeking the supernatural more than ever, in TV, movies, books and music. The amazing amount of science fiction, ghosts, and alien media is astounding for such a “scientific and rational—naturalistic society.” We like to pretend we live in only a natural world, answering only to ourselves. But our dreams (media) are filled with the supernatural and memories of our lost potential and purpose. Have we lost a perfect world, an “Eden” and we are trying to get it back (current environmental movement?).

What if the supernatural is really just the undiscovered? This doesn't mean leaving reality, it means exploring again, being wise enough to know you don't have all of the answers and aren't in control of everything. It means believing in truth but still having an open mind to consider all things, and it means some things might just be dumb, wrong, stupid and evil. If not, our alternative is to be close-minded, intolerant, and to close judgment on ourselves. To censor ideas is to close the lid and trap ourselves in a box where no answers can be found and no questions can thrive. We then live in a world tied to the mast of a sinking ship of political correctness and popular tolerance, which only tolerates their own views.

DH



The Natural and the Supernatural

What percentage of the world's population believes in the Supernatural? How many believe only in the natural?

World Population Percentages by Religious Group

religious 86%, non-religious and anti-religious 14%

Religious Groups

monotheists 54%, reincarnationists 20%, ethno religions 10%

Monotheists

Christians 33%, Muslims 21%

Reincarnationists

Hindu 13%, Buddhist 6%

Ethno Religions Chinese 6.3%, tribal 4%

Non-religious groups

Non-religious and agnostic 11.9%, anti-religious and atheist 2.3%

From: <http://www.geocities.com/richleebruce/mystat.html>

<http://home.sandiego.edu/~baber/logic/gallup.html>

This poll shows that in June 16, 2005

Three in Four Americans Believe in the Paranormal

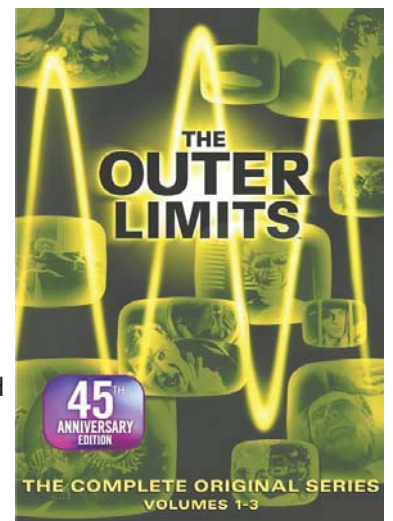
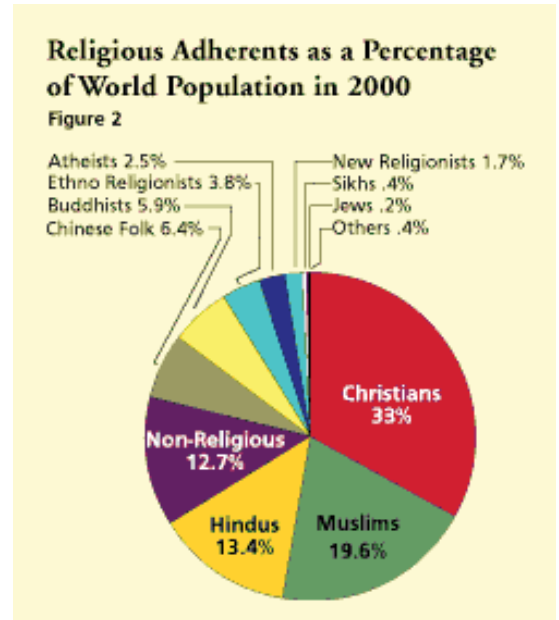
Little change from similar results in 2001

<http://www.baylor.edu/pr/news.php?ac...ry&story=52815>

During the past 63 years, several polls show the percentage of atheists has not changed at all, holding steady at only 4 percent of Americans who say they do not believe in God. Not only is atheism not growing in the United States, the majority of Europeans are not atheists (Ch. 14, "Atheism: The Godless Revolution That Never Happened"). Russia now claims 96 percent of its population believes in God, while a recent poll of China showed that atheists are outnumbered by those who believe in God(s).

In both the 2005 and 2007 Baylor Religion Surveys, researchers found that 11 percent of the national sample reported they had "no religion." Although nearly a third of the "no religion" group are atheists who reject "anything beyond the physical world," the Baylor Religion Survey found that two-thirds of the "no religion" group expressed some belief in God and many of those are not "irreligious" but are merely "unchurched" (Ch. 17, "The Irreligious: Simply Unchurched-Not Atheists"). Delving into the actual religiousness of those who report having no religion, the Baylor Survey found that a majority of Americans who claim to be irreligious pray (and 32 percent pray often), around a third of them profess belief in Satan, hell and demons, and around half believe in angels and ghosts.

<http://boards.straightdope.com/sdbm/showthread.php?t=525130>



The Natural and the Supernatural

More info from Gallup poles:

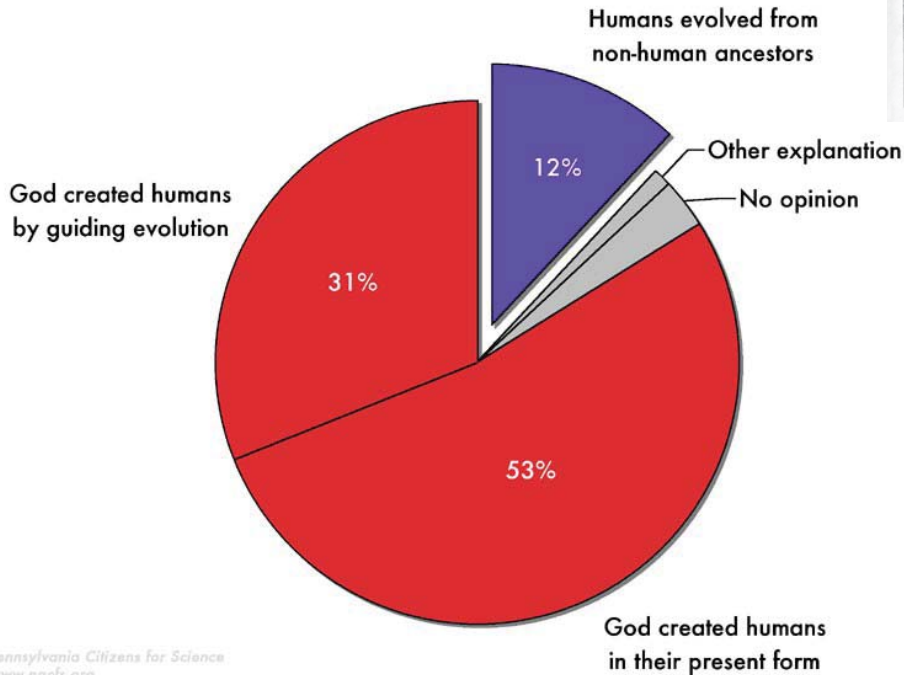
http://www.religioustolerance.org/ev_publi.htm

Around the world: <http://www.religioustolerance.org/worldrel.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_religious_groups



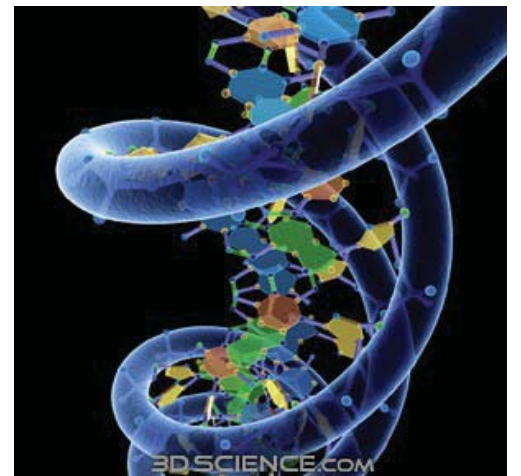
**American's views on the origin of humans
(Gallup poll, November 2005)**



So, to break it all down, worldwide, about 3% of the worlds population do not believe in the supernatural.

About 3 to 9% of Americans do not believe in the supernatural.

Where do you fit and why?



Worldviews

A world view is how we make sense of everything around us. It is what we base our beliefs, hopes and truths on.

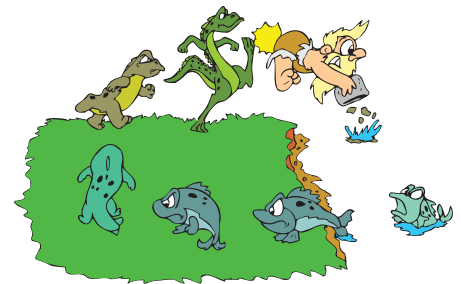
A world view is why two people looking at the same evidence can come out with different views and conclusions.

You never come to the table with nothing. There is no vacuum when it comes to the human experience.

This really matters in the realm of science and exploration, truth and knowing. The question is not whether you can get rid of your bias, but can you see your bias for what it is, a world view, and go beyond it to explore other world views and ideas, being open enough to consider their credibility, origins and conclusions.

What follows are three worldviews which encompass all of the other subsets. Others have explained this better; this is just a skeletal outline. I encourage you to explore further.

Naturalism: The world and the observable universe came about by only natural processes. All that exists are time, matter and energy. There is no supernatural in any form. In this camp are atheists, naturalistic (Darwinian) evolutionists, and some agnostics.



What this world view believes about:

- Origins— everything came about by chance out of matter, energy, and time. These have always existed, origin unknown.
- Humans — the “most evolved” of the living creatures on earth, though may not be the most fit for survival. A product of chance whose only purpose is to survive.
- Morality— morality is tied to survival. The fittest survivor decides the morality. Everything is relative. Right and wrong, good and evil, life and death are just preferences. There are no injustices or wrongs. The majority or the strongest impose their preferences of morality on the weaker. It is just nature being nature.
- Death — the end of all things, existence ceases, ending any imagined or created meaning or purpose
- Life — you are “god” (the most evolved) so seek your greatest good /survival. Seek pleasure until you die.
- Directives— The only real things are what can be observed in naturalistic/material science. Survival of the fittest—survival of the survivors is the driving force. Chance is the only force or known. The earths well-being supersedes that of any one species, aka, humans. We may be the problem and may need extermination.

Pantheism: There is some kind of force, energy or multiple entities which may or may not have brought about the world and the observable universe. They may be part of it as well, but just more evolved beings, separate or entwined in nature. In this camp are Buddhists, Unitarians, pantheists, animists, Hindus, the Greek gods, Gya, Chinese and Japanese folk beliefs, African deities, often Mormonism, etc.



What this world view believes about:

- Origins — a few creation mythologies, but many pantheist Buddhists and Hindus don't address this issue.
- Humans — lower evolutions, part of the system of all things, we must stay in balance or harmony with all things.



World Views...continued

- Morality — it varies upon your evolution level.
- Death — maybe the end, maybe not. Definitely the end of your personality as the universe recycles your energy or essence.
- Life — seek to be at balance with the universe and with others, but don't get caught in the wrong caste system or the downward spiral of reincarnation. Which evolved entity or force do you listen to in this worldview? Nothing is for sure; just seek peace and love and hang loose, however that is done.
- Directives — There is something out there bigger than us. Some great observations about humans, nature, and the universe, but not sure what to do or where to go with them.

Monotheism / The One: All existence, reality, knowing, time, energy and matter, start from one being. This being (alien) has always existed, always been, and has no end. This being is outside of time, space, and matter. Life, light, love, relationship, choice, and all things find their source or origin in this being.



What this world view believes about:

- Origins — All of time, space, energy and life come from this source. The Creation is a reflection of the creator, but not the same as the Creator.
- Humans — A special reflection of the creator, designed to be in a unique relationship with the creator.
- Morality — Light and dark, good and evil, right and wrong exist outside the human experience and we live the happiest and best when we discover and align ourselves with the harmony of the universe and choose to live connected with the source of life and reality.
- Death — the result of separation from the Source. A consequence of choice, our choosing to seek independence from the origin of all things. A transition resulting in rebirth or restoration of all things lost, broken, stolen, or destroyed because of human independence from Life's Source. Or, complete separation resulting in judgment and annihilation.
- Life — the opportunity to discover your purpose and connect with the Creator, living out your hopes and dreams and gifts to your fullest potential.
- Directives— learn to live in love, connected to the Source, live in balance and harmony with nature and your fellow humans. Reflect the love, life, and glory and relationship given to us by the Creator, exploring and living in wonder at all that is around us.



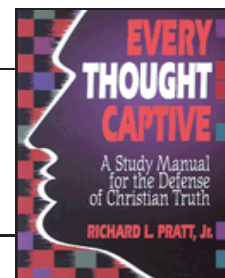
Note: Of the three main beliefs, Islam, Judaism and Christianity, only Christianity holds to a being who has love and relationship at its core in a trinity of three personalities of the same essence in perfect harmony with each other, showing themselves to humanity in one Creator. A truly alien and mind-twisting concept. In contrast Islam and Judaism (to some extent) have only one being with love being one trait of that being— much more like the Greek gods of Olympus who loved and hated and had no core nature.

DH

Every Thought Captive: A Study Manual for the understanding of Christian Beliefs

By Richard L. Pratt, Jr.

A great look into the presuppositions of thought and belief



A Comparison of the Two Main Theories

Note: there are many variations between the two, such as theistic evolution, which try to adopt characteristics of the other.

Key: In discussing naturalistic evolution and creation theories it will be helpful to distinguish some sets or differences in the animal kingdom. (More: see page 11)

The broadest sets are invertebrates, vertebrates.

Then mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, arthropods, starfish, mollusks, segmented worms, roundworms, flatworms, jellyfish, sponges.

Then kinds/ baramins: dog, primate, cat, horse, cow, spider, whale, turtle, lizard, bird etc.

Then species: swan, house cat, doberman, draft horse, ape, blue whale, crocodile, etc.

More info: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/get-answers/topic/created-kinds>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/cfol/ch2-species.asp>



Naturalistic Evolution:

Assumption – Time, matter and energy have always existed, and somehow defy the laws of entropy.

This model allows for no outside or intelligent intervention (supernatural). Only time, matter, and energy- only the natural.

Universe: from the big bang – origin point out of “nothing”

Billions of y.o. 8 to 20 billion y.o.

Earth & Solar System: just one of many solar systems and planets, which by chance happens to be in a life zone.

Billions of y.o. Earth Approximately 4.3 billion y.o.

Life: By chance arose from non-life chemicals and minerals, possibly in the deep oceans.

Billions of y.o.

All life/complex organisms (us) “evolved” from non-life – single cell.



Creation: Assumption – A creator being (outside the universe) has always existed, no beginning and no end. This model allows for supernatural intervention in nature and claims that the Creator used natural and supernatural means in the origin and development of the universe and life on earth and even outside of it.

Universe: from an origin point, spoken into existence (created) out of nothing.

Could be billions y.o. or young, thousands y.o. In the Bible, the Earth is talked about first, and the planets, sun, and stars show up later. It could be that they were created billions/millions of years before and their light reached earth on the day described in the Bible – naturalistically. There are some great scientific observations for a young universe that is thousands of years old. There is also the supernatural nature of the Creator, beyond the access of science.

Earth & Solar system: designed specifically for life and humanity. It could be millions or thousands of years old. According to the Bible, the earth was formless and void, but it doesn't say for how long until the day / night cycle was started by the Creator initiating time measurement and life.



Life: designed and specifically created. Thousands y.o.

All life (simple and complex organisms created and designed within their kinds (original design) before genetic entropy – the Fall possibly introduced mutation and degeneration.



The Spark, the Light & the Planet

Natural Selection: In nature one or more traits will be favored and/or selected out because of environmental conditions.

Adaptation: A living organism's reaction to natural selection. An internal system will enhance traits so that the organism / animal/ human survives better. (Scientifically observed within kinds, called speciation. Darwin's finches or dogs – wolf to Chihuahua.

Mutation: change within an organism on the genetic level. Scientifically no new genetic information has ever been observed to be added to an organism by mutation. It works with the existing information. Mutations can be beneficial, neutral, or harmful. The huge majority are harmful.

Naturalistic evolution proposes that these three mechanisms can change one kind of creature into another and that they can- given enough time- take one celled organisms and “evolve” them into a range of different kinds of creatures. This is referred to as macro (large) evolution, and differentiated from micro-evolution, which happens within kinds from the three forces mentioned above.

Long periods of time: billions and millions of years. With enough time the improbable or the impossible become possible- is the theory.

Fossil record: claims to be able to show millions of years of life and geologic change, Millions y.o.

Tenants: the present is the key to the past – uniformitism. (Does not acknowledge that a worldwide cataclysm happened, except whatever wiped out the dinosaurs.)

Reality and morality originate from nature. Existence is only in life on this earth. Death ends everything. There is no pre - or post - existence, no supernatural.



Summary:

The key differences between evolution and creation theories are the pre-existence of a supernatural creator versus a completely naturalistic world. Billions of years versus thousands for the origin and development of life and the universe. They differ on the scientific viability of natural selection, adaptation and mutation to “evolve” non-life / single cell organism to the multiplicity of complex organisms we see today and in the fossil record. They interpret the fossil record and past events differently.

Natural selection: imported from the Fall. The result of sin and separation from the Creator's plan and design.

In nature one or more traits will be favored / selected out because of environmental conditions. This fits both models and is neither evolutionary or creationary.

Adaptation: an amazing design feature enabling creatures to modify or adapt to nature (within kinds) dog, horse, cat, turtle etc.

A living organism's reaction to natural selection. An internal system will enhance traits so that the organism / animal/ human survives better. (Scientifically observed within kinds, called speciation. Darwin's finches or dogs – wolf to Chihuahua.)

Mutation: a mechanism designed to assist adaptation. Harmful mutations (possibly all) are the result of the Fall – human's choice against the Creator, separating all of nature and the planet and ushering in degeneration and mutation. All things were created to their optimal use and purpose, but now are diverging or degenerating.

Change within an organism on the genetic level. Scientifically no new genetic information has ever been observed to be added to an organism by mutation. It works with the existing information. Mutations can be beneficial, neutral, or harmful. The huge majority are harmful.

Short periods of time: for life, and possibly other processes

Fossil record: no intermediates, but many varieties of creatures affected by a global flood, many not in existence today. Mostly laid down by a global flood catastrophe.

Tenants: The present is very different from the past. It has been affected by entropy/degradation and global and local catastrophic events of the past.

Reality and morality originate from the Creator. The supernatural exists, and an afterlife as humans being made in the image of the Creator are designed to exist in a relationship of love and dependence with their Maker forever. The world will be restored and the story will continue and, probably, expand into the rest of the universe as humanity continues to learn and explore the universe created.

DH



The Spark, the Light & the Planet

The scientific evidence

The Origin of Life on Earth & Beyond

The scientific evidence — The origin of life, earth, and outside

Franklin M. Harold, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Colo State U.,
The Way of the Cell, 2001, p. 236.

“Life arose here on earth from inanimate matter, by some kind of evolutionary process, about four billion years ago.

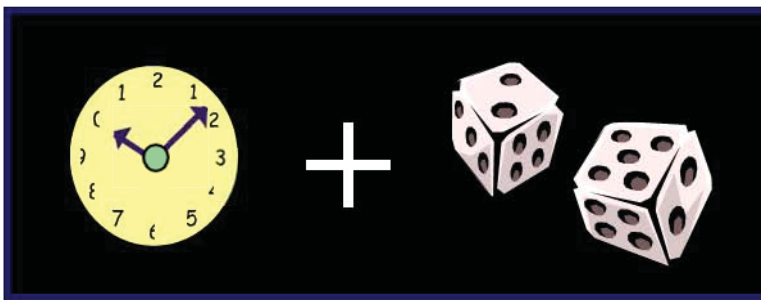
This is not a statement of demonstrable fact, but an assumption almost universally shared by specialists as well as scientists in general. It is not supported by any direct evidence, nor is it likely to be, but it is consistent with what evidence we do have.”

The Model of Evolution

- ◆ About 4.6 billion years ago the earth formed.
- ◆ Chemicals formed in the “primordial soup”.
- ◆ Chemicals bonded together to form molecules.
- ◆ Molecules bonded together to make a living cell.

Scientists discover the chance meeting 1.9bn years ago that led to the eruption of life on Earth

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1084251/Scientists-discover-chance-meeting-1-9bn-years-ago-led-life-Earth.html#ixzz0WNXdIwKv>



- ◆ **Atoms** The basic unit of matter.
- ◆ **Molecules** Specific arrangement of atoms (H₂O).
- ◆ **Amino Acids** Specific arrangement of molecules.
- ◆ **Proteins** Specific arrangement of amino acids.

Does adding Time actually help the chances of evolution?

Scientifically, We observe entropy and degeneration of processes— earth’s magnetic field, genetic degeneration, etc. Time only adds disorganization and degeneration.

To those who believe in secular evolution, an old earth is considered **essential** -

- “The secrets of evolution are death and **time** - the death of enormous numbers of life forms that were imperfectly adapted to the environment; and **time** for a long succession of small mutations that were by accident adaptive, **time** for the slow accumulation of patterns of favorable mutations [emphasis added].” (Carl Sagan , *Cosmos*, 1980, p.30)
- **Time** is in fact the **hero** of the plot . . . given **so much time** the ‘impossible’ becomes possible, the possible probable and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait: **time itself performs miracles** [emphasis added]. (George Wald, “The Origin of Life,” *Physics and the Chemistry of Life*, 1955, p.12)

