

## Reflections on the Existence of God

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### 1. Our Perception of Reality

152 – A number of years ago, Encyclopedia Britannica published a 55—volume series entitled The Great Books of the Western World. This series presented the most important ideas that scholars and intellectuals have considered and investigated over the course of recorded history.

The longest essay was on God. When noted philosopher, author, and co-editor of the series, Mortimer Adler, was asked the reason behind this, he replied, “it is because more consequences for life follow from that one issue than from any other.”

158 – Everyone has a certain perspective on how life works. It is the lens through which we see life. It is what most people call a “worldview.” When we are born, we begin to try and understand how life works. Over time, we formulate a philosophy of life, a worldview, and this worldview influence how we see ourselves, how we relate to others, and how we live our lives.

165 – Nicholi is telling us that our worldview is more telling than perhaps any other aspect of our lives.

166 – Another way to understand our worldview is to see it as a map, a mental map that helps navigate life effectively. As author Nancy Pearcey says, “...we need some creed to live by; some map by which we chart our course.” This is worldview.

168 – In forming our worldviews, Dr. Nicholi says that we make one of two assumptions about life. The first is that we live in a godless universe; we are a product of nature that has evolved over time. This is a secular worldview that emphasizes scientific knowledge and its motto is “What do science and nature have to say?” The second assumption is that there is a supernatural intelligence who gives the universe order and life meaning. This is a spiritual worldview that is rooted in Biblical revelations. It places emphasis on spiritual truth and wisdom and its motto is: “What does God have to say about this?”

174 – I have concluded that every person has an opinion on God and spiritual reality, even it is a belief that He is non-existent.

179 – You end up screening out all that does not fit with this view of life.”

180 – Your worldview will ultimately explain where life originated, what life means, and what we are supposed to be doing with the years we are given.

183 – “What divides us is not science . . . but our worldviews. No one wants to base their life on a delusion, but which is the delusion? Christianity or atheism?”

## 1.2 Discovering What is True

191 – Clifford says that it is a moral obligation to believe responsibly. We must base our beliefs on sufficient evidence that we have diligently investigated.

192 – Beliefs influence one’s actions. They are foundational to life.

197 – Pascal’s observation that most people invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof (evidence) but on the basis of what they find attractive to them.

208 – Are we afraid to look reality in the eye because it may take us in a direction we don’t want to go?

209 – We stubbornly hold on to our beliefs because they generally reflect how we want life to be rather than how life actually is. For this reason, evidence does not seem to matter.

233 – Reason and faith go hand in hand.

## 1.3 – Follow the Truth Where it Leads

282 – It seems quite logical that if we do not have a great love of truth, we most certainly will never find it.

### 2.1 – Seeking to Understand Evil.

354 – Evolution is clear that “natural selection depends on death, destruction, and violence of the strong against the weak.” This is perfectly natural.

### 2.2 – Who Determines what is Evil?

400 – Hitler would appeal to the logic of his worldview. He believed that the survival of the fittest is a fact of nature, and he was consistent with that fact. He clearly believed he was improving the human race by ridding society of inferior being (the Jews) and creating a master race. He believed there was nothing immoral in what he was doing. If you are an atheist, how do you respond to this logic?

404 – “Today’s war is nothing but a struggle for the riches of nature. By virtue of an inherent law, these riches belong to him who conquers them.... That’s in accordance with the laws of

nature. By means of the struggle, the elites are continually renewed. The law of selection justifies this incessant struggle, by allowing the survival of the fittest. Christianity is a rebellion against natural law, a protest against nature. Taken to its logical extreme, Christianity would mean systematic cultivation of the human failure.”

### 2.3 What is a Human Being?

475 – The gas chambers of Auschwitz were the ultimate consequence of the theory that man is nothing but the product of heredity and environment.

477 – The gas chambers of Auschwitz, Treblinka, and Maidanek were ultimately prepared not in some Ministry or other in Berlin, but rather at the desks and lecture halls of nihilistic scientists and philosophers.”

### 2.4 – The Value of Human Life

580 – The only way that human life can be extolled and held sacred is if God in His divine wisdom created humanity as a reflection of Himself.

### 2.8 – Why Does God Allow Evil?

798 – God wanted to create a special type of creature that could relate to Him and to others through love, that we might love God, and others, in a meaningful way. True love cannot be forced, it must be freely chosen. However, by giving us this choice, there is also the built-in possibility that we may hate and harm others.

### 3.1 – Morality and Atheism

889 – Nietzsche predicted that the English-speaking world would seek to abandon a belief in God, but would attempt to hold on to Christian values. However, he predicted correctly that when societies reject God, Christian morality itself will eventually disappear. The reason is because it will be more difficult to motivate people to be moral, for they will naturally follow their selfish instincts and desires.

### 3.4 – The Search for a Meaningful Life

1135 – “What is the meaning of human life... ? To know an answer to this question means to be religious.”

#### 4.2 – Theism and the Meaning of Life

1219 – It goes to reason that if we yearn and desire for a meaningful life, a life with a sense of purpose, there must be something out there that will fulfill it.

#### 4.4 – Answering Life’s Big Questions

1259 – This explains why the depression rate is 10 times higher today than it was 50 years ago, and why suicide has surpassed car crashes as the leading cause of death due to injury.

#### 5 – The Human Experience

1404 – When you have an atheist’s worldview, you are building your life upon a “firm foundation of unyielding despair.” – Bertrand Russell.

##### 5.1 – The Mystery of Love

1423 – Dr. Francis Crick, an atheist. He believed all the joys of life are no more than “The behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules.”

##### 5.2 – The Question of Beauty

1484 – Beauty in this world is a sign that points you to something significant.

1486 – Alister McGrath, I believe, provides some profound insight when he said, “The human quest for beauty is thus really a quest for the source of that beauty. However, it is not contained in this world.”

1517 – Darwin is acknowledging that his loss of happiness is a result of his change in worldview. His naturalistic perspective over time undermined his appreciation for beauty, resulting in a joyless, unhappy life.

##### 5.3 – On Death and Dying

1528 – Epicurus himself seemed to be tormented by the possibility that he might be wrong. He wrote, “If we could be sure that death was annihilation, then there would be no fear of it. For as long as we exist, death is not there, and when it does come, we no longer exist. But we cannot

be totally sure there is annihilation, for what people fear most is not that maybe death is annihilation, but that maybe death is not.”

#### 5.4 – Human Sexuality

1636 – A book titled *Sex at First Sight*. It was about the modern hookup culture. From my research, it is quite clear that the Christian view of sex is healthier, more pleasurable, and more meaningful than the secular view. The evidence is overwhelming.

1663 – Leonard wrote a book ironically titled *The End of Sex: Erotic Love after the Sexual Revolution*. Leonard says, “I have finally come to see that every game has a rule, and sex has rules. Unless you play by the rules, you’ll find sex can create a depth of loneliness that nothing else can.”

1675 – Sex has become a commodity. For so many people, sex is reduced to an exchange of bodily pleasure between two people, and the resulting mentality is that, “I am not in this relationship for you but in it for what I can get from you. You are nothing but an object whose purpose is to give me pleasure.”

1680 – Sexual fidelity was the single most important predictor of a society’s ascendancy and strength.

#### 5.5 – Our Never-Ending Pursuit of Happiness

1705 – This is not surprising because, in the same year, the World Health Organization announced that depression has become the most widespread illness in the world, and the numbers are rising. This seems to be particularly true in the lives of young people.

1710 – “Drug use is a tacit admission of a forbidden truth in Western Culture. What is that truth? It is that for most people happiness is beyond reach.”

1733 – Freud believed in the pleasure principle, and that happiness is rooted in pleasure. Lewis believed that virtue and character, rooted in the love of God, was the key to happiness.

1800 – Vitz says that atheists often develop their beliefs because of non-rational psychological reasons, not because of investigation of the evidence of the evidence and coming to a sound rational conclusion.

#### 6.2 – A Reason Not To Believe

1820 – All philosophical problems are, at the heart, moral problems. It all comes down to how you intend to live your life.”

1830 – When it gets right down to it, so many people are not on a truth and wisdom quest but rather on a search for pleasure and happiness.

1842 – Intellectual arguments he made against believing in God was a smokescreen.

#### 6.4 – Willful Blindness in the Sciences

1922 – If the theory of General Relativity was true, it meant that the universe was not eternal but had a beginning.

1952 – Einstein made a very important observation about science. He said, “Most people think it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong. It is their character.”

1978 – People today are simply not interested whether a religion is true or false.” Ultimately, he says, they are more interested in how it will impact their lives and their lifestyles.

#### 6.5 – The Problem of Pride

2006 – Lee Strobel was an attorney with a law degree from Yale Law School and, for a number of years, was head of the legal affairs department at the Chicago Tribune. In his book *The Case for Faith*.

2040 – We all need to recognize that we are utter fools if we allow the approval of others to keep us from embracing God’s eternal truth.

#### 7.0 – The Battle with Science

2109 – “I think that science without religion is lame and, religion without science is blind.” – Albert Einstein.

#### 7.2 – A Ground-Shaking Discovery

2188 – The predominant view in cosmology today is The Big Bang Theory, which states that the universe is expanding from a single point in the distant past. In other words, at some definite point in the dimension of time there was a uniquely massive explosion, what scientists call a “singularity,” and the universe has been expanding ever since.

2219 – The atheistic worldview does not have a credible response to the origin of the universe.

2220 -Taken together, The Big Bang Theory and Einstein’s theory of relativity each provide a scientific description of what Christians call “creatio ex nihilo,” a Latin phrase that translates to “creation out of nothing.”

#### 7.4 – Theism’s Strongest Argument

2306 – The fine tuning of the universe is the most troubling argument that atheists have to deal with.

2330 – “A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.”

#### 7.5 – The Mystery of Math

2387 – Morris Kline: “The early mathematicians were sure of the existence of mathematical laws underlying natural phenomena and persisted in the search for them because they were convinced a priori that God had incorporated them in the construction of the universe.”

### 8.1 – Darwinian Evolution

2441 – Over 700 scientists, all with PhDs, who have signed a declaration of “scientific dissent” from Darwinism evolution.

2446 – Nobel laureate Robert Laughlin, who teaches physics at Stanford, had some very profound words on this. He says, “Much of present-day biological knowledge is ideological,” and scientists “stop thinking.” He goes on to say that Darwinian evolution by natural selection is now functioning more as an antitheory in an attempt to cover up “embarrassing experimental shortcomings.”

2461 – With great humility and integrity, Darwin ultimately had to acknowledge that there was no great fossil evidence that had yet been found during his lifetime.

2466 – microevolution

2467 – macroevolution

### 8.2 – The Fossil Record

2476 – Darwin came up with the term “intermediate linkage,” which he believed would have to be found throughout the fossil record if the theory of evolution was to be validated.

8.3 – 2561 – a 342-page scientific report from a fact-finding expedition of nineteen evolutionists demolished Dubois’ claims and concluded that Java Man played no part in human evolution. In short, Java Man was not a ape man as I’d been led to believe, but he was a true member of the human family.”

### 8.6 – A Scientist Changes his Mind

2740 – Came to see that Darwinism is a philosophical bias more than a coherent science. Darwinian processes may explain some patterns.

### 8.7 – Stubborn Resistance in Evolutionary Theory

2753 – “Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door.”

### 9.2 – Jesus: A Historical Figure?

2890 – Historian Gary Habermas details a total of thirty-nine ancient sources documenting the life of Christ.

#### 9.4 – Jesus’s Impact on History

3009 – “There is no greater drama in human record than the sight of a few Christians, scorned and oppressed by a succession of emperors, bearing all trials with a fierce tenacity, multiplying quietly, building order while their enemies generated chaos, fighting the sword with the Word, brutality with hope, and at last defeating the strongest state history has known. Caesar and Christ has met in the arena and Christ had won.”

#### 10.1 – The Irrationality of Atheism

3361 – Dr. Francis Crick, famous for cracking the DNA code, explains it this way, “you, your joys and your sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules.” He concludes by saying: “You’re nothing but a pack of neurons.

3411 – I think Norman Geisler provides some great insight into this: “If intelligent human beings can’t create anything close to the human brain, why should we expect non-intelligent natural laws to do so?”

#### 10.2 – A Massive Contradiction

3490 – Nancy Pearcey says a good way to evaluate a worldview is to submit it to very a practical test: “Can we live by it?” Does it fit what we experience in life?”

3498 – British philosopher CEM Joad, who was agnostic most of his life. Later in life, he became a Christian and wrote a book on his spiritual experience titled *The Recovery of Belief*, which was published a year before he died. What was interesting is the reason he gave for this decision. He said it was a result of intellectual observation. After studying all the issues and all the evidence it became apparent to him that the **Christian theistic view of life covered more of the facts of experience than any other**. Therefore, he said, “I have been gradually led to embrace it.”