



# Reason and Reality... and Faith?

# The Four Great Questions of Faith

1. Origin: where did I come from?
2. Morality: how am I supposed to live?
3. Meaning: what is the purpose of my life?
4. Destiny: where will I go when I die?

# Narrow Rationalism

No one should believe *anything* unless it can be *proved* rationally by logic or empirically by sense experience.

# Reason & Proof: Scientific Method

- Question
- Hypothesis & Prediction
- Experiments & Observations
- Analysis
- Conclusion



# Fatal Flaws of Narrow Rationalism

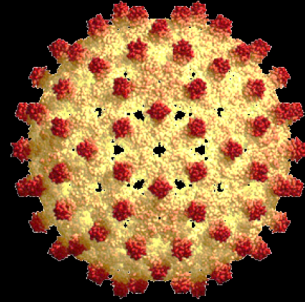
“No one should believe anything unless it can be proved.”

1. It is self-defeating. The statement itself cannot be proved ... and therefore should not be believed.
2. It is impossible to live by, for anyone!  
No one lives by this principle. NO ONE.



Staph. A.

Hepatitis A

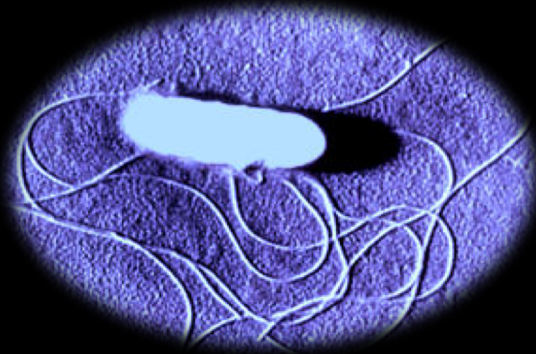


E.Coli

Salmonella



Listeria



# Narrow Rationalism ... & Faith

- Imagine applying narrow rationalism every time ... demanding *proof* every time ...
  - Eating at a restaurant
  - Eating anything at all, even drinking water
  - Driving on the 401

# Narrow Rationalism ... & Faith

... eating, drinking, driving, doctors, airplanes ...

**EVERY person lives by faith EVERY day...**

**whether they realize it or not**

# Reason & Faith: Perfect Complements

- Faith: Belief, trust, or confidence in someone or something, sufficient that you act on it.
- *Faith* must have a *reason* component, or it is “blind” faith. Reason gives faith the “jumping off point”.

... choosing a school, a job, a spouse, a friend ...

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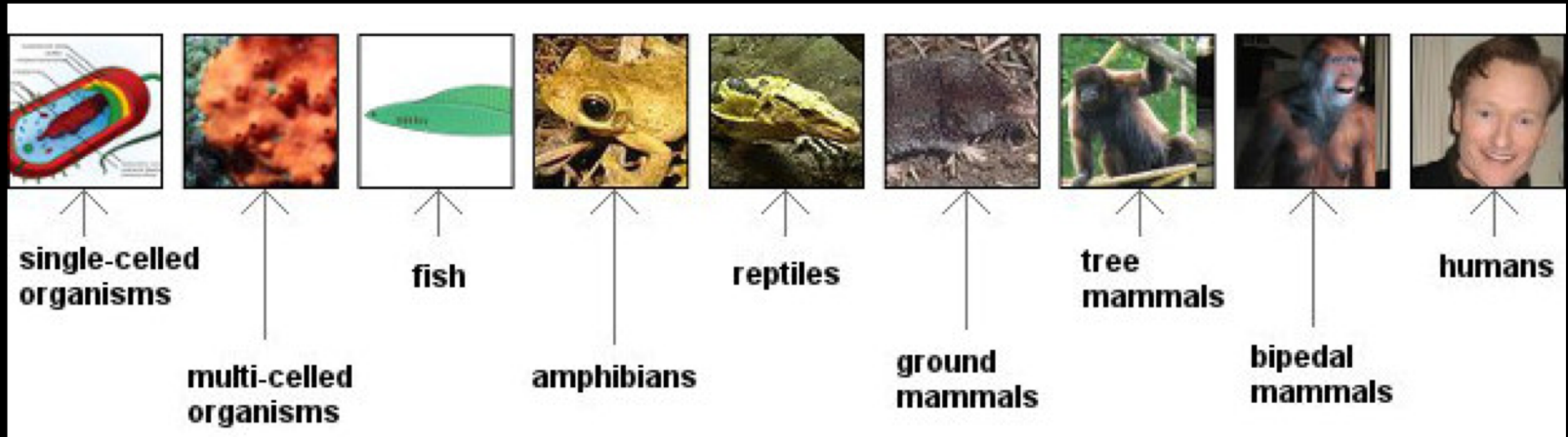
# Questions of Origin: Causality

- Where did I come from?
  - And before that? And before that? And before that?

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? ...





# Questions of Origin: Causality

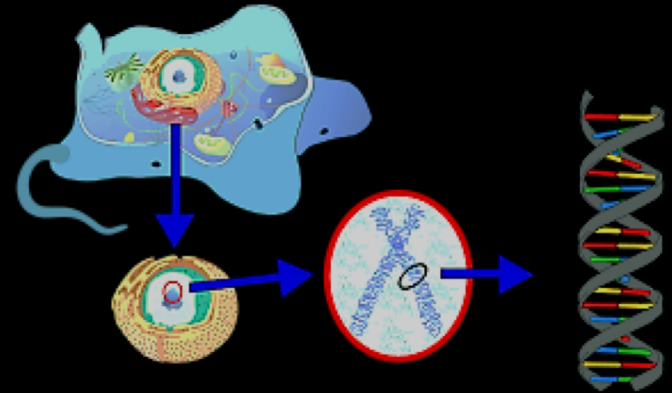
- a. “Uncaused Cause”: Hawking & Penrose
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Law of Thermodynamics: Conservation of Energy
  - c. Matter, energy, dimensions, physical laws, constants
- Physics tells us:
    - The universe *began*, from nothing (not infinitely old).
    - There must be a “force” outside of the universe that *causes*.
    - A “force” of incredible *power*.

$$E=mc^2$$



# Entropy, Change, & Intricate Design

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Law: All closed systems irreversibly deteriorate from order to disorder over time.
- Where did the initial order, design, and information come from?
- Summary: The “force” outside of the universe that *causes*, caused phenomenal intricate order, fine-tuned for life.



# The Beginning of Existence

“It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.”

Stephen Hawking, British physicist

# What is a "Person"?



# What is “Personhood”?

- Power, Intelligence, Free Choice
- Consciousness, Intentional Initiative Causation
- Rationality, Design, Information
- Love, Relationship, Communication
- Morality & Meaning

# The Causal Force is a *Person* ...

- Power, Intelligence, Free Choice
- Consciousness, Intentional Initiative Causation
- Rationality, Design, Information
- Love, Relationship, Communication
- Morality & Meaning

*... that Person is Jesus*

# Rational Scientific Method

- **Research Question:** Origin - Where did I come from?
- **Hypothesis A:** space-time, laws, energy & matter, information all popped out of nothingness, designed by random chance
- **Hypothesis B:** Person of infinite power & intelligence, outside the universe, who designed, informed, and caused it all
- **Conclusion:** Which hypothesis best fits our observations?

# Reasonable Decisions of Faith

1. **Origin**: where did I come from?
2. **Morality**: how am I supposed to live?
3. **Meaning**: what is the purpose of my life?
4. **Destiny**: where will I go when I die?

What are *your* answers?