



# Introduction to Worldviews

Dr. Andy Bannister



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We make sense of the world  
through our **worldview**







**Everybody has a worldview**



# Four Basic Questions All Worldviews Address

Origin

Meaning

Morality

Destiny





Everybody has a worldview ...





Everybody has a worldview ...

... but is it a good one?





**Understanding the worldview of  
the person you're talking with is  
absolutely vital**





**Putting Worldviews to the Test**



# Testing a Worldview

Is it internally consistent?

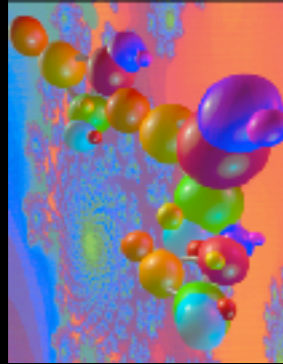
Does it correspond to reality?

Does it have explanatory power?

Does it fit with our personal experience?

What does it look like when it is lived out?

# Three Worldviews Compared



Atheism/Naturalism



Islam



Postmodernity

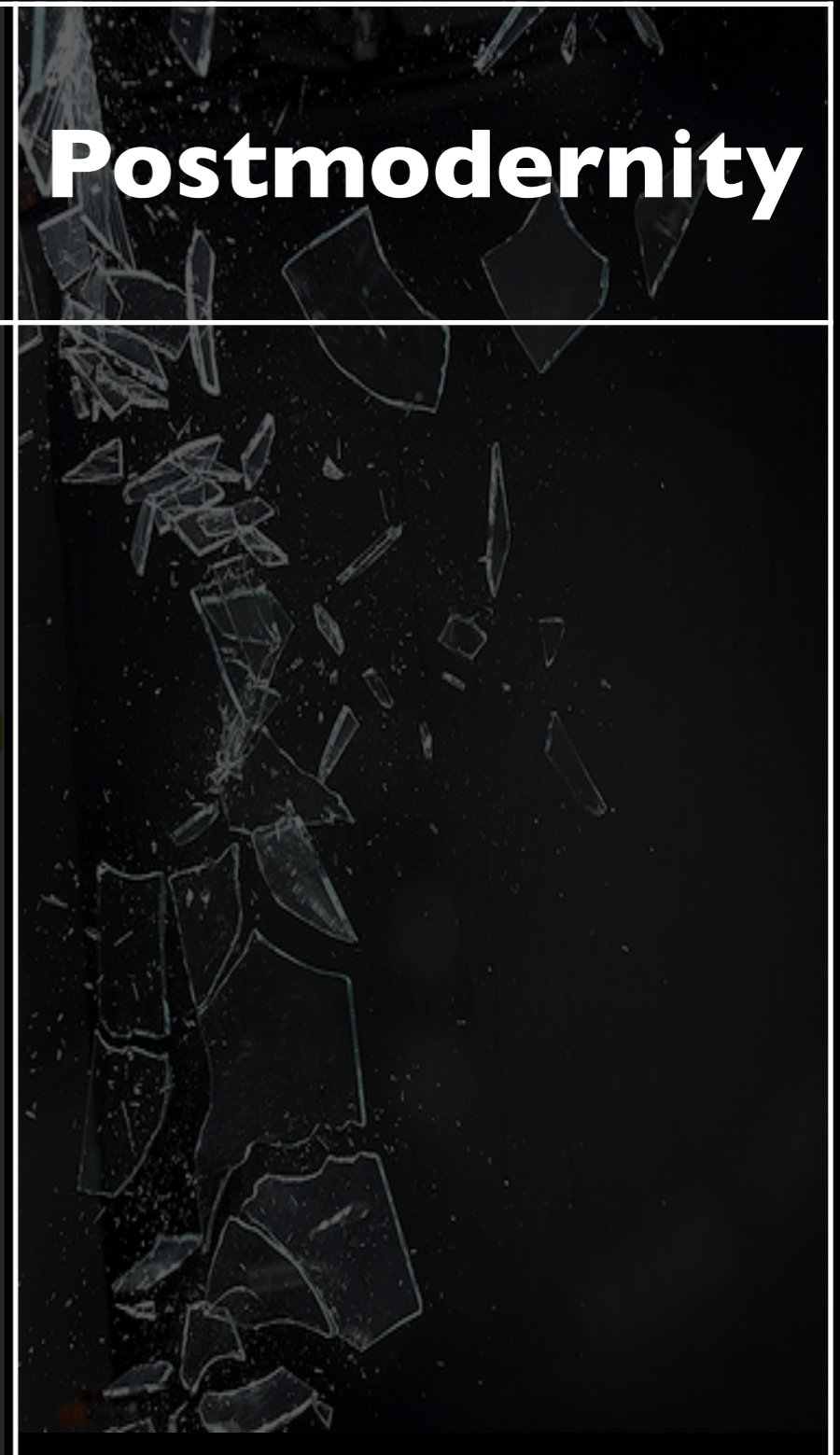
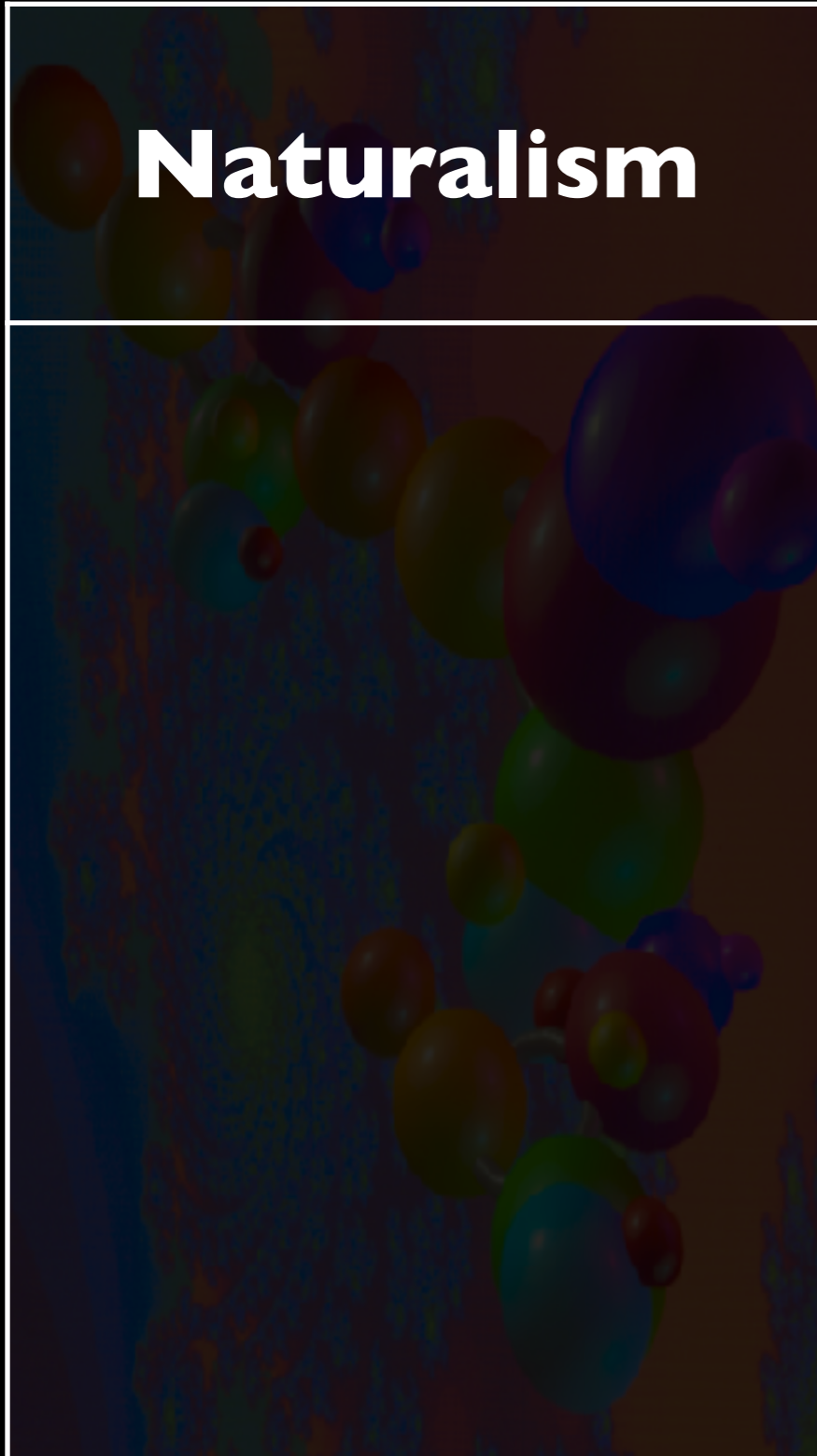


# Origins

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**



# Origins

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**

Time + matter  
+ chance

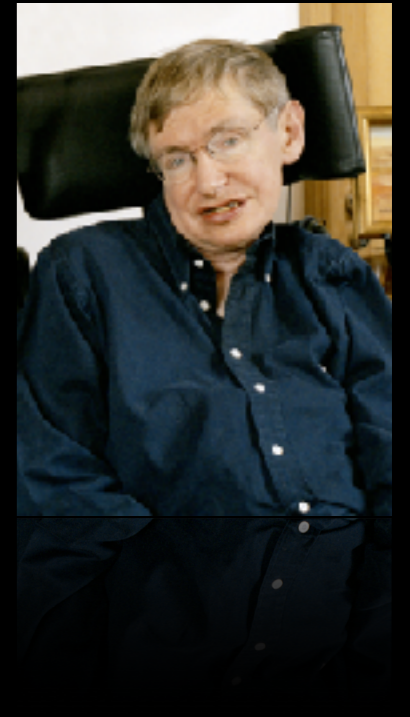




# Origins

“Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going.”

*Stephen Hawking*



# Origins

**Naturalism**

Time + matter  
+ chance

No God was  
involved

**Islam**



**Postmodernity**





# Origins

## Naturalism

Time + matter  
+ chance

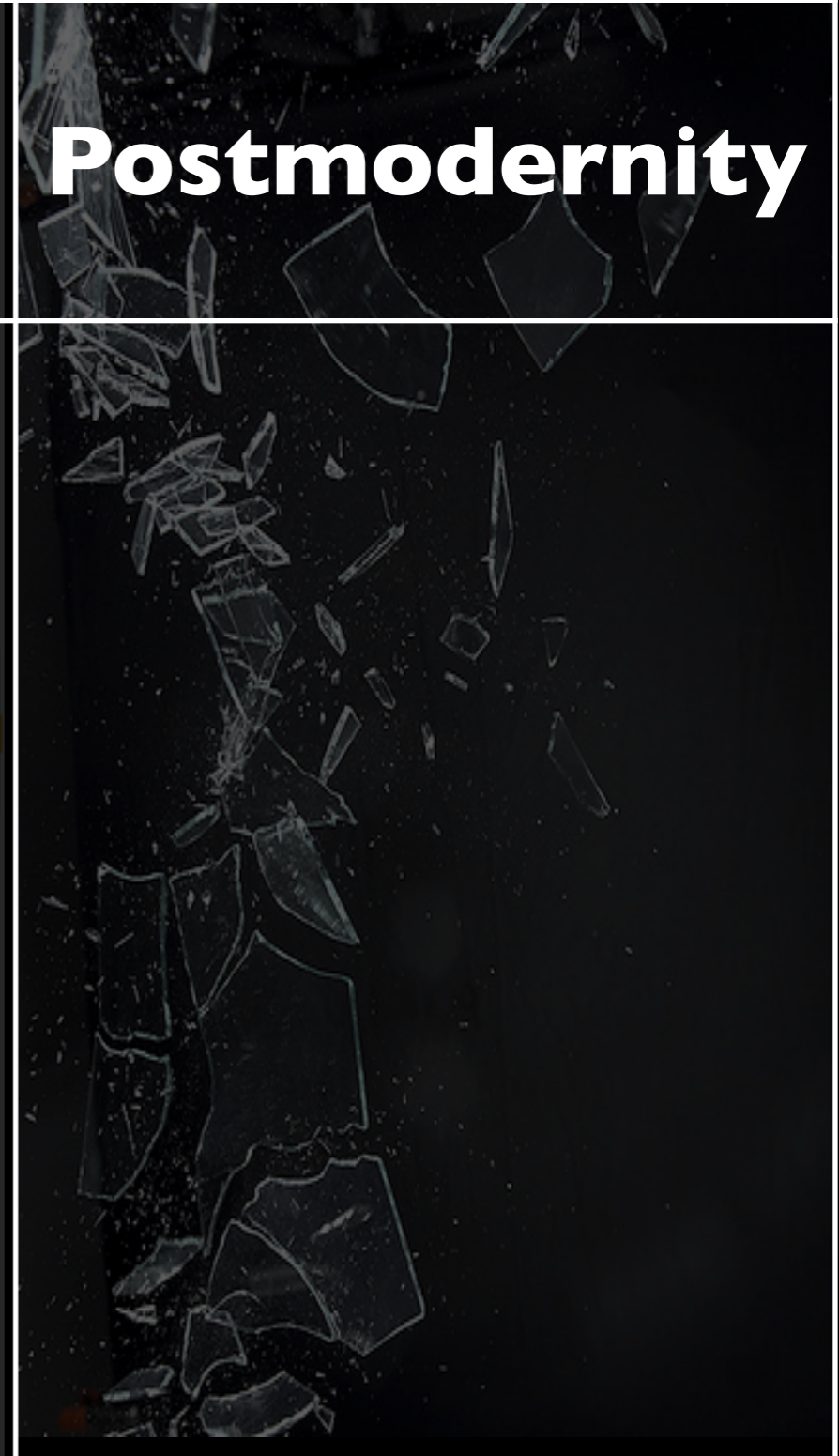
No God was  
involved

Humans are  
just another  
animal

## Islam



## Postmodernity



# Origins

## Naturalism

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## Islam

Everything  
was created  
by God

## Postmodernity



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Everything  
was created  
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A God who is  
distant and  
removed

Humans are his  
mere slaves

## Postmodernity



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*We cannot  
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*We cannot  
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There is no  
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## Postmodernity

*We cannot  
know*

There is no  
“human nature”

There are no  
ultimate truths



# Origins

“Attempting to explain mental activity in terms of physical activity is circular, because science depends upon mental activity.”

*Rupert Sheldrake*

involved  
Humans are  
just another  
animal

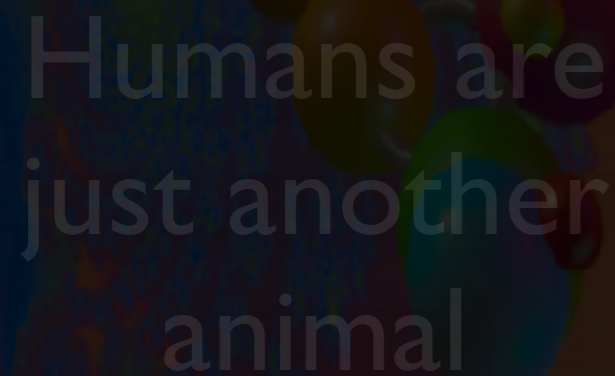
distant and  
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Humans are his  
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“human nature”  
There are no  
ultimate truths


# Origins

“The religious impulse, the quest for meaning that transcends the restricted space of empirical existence in this world, has been a perennial feature of humanity.”


*Peter Berger*



Humans are  
just another  
animal



distant and  
removed  
Humans are his  
mere slaves



“human nature”  
There are no  
ultimate truths



# Origins

“If [Muslims] think at all deeply, they find themselves absolutely unable to know God ... Thus Islam [effectively] leads to agnosticism.”

*Carl Pfander*

involved  
Humans are  
just another  
animal

distant and  
removed  
Humans are his  
mere slaves

“human nature”  
There are no  
ultimate truths





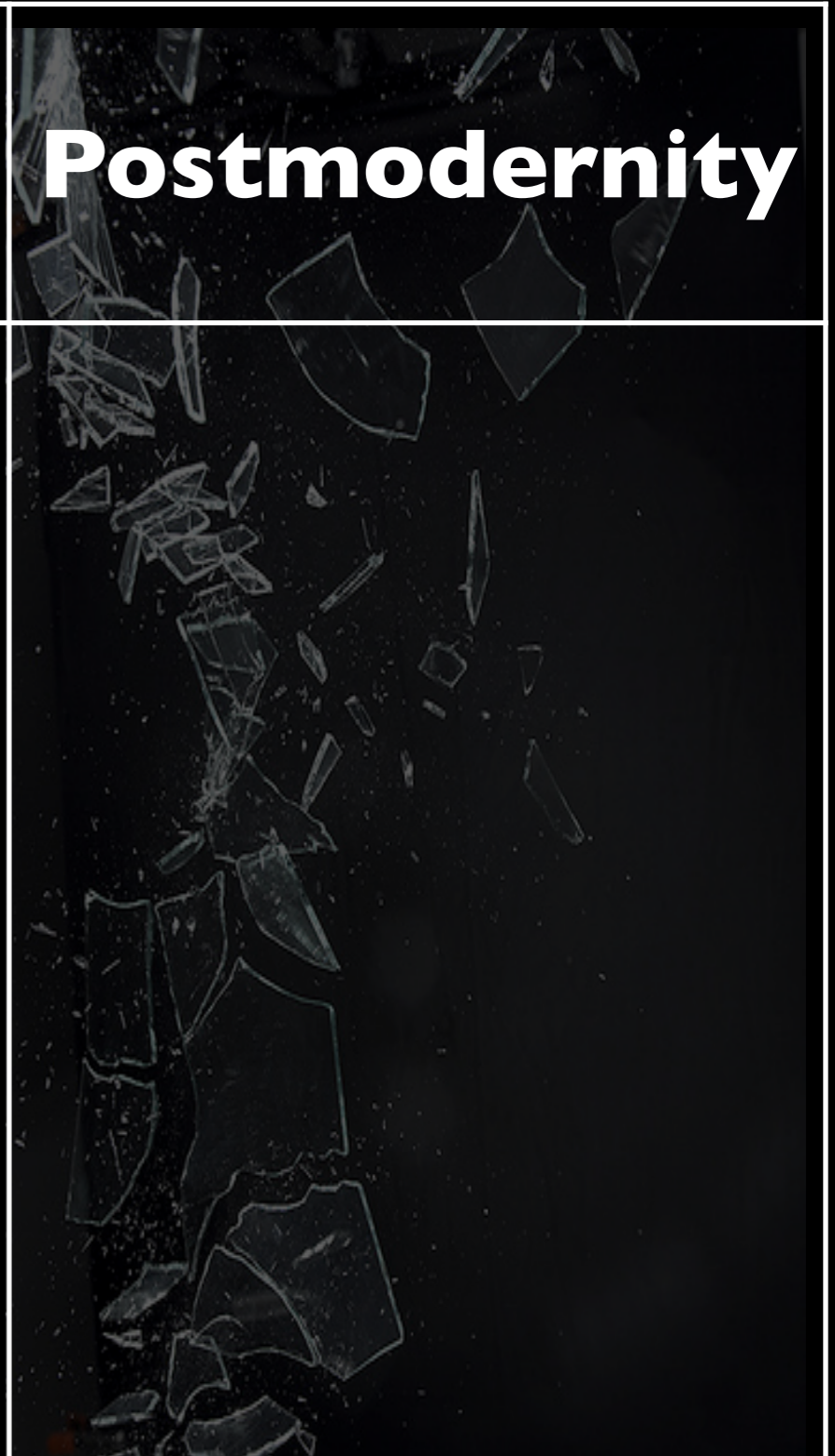
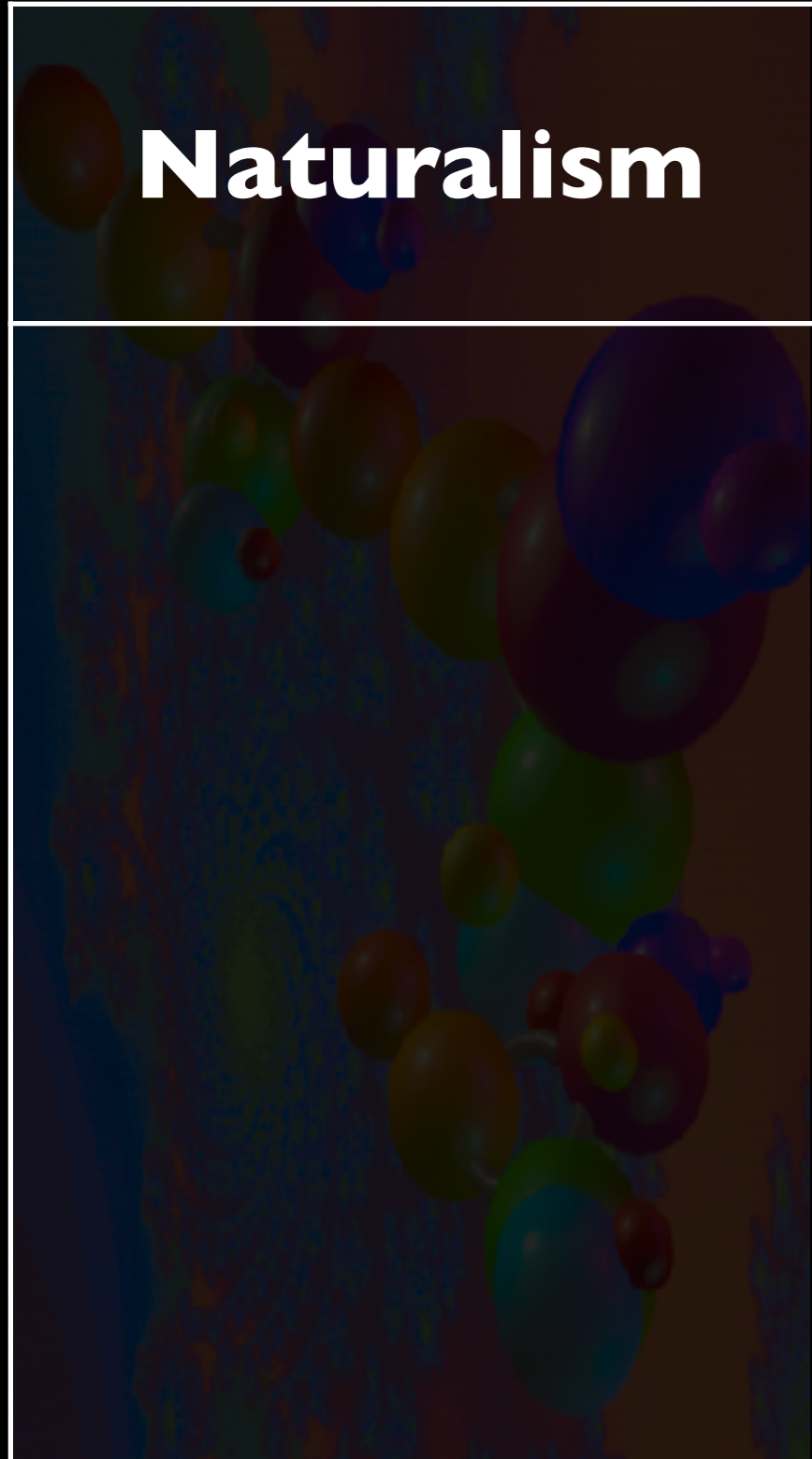


# Meaning & Purpose

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**



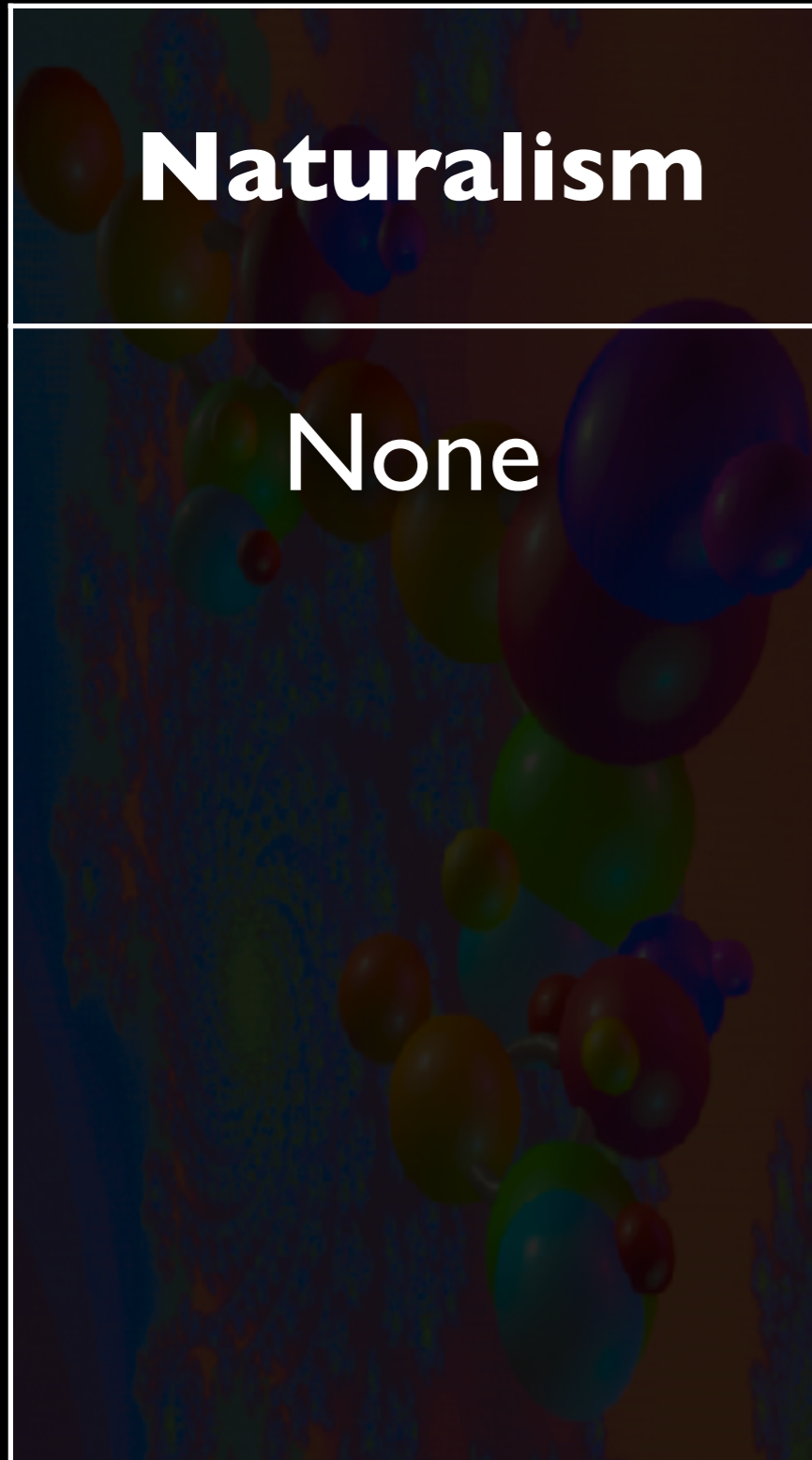
# Meaning & Purpose

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

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**None**





# Meaning & Purpose

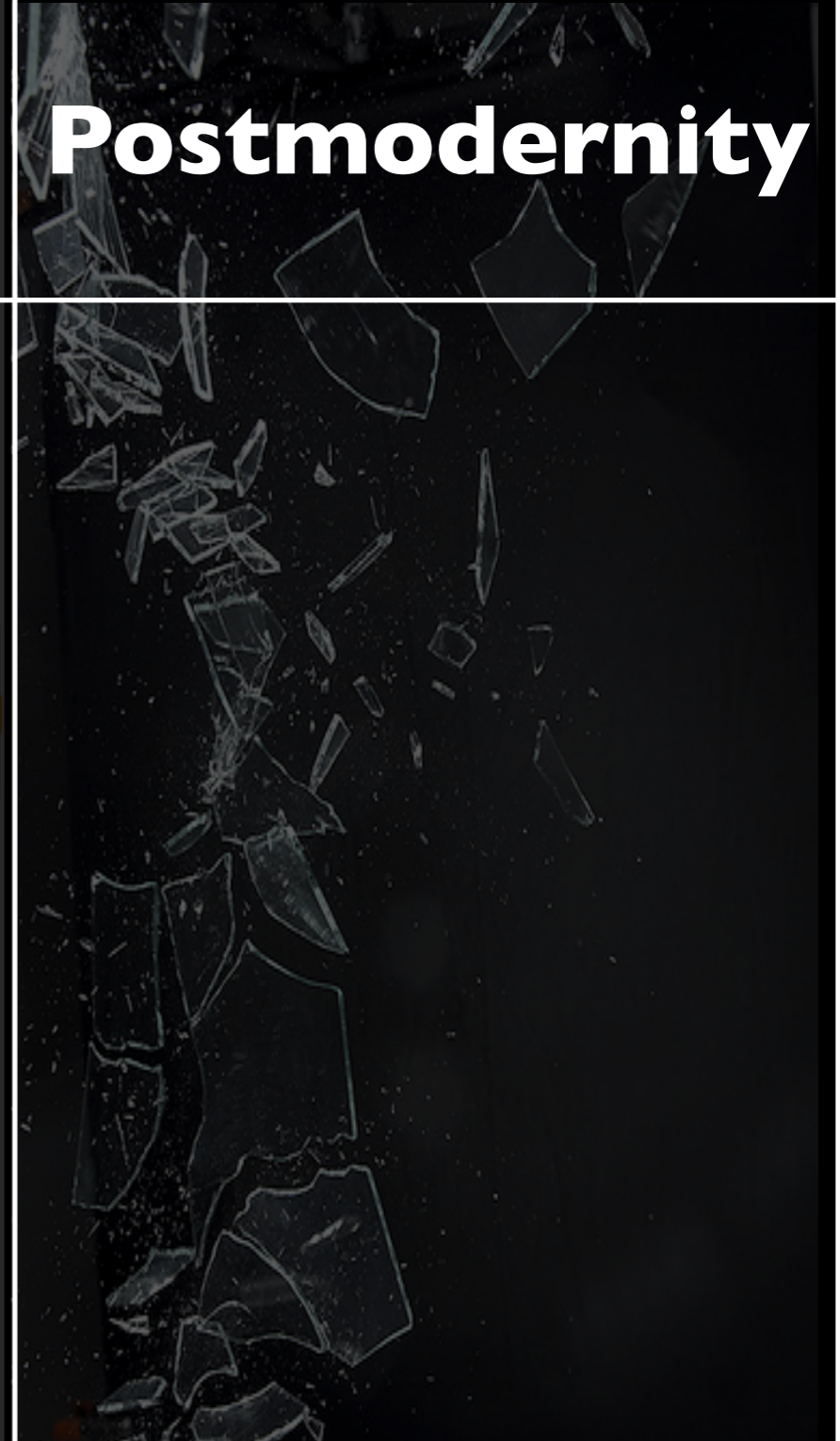
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**Islam**

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None

No meaning,  
no escape,  
no hope



# Meaning & Purpose

**Naturalism**

None

No meaning,  
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**Islam**

To obey Allah's  
commands

To ensure our  
good deeds  
outweigh our  
bad deeds

**Postmodernity**



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No meaning

But we can  
create our own



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To obey Allah's  
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## Postmodernity

No meaning

But we can  
create our own

Your meaning  
isn't my  
meaning

# Meaning & Purpose

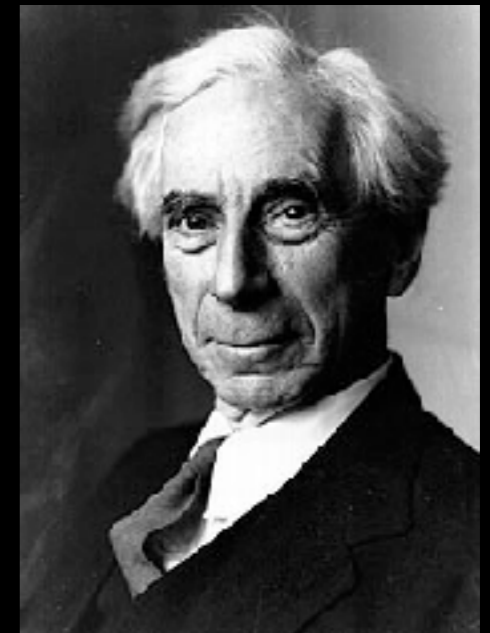
Naturalism

Islam

Postmodernity

We must build our lives  
“upon the firm foundation of  
unyielding despair”.

*Bertrand Russell*



bad deeds

isn't my  
meaning





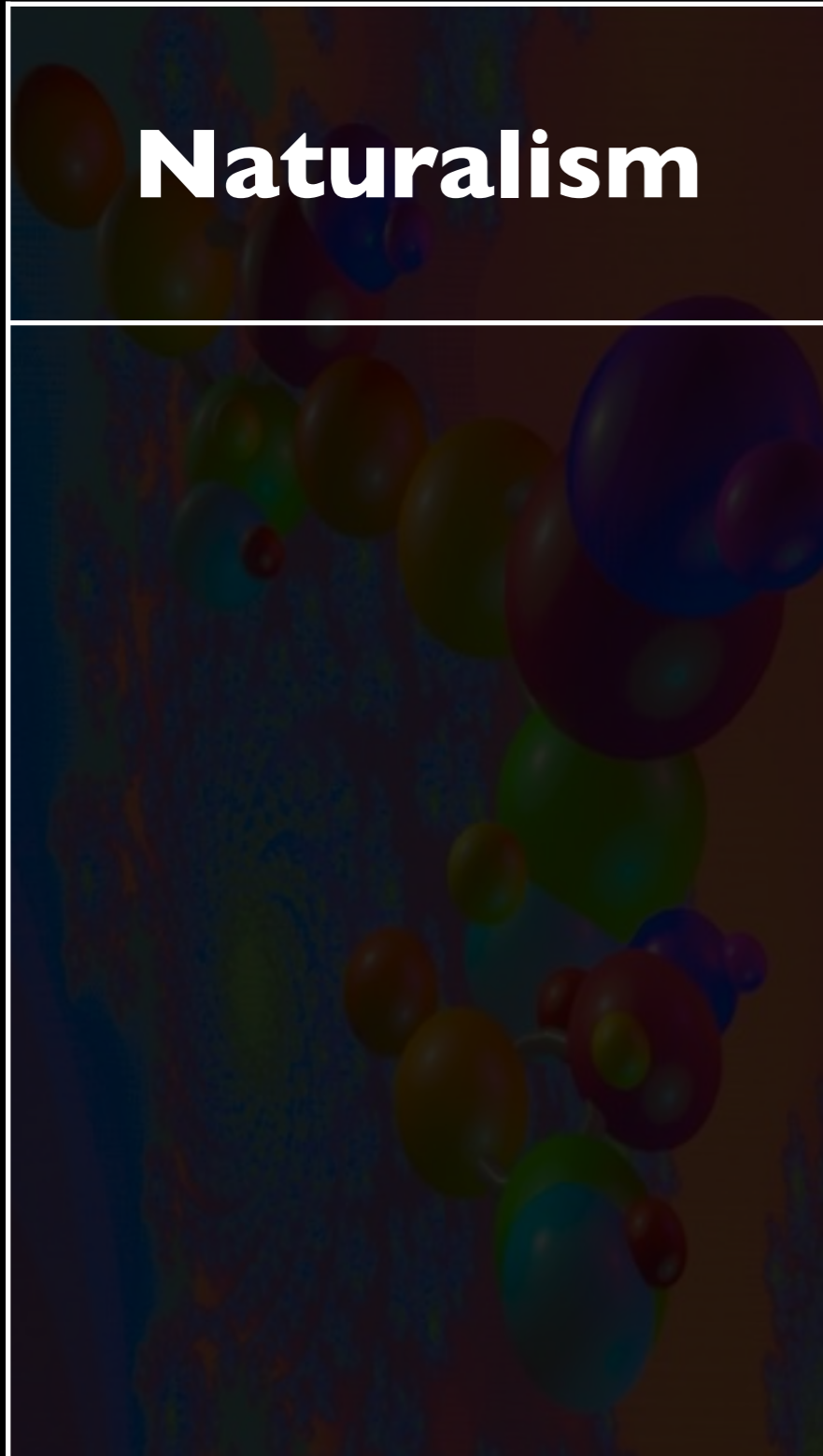


# Morality

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**





# Morality

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**

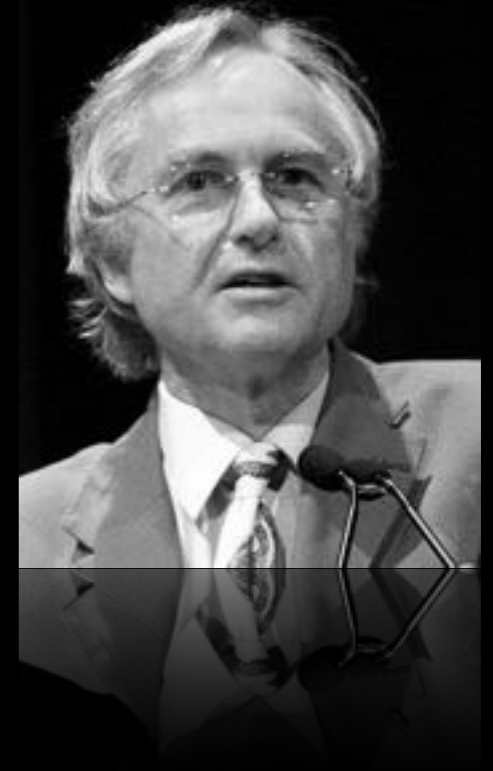
Either none  
exists



# Morality

“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”

*Richard Dawkins*





# Morality

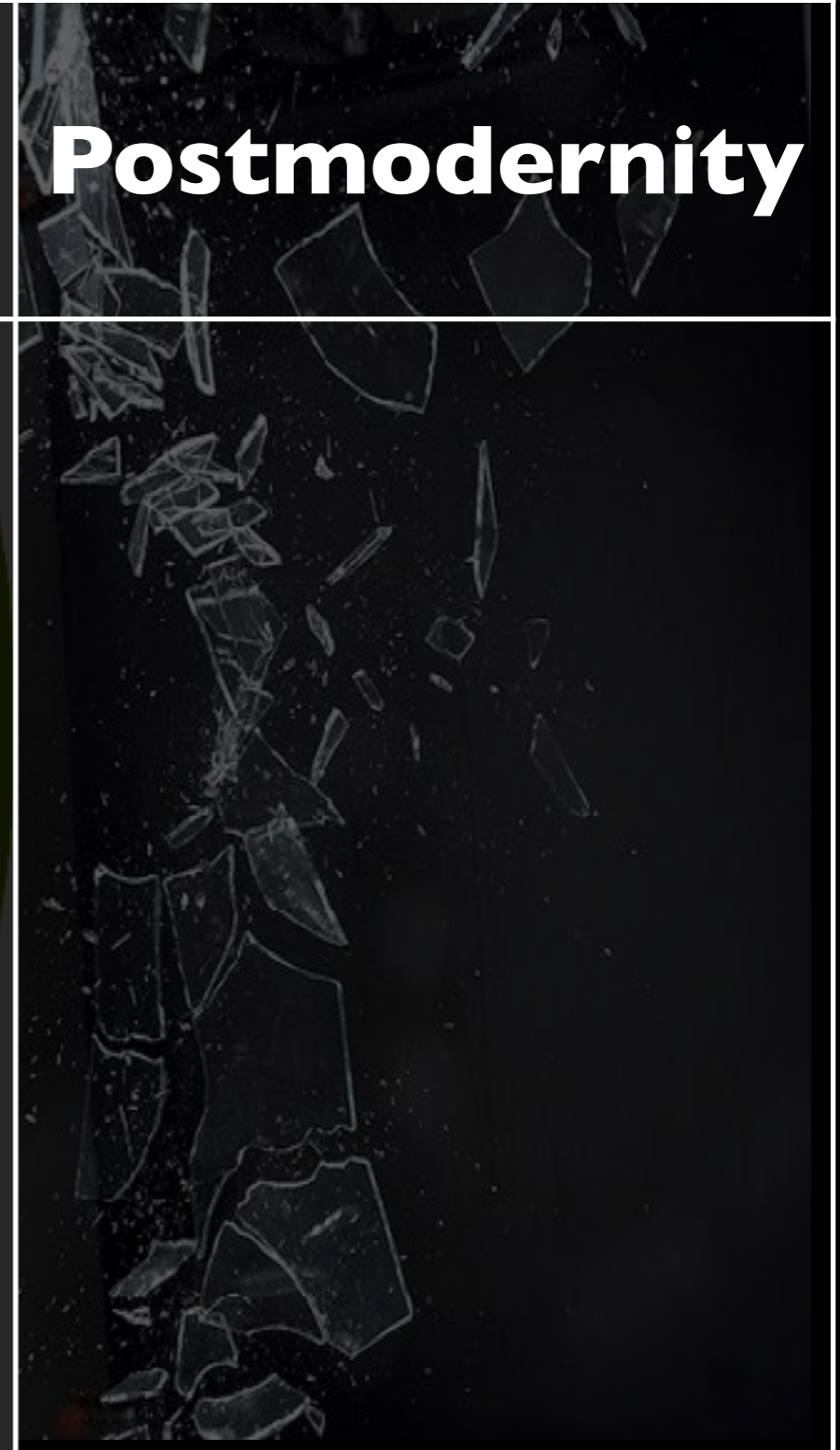
**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**

Either none  
exists

Or relativism



# Morality

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**

Either none  
exists

Or relativism

No objective  
morality





# Morality

“Pure practical reason, even with a good knowledge of the facts, will not get you to morality.”

*Kai Nielsen*



ity

morality

# Morality

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**

Either none  
exists

Or relativism

No objective  
morality

We invent our  
own morality



# Morality

## Naturalism

Either none exists

Or relativism

No objective morality

## Islam

## Postmodernity

We invent our own morality

What is “right” for you may not be “right” for me

No good, no evil

# Morality

## Naturalism

Either none exists

Or relativism

No objective morality

## Islam

Allah's commands flow arbitrarily from his *will*

If one keeps them, there *may* be a reward

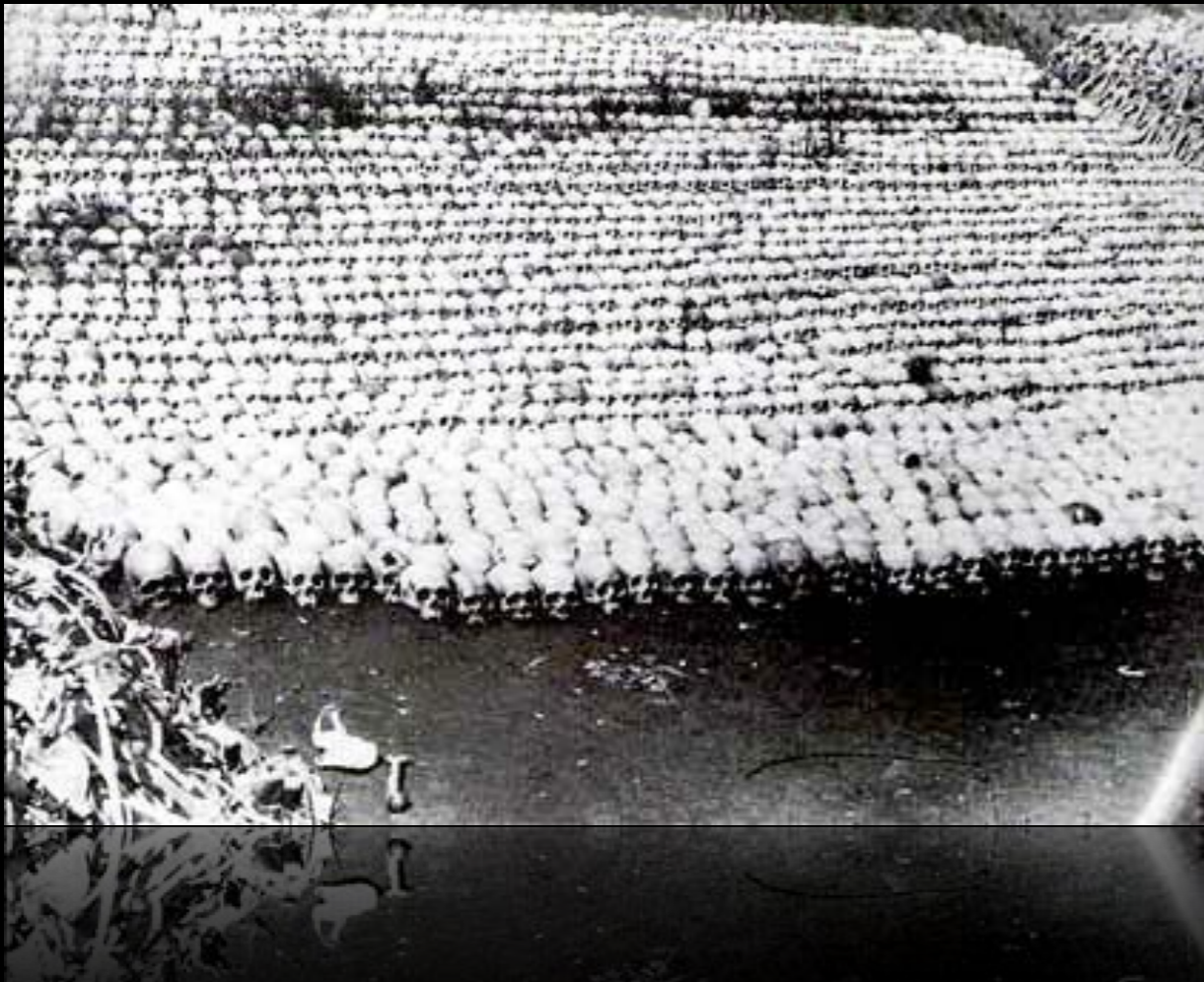
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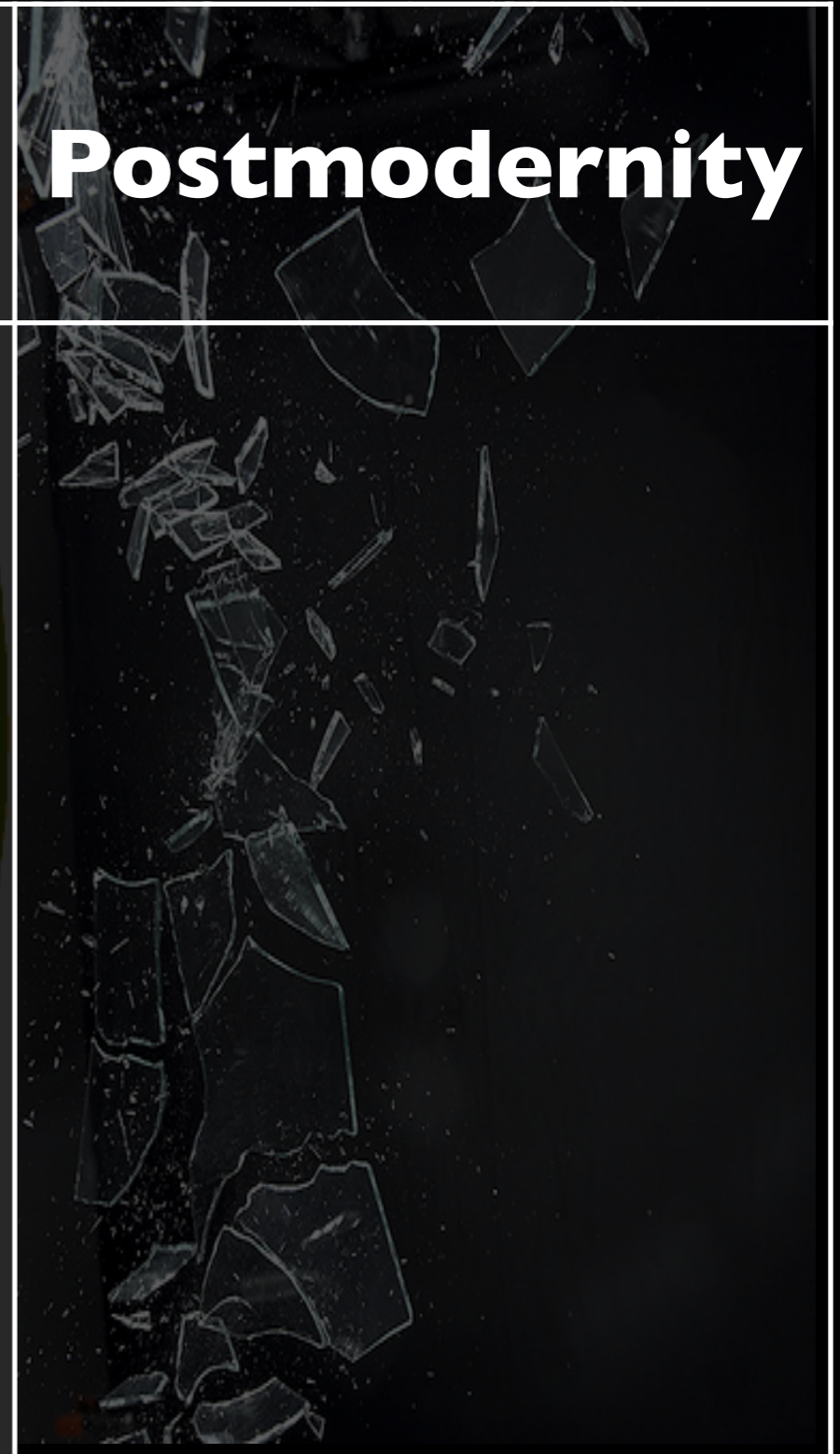
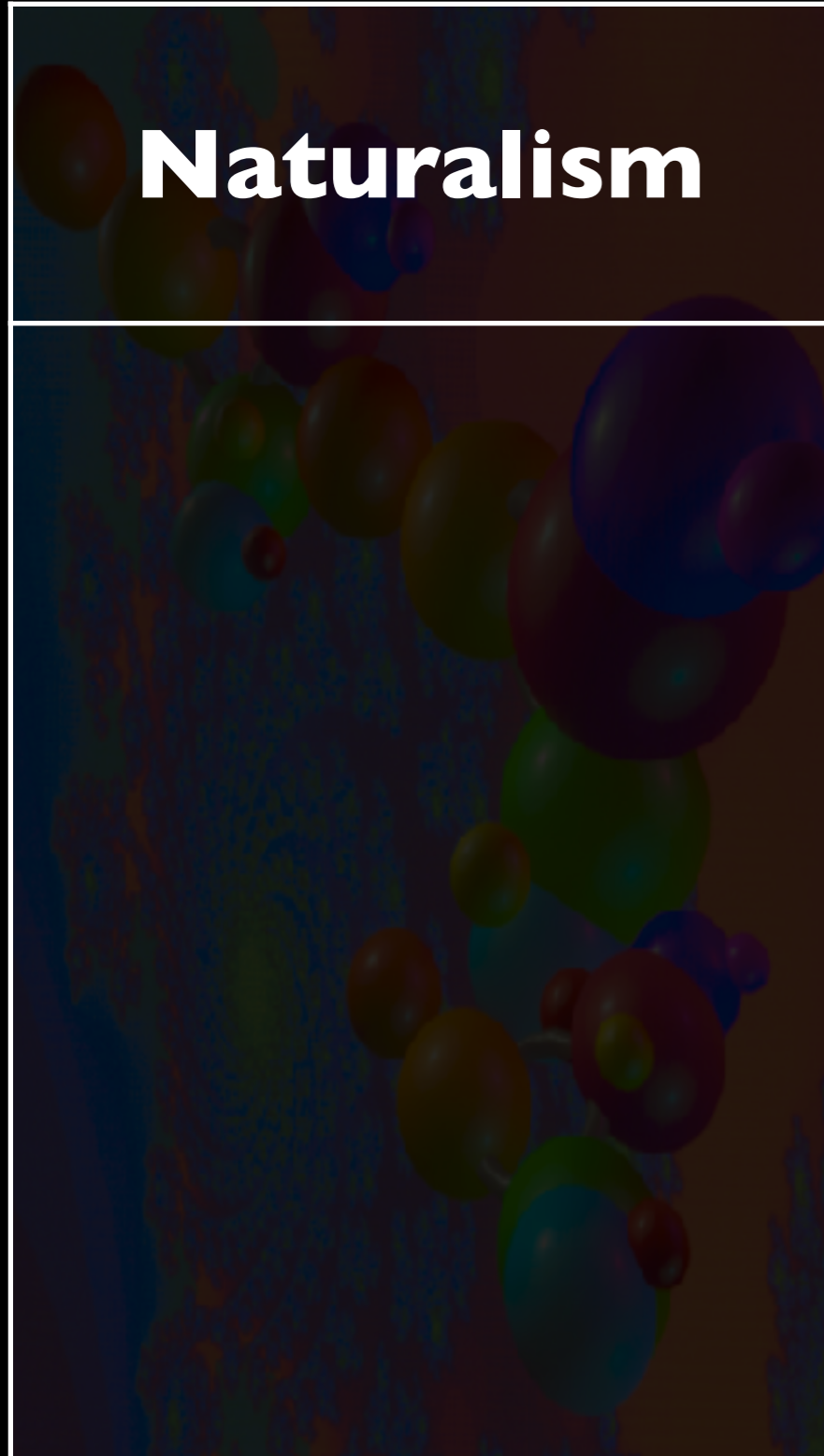


# Destiny

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**



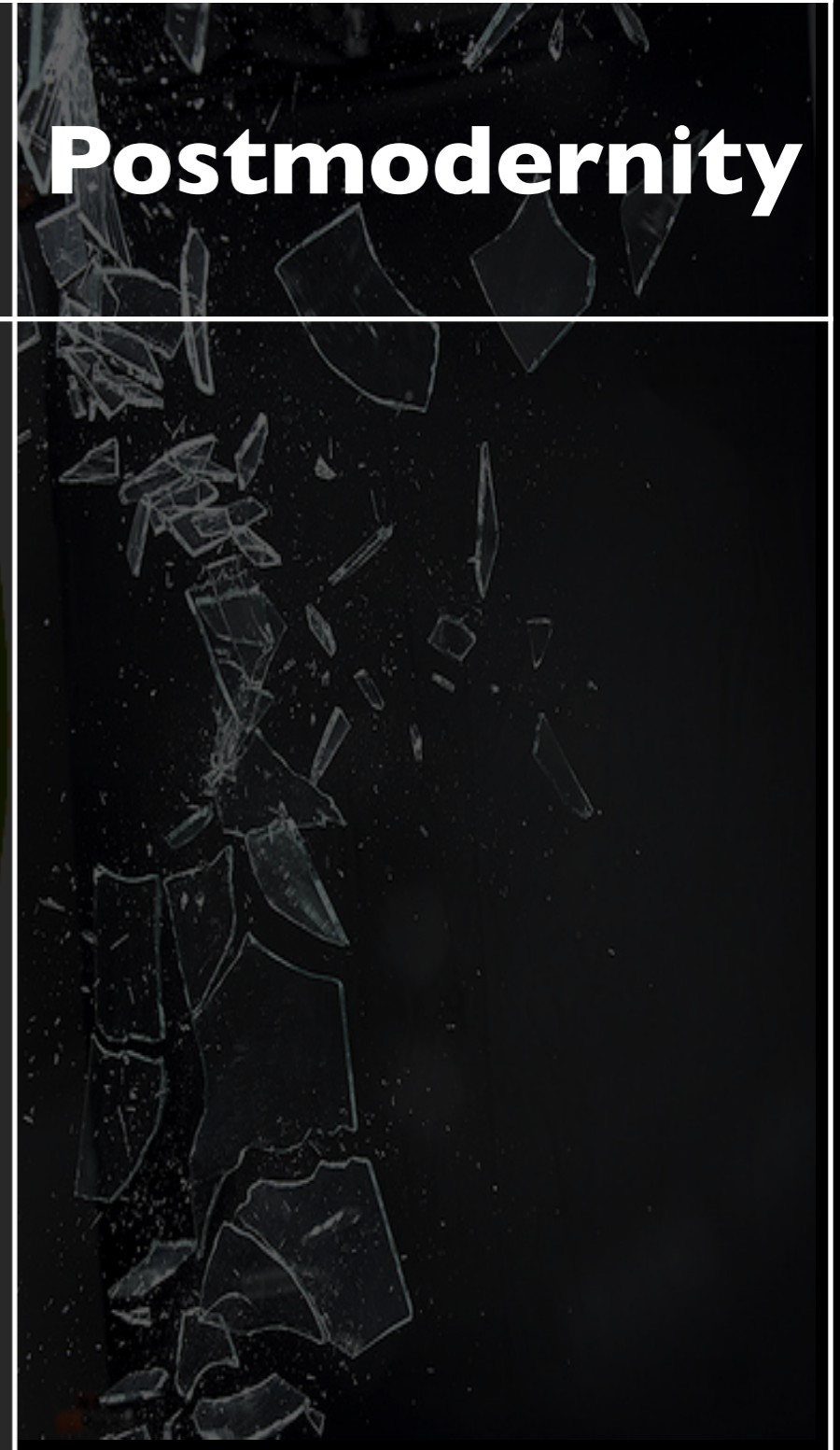
# Destiny

**Naturalism**

**Islam**

**Postmodernity**

Death and  
non-existence





# Destiny

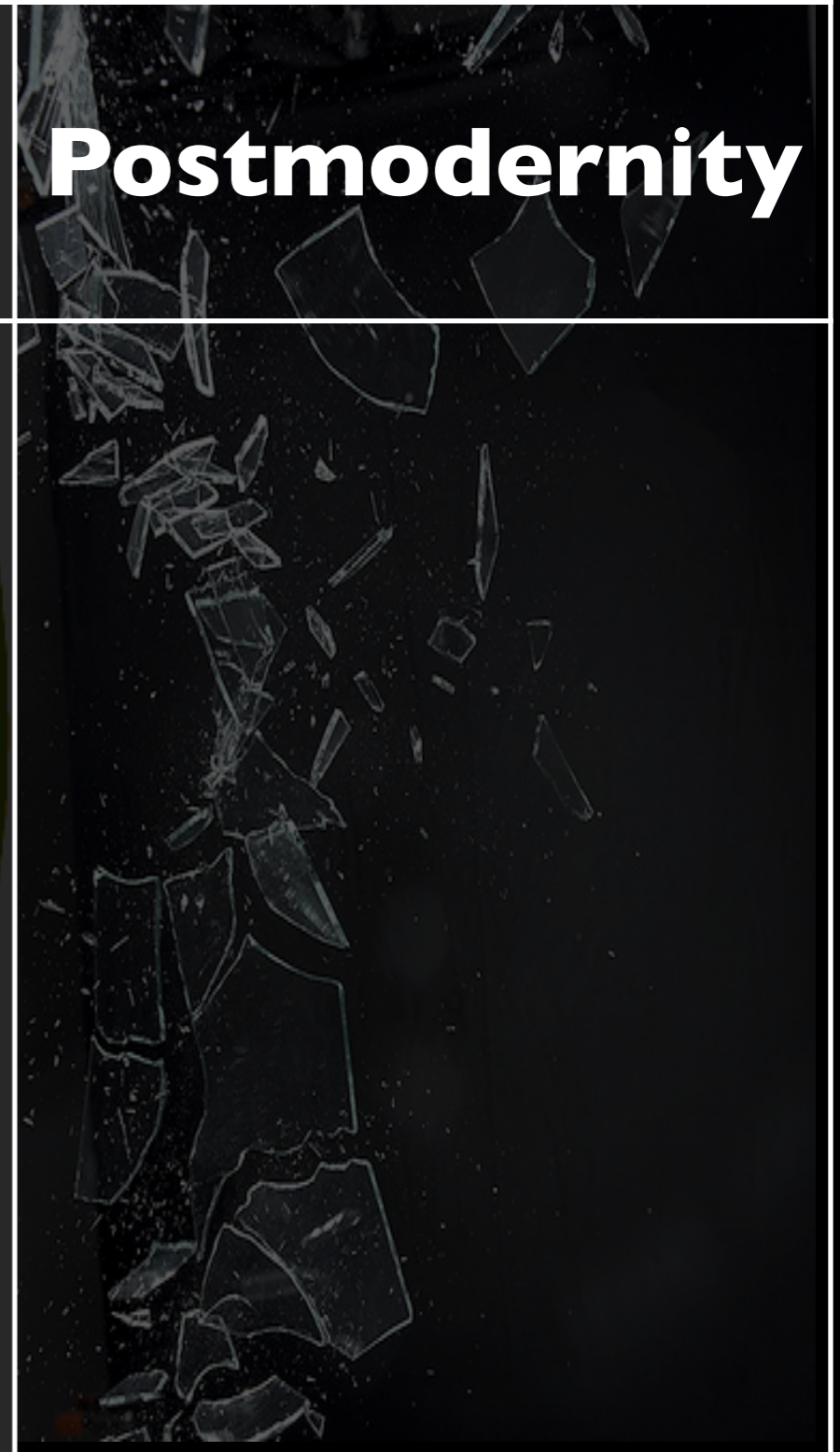
**Naturalism**

**Islam**

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Death and  
non-existence

Ultimate  
oblivion for us  
and for the  
universe



# Destiny

## Naturalism

## Islam

## Postmodernity

Death and  
non-existence

Ultimate  
oblivion for us  
and for the  
universe

No afterlife, but  
we can  
construct our  
own identity and  
that lives on in  
memories of us



# Destiny

## Naturalism

Death and  
non-existence

Ultimate  
oblivion for us  
and for the  
universe

## Islam

Heaven and hell

Heaven full of  
earthly  
pleasures: wine,  
women, fruit

## Postmodernity

No afterlife, but  
we can  
construct our  
own identity and  
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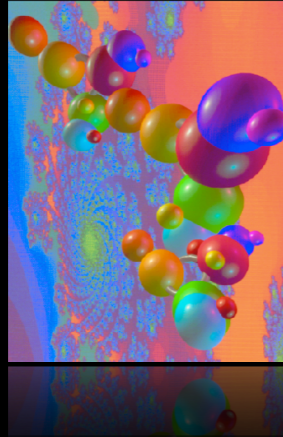




# Three Worldviews

## Four Questions

*Very Different Answers*



Naturalism



Islam



Postmodernity



**Testing Worldviews**  
What about Christianity?

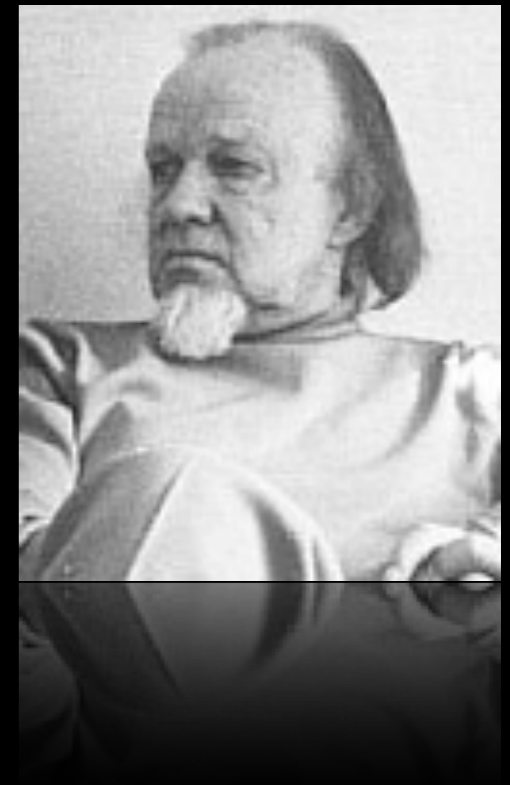




## **Testing Worldviews**

How would it look if *everybody* tried to live by the worldview in question?

“The church ought to be a ‘pilot plant’, where man can see in our congregations and missions a substantial healing of all the divisions, the alienations of which man’s rebellion has produced ... Now the church, I believe, ought to be a pilot plant in regard to the healing of man and himself, of man and man, and man and nature. Indeed, unless something like this happens, I do not believe the world will listen to what we have to say.”



---

Francis Schaeffer

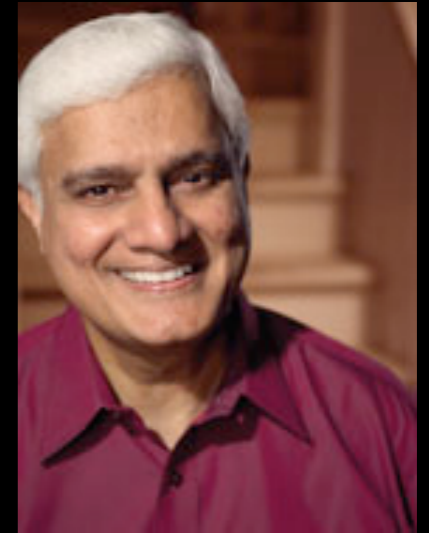




**Understanding  
worldviews is vital**

“You need to understand the heart of a culture before you can get through to a culture.”

Ravi Zacharias



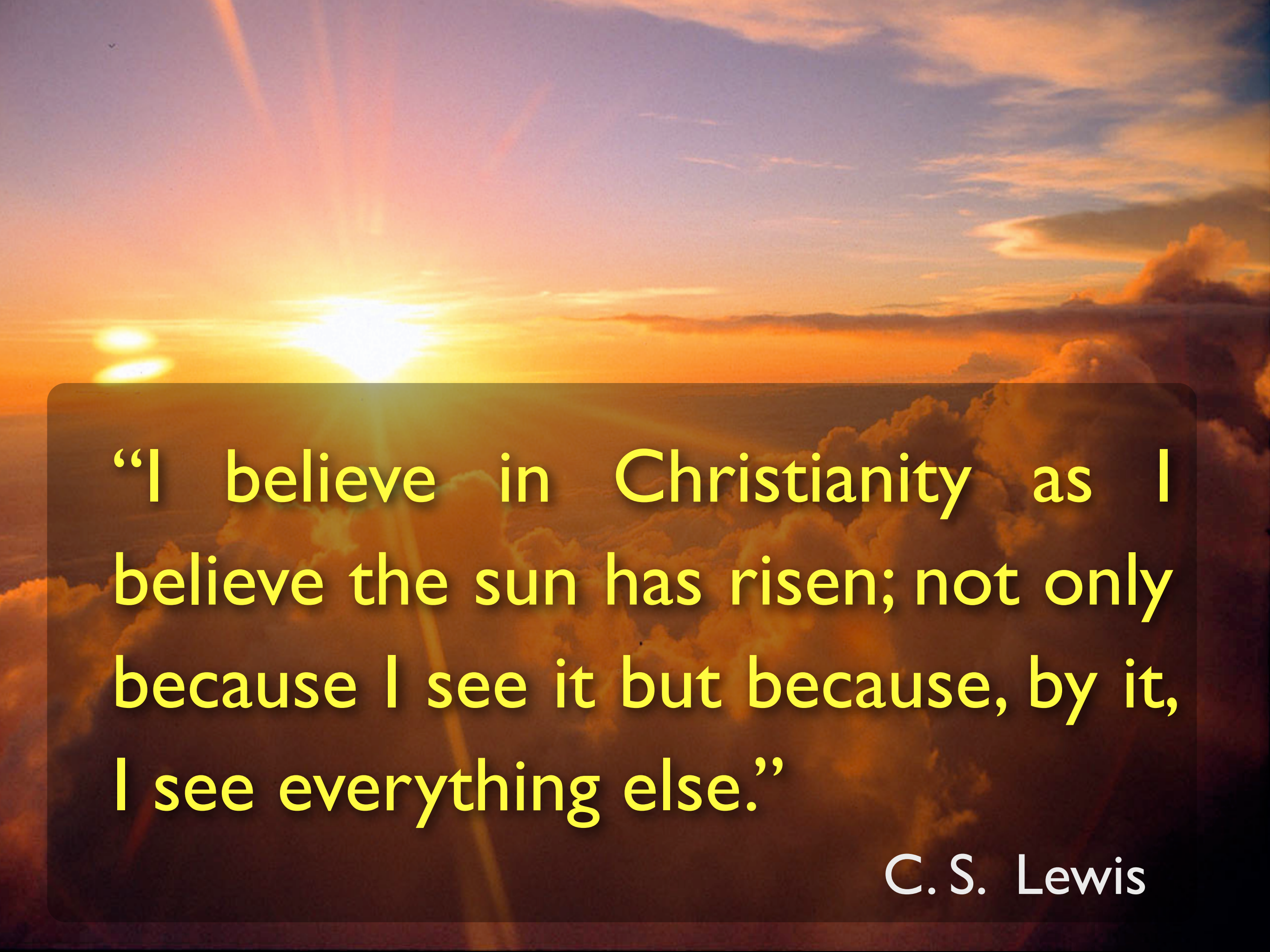
Understanding  
worldviews is vital





Christianity is a  
**complete** worldview



A sunset scene with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over a vast sea of white and orange-tinted clouds. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale blue at the top. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing a quote in yellow text.

“I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen; not only because I see it but because, by it, I see everything else.”

C. S. Lewis



# **Worldview Question**

Is there a God and what is He like?

What are human beings?

What's gone wrong with the world?

What's the solution?

 <p>SHORT/ANSWERS <b>03</b></p> <p><b>Do Muslims and Christians worship the same god?</b></p>	 <p>SHORT/ANSWERS <b>05</b></p> <p><b>Is belief in God just like belief in Santa Claus?   Andy Bannister</b></p>	 <p>SHORT/ANSWERS <b>10</b></p> <p><b>Isn't Religion Dangerous?</b></p>	
 <p>SHORT/ANSWERS <b>14</b></p> <p><b>What is the evidence for the Resurrection?   Andy Bannister</b></p>	 <p>SHORT/ANSWERS <b>16</b></p> <p><b>Why are Christians such homophobic bigots?</b></p>	 <p>SHORT/ANSWERS <b>19</b></p> <p><b>Does the existence of suffering prove there is no God?</b></p>	
 <p><b>Is there anything wrong with multi-faith events?</b></p>	 <p>WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT AS LONG AS YOU'RE SINCERE? <b>39</b></p> <p><b>Why Can't You Believe What You Want As Long As You're Sincere?</b></p>	 <p>WAS HITLER A CHRISTIAN? <b>44</b></p> <p><b>Was Hitler a Christian?</b></p>	
			 <p>ARE YOU JUST A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE YOU WERE BORN THAT WAY? <b>41</b></p> <p><b>Are you just a Christian because you were born that way?</b></p>

# Short/Answers Video Series

Online evangelistic conversation starters

[www.solas-cpc.org/shortanswers](http://www.solas-cpc.org/shortanswers)