

Comparing Worldviews



—
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Solas

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Worldviews

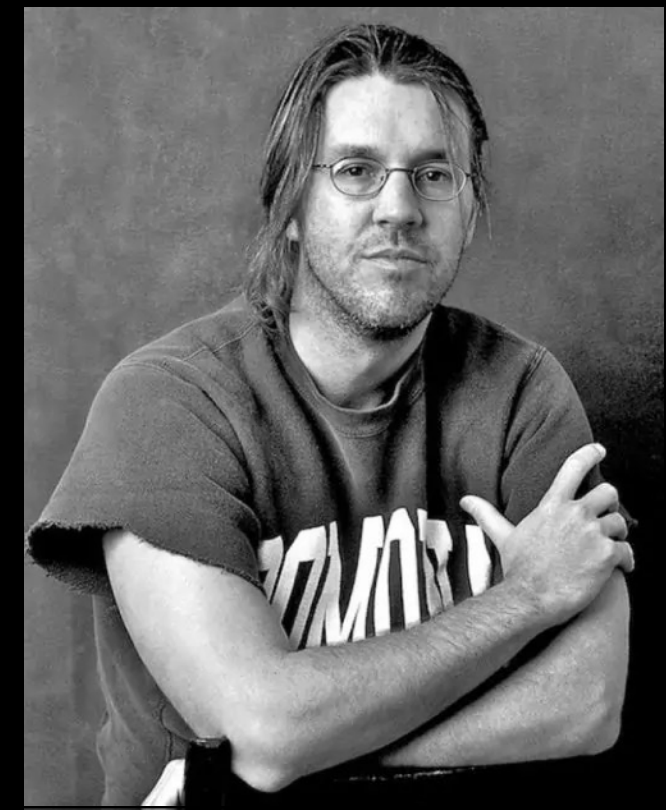


‘A worldview (or a vision of life) is a framework or set of fundamental beliefs through which we view the world and our calling in it ... It is the integrative and interpretative framework by which order and disorder are judged; it is the standard by which reality is managed and pursued; it is the set of hinges on which all our everyday thinking and doing turns.’

James Olthuis

‘On Worldviews’ in Paul A. Marshall et al., eds., *Stained Glass: Worldviews and Social Science* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1989) p. 29.

“In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And an outstanding reason for choosing some sort of God or spiritual-type thing to worship ... is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things — if they are where you tap real meaning in life — then you will never have enough. Never feel you have enough. It’s the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly, and when time and age start showing, you

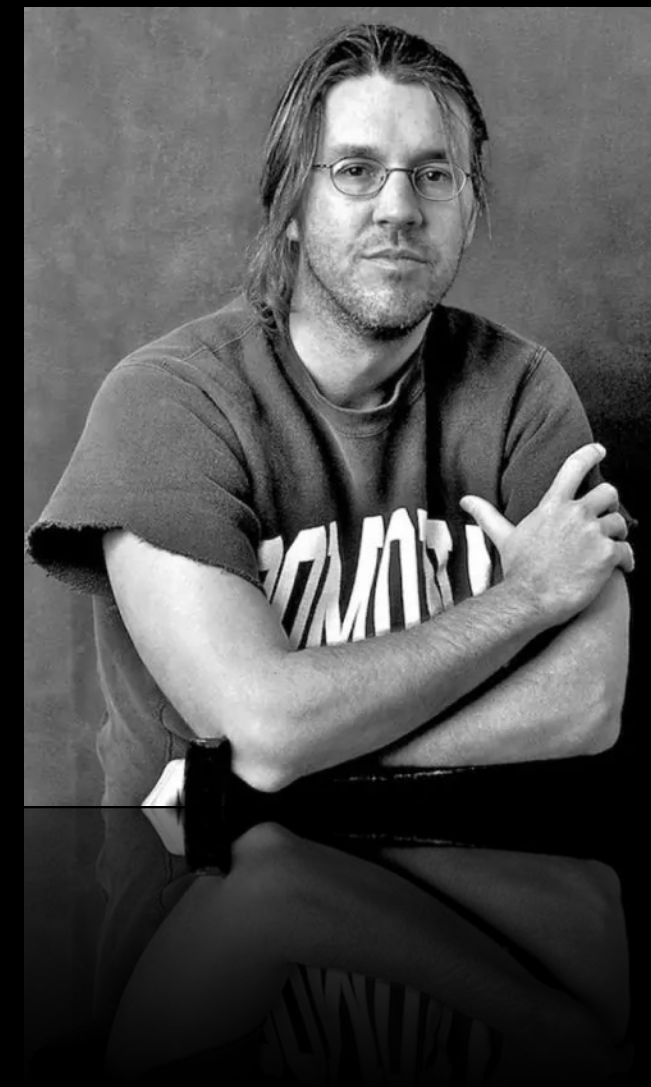


will die a million deaths before they finally plant you

you tap fear meaning in life when you will never have enough. Never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly, and when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you ... Worship power — you will feel weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart — you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. And so on.”

David Foster Wallace

This is Water (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2009) 100-110



This Is Water Some

Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant
Occasion, about Living a Compassionate
Life **David Foster Wallace**





Comparing Worldviews

Origin

Meaning

Morality

Destiny

Is there a God and what is He like?

What are human beings?

What's gone wrong with the world?

What's the solution?

**Worldview
Question**

**Atheist
Answer**

Is there a God and
what is He like?

What are human
beings?

What's gone wrong
with the world?

What's the solution?

**Worldview
Question**

**Atheist
Answer**

Is there a God and
what is He like?

There is no god or supernatural
realm of any kind at all.

What are human
beings?

What's gone wrong
with the world?

What's the solution?



“Imagine no religion.”

- John Lennon

Worldview Question

Atheist Answer

Is there a God and what is He like?

There is no god or supernatural realm of any kind at all.

What are human beings?

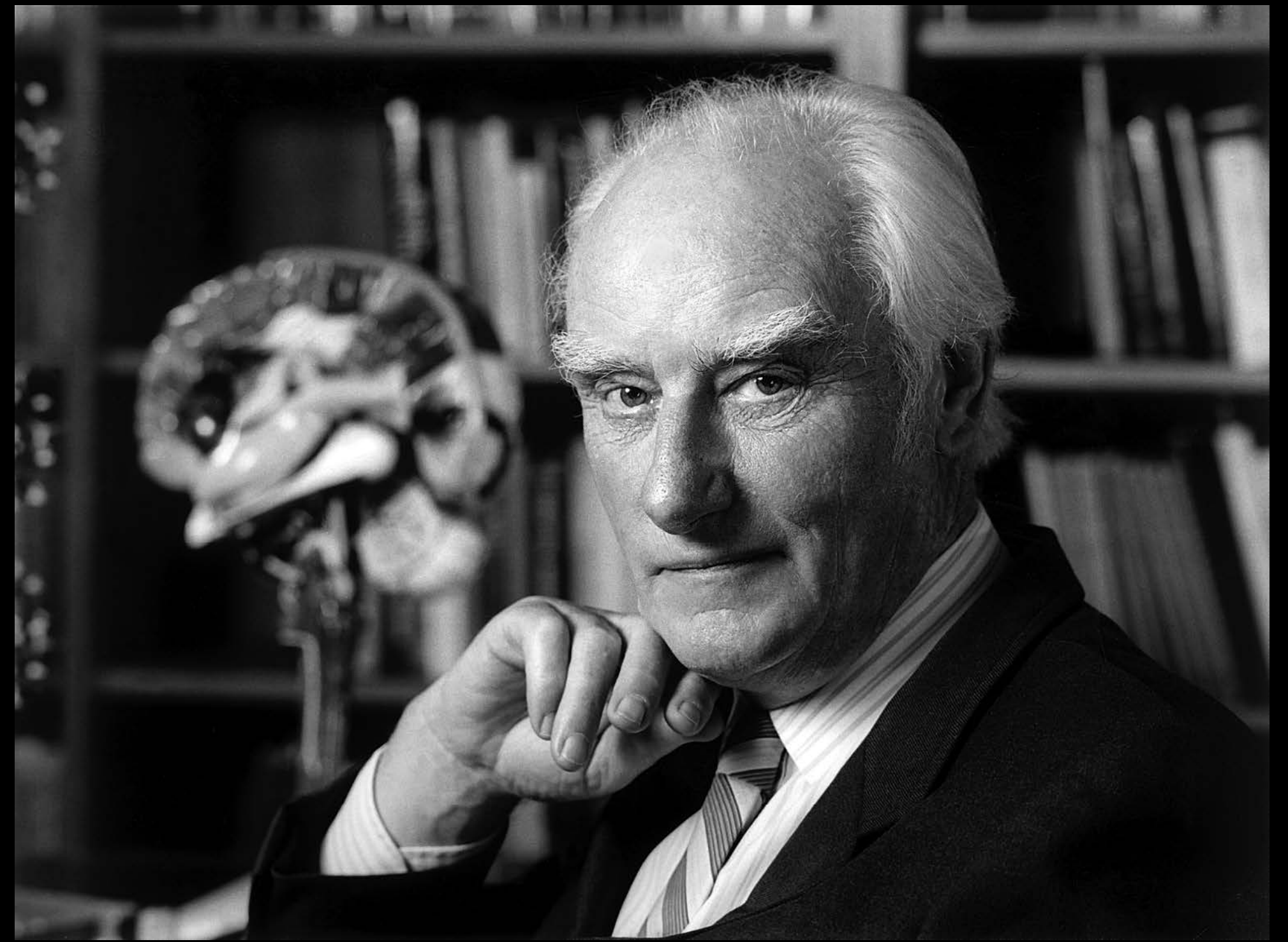
Just matter. The undesigned result of time plus chance plus natural selection.

What's gone wrong with the world?

What's the solution?

“‘You’, your joys and your sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules. As Lewis Carroll’s Alice might have phrased it: ‘You’re nothing but a pack of neurons.’”

~ Francis Crick



Worldview Question

Atheist Answer

Is there a God and what is He like?

There is no god or supernatural realm of any kind at all.

What are human beings?

Just matter. The undesigned result of time plus chance plus natural selection.

What's gone wrong with the world?

Various (but usually the wrong kind of people doing bad stuff)

What's the solution?

Worldview Question

Atheist Answer

Is there a God and what is He like?

There is no god or supernatural realm of any kind at all.

What are human beings?

Just matter. The undesigned result of time plus chance plus natural selection.

What's gone wrong with the world?

Various (but usually the wrong kind of people doing bad stuff)

What's the solution?

Human ingenuity (usually science, technology, education etc.)

Worldview Question

Islamic Answer

Is there a God and
what is He like?

What are human
beings?

What's gone wrong
with the world?

What's the solution?

**Worldview
Question**

**Islamic
Answer**

Is there a God and
what is He like?

Allah. Utterly one, transcendent,
unknowable, non-relational.

What are human
beings?

What's gone wrong
with the world?

What's the solution?

Worldview Question

Islamic Answer

Is there a God and what is He like?

Allah. Utterly one, transcendent, unknowable, non-relational.

What are human beings?

Slaves of Allah, flung down from Paradise to earth for disobedience

What's gone wrong with the world?

What's the solution?

Worldview Question

Islamic Answer

Is there a God and what is He like?

Allah. Utterly one, transcendent, unknowable, non-relational.

What are human beings?

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What's gone wrong with the world?

Allah wants obedience. Humans have disobeyed. Broken law is the issue.

What's the solution?

Worldview Question

Islamic Answer

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Allah wants obedience. Humans have disobeyed. Broken law is the issue.

What's the solution?

More commandments (because human beings are forgetful)



“Contrast is the mother of clarity.”

- Os Guinness

Is there a God and what is He like?

What are human beings?

What's gone wrong with the world?

What's the solution?

ANDY BANNISTER

DO MUSLIMS
AND
CHRISTIANS
WORSHIP
THE SAME
GOD?

'A NUANCED
AND SENSITIVE
EXAMINATION'
TOM HOLLAND

'A MUST-READ'
AMY ORR-EWING



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Worldviews: Some Concluding Thoughts



Christianity is a
complete worldview



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

C. S. Lewis