



A LEAP OF FAITH?

Do We Have Good Reason to
Believe God Exists?

Steve Osmond

Does God Exist?

- Proof, Evidence & Faith
- Pointers & Breadcrumbs
 - ‘Cause of the Cosmos’
 - ‘The Fingerprints of the Creator’
 - ‘That’s Just Wrong!’
 - ‘Intuitions of the Heart’
- Best Explanation?

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Proof, Evidence & Faith

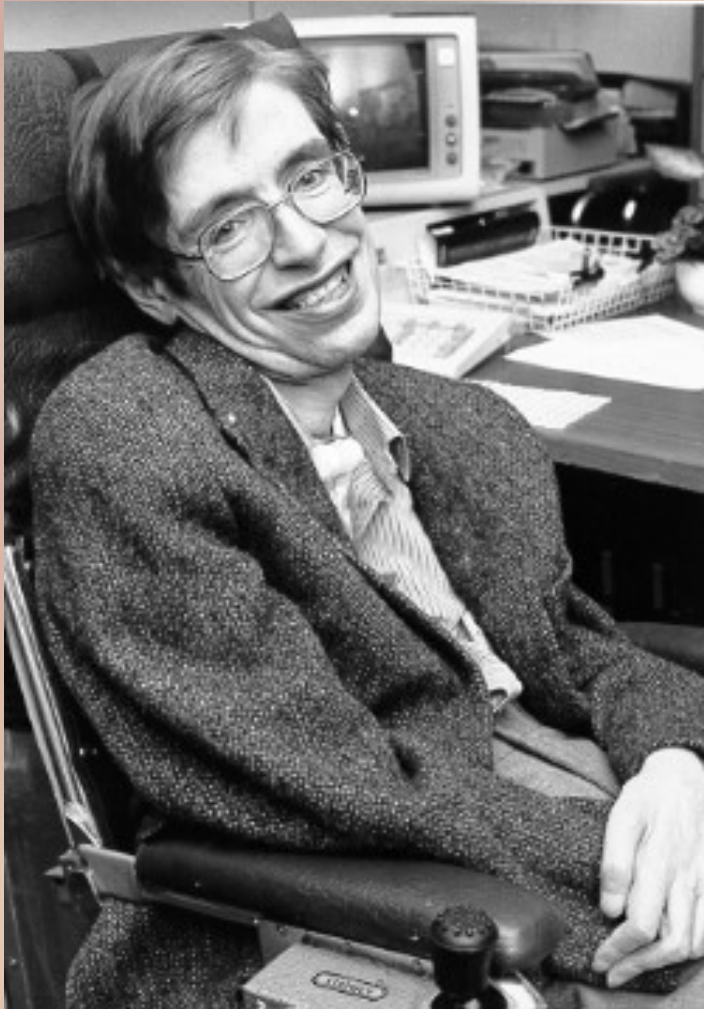
- “Science has disproven God!”
- “No intellectually respectable person can believe in God.”
- But is this true?
 - Peter Higgs = Nobel prize in physics (an atheist)
 - Bill Phillips = Nobel prize in physics (a Christian)

Proof, Evidence & Faith

- **Atheism** = This universe is all that exists – mass energy is fundamental
- **Theism** = There is something else – a God who created and upholds it all
- Where does the evidence lead? Atheism? Theism? Neither?
- Not proof (that is only in mathematics)
- From the data of the world, what's the best explanation (inference)?

Proof, Evidence & Faith

- **'Proof'** = Strong evidence to put a matter beyond reasonable doubt
 - I.e: Cannot prove mathematically that my wife loves me – but have enough evidence that I'd stake my life on it!
- We put faith in many things without 'proof':
 - Transport?
 - Bridges?
 - Banks?



All my life, I have been fascinated by the big questions that face us, and I've tried to find scientific answers to them. If, like me, you have looked at the stars, and tried to make sense of what you see, you too have started to wonder what makes the universe exist.

- Stephen Hawking, Cosmologist

Proof, Evidence & Faith

- The giants who established modern science were deeply religious and thought that by doing science they were discovering God's design and revealing it to mankind.
 - Johannes Kepler
 - Robert Boyle
 - Sir Isaac Newton



“It is no exaggeration to say that the
Judeo-Christian worldview led to the
advent of modern science”

- Stephen Meyer, Historian & Philosopher of Science



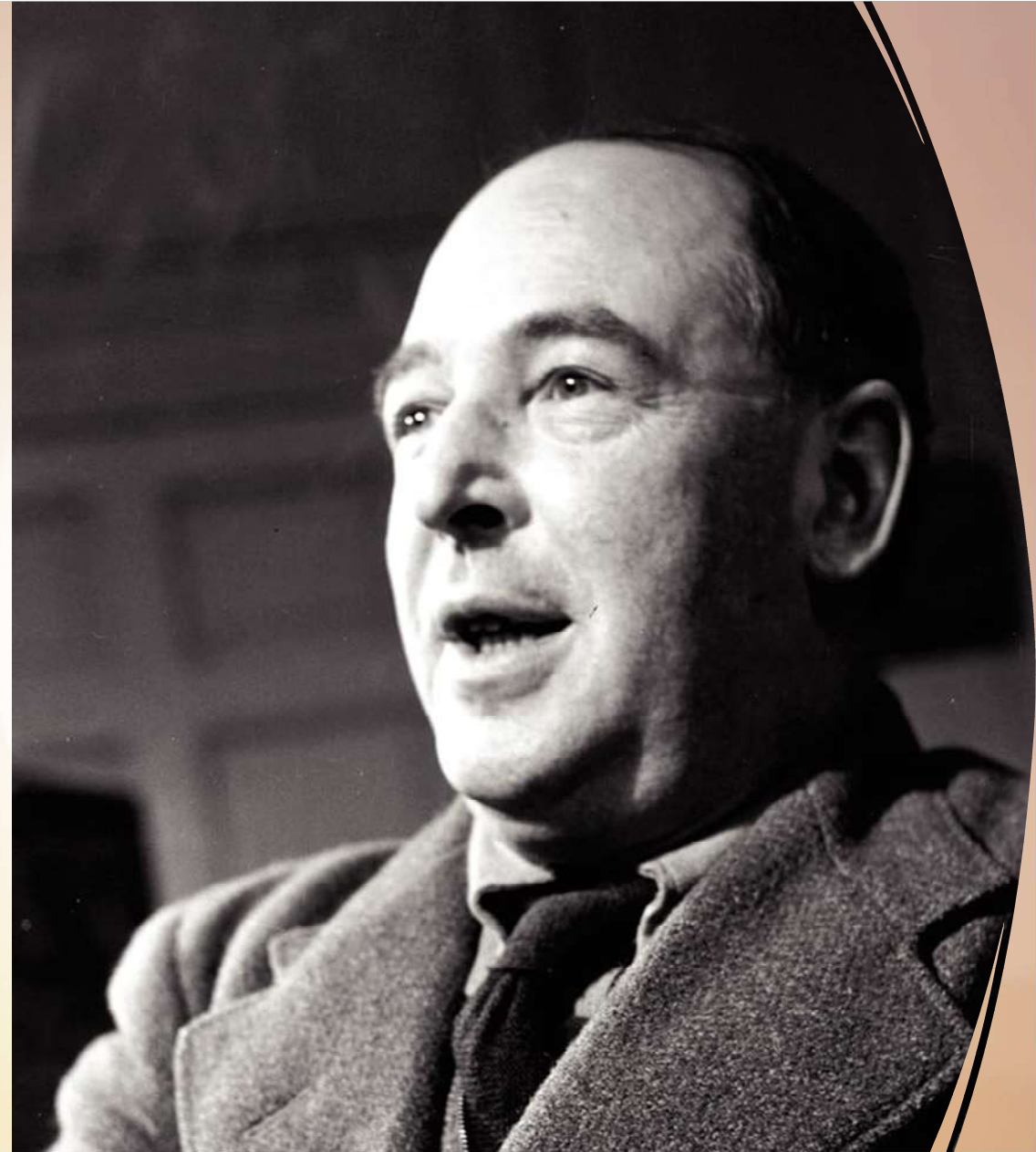
“One of the greatest tragedies of our time
is this impression that has been created
that science and religion have to be at
war”

- Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health

The History of Science

“Men became scientific because they expected law in nature, and they expected law in nature because they believed in a legislator [a lawgiver].”

- CS Lewis



Proof, Evidence & Faith

- Erroneous definition of 'faith' as 'blind faith'
- Faith is essential in science!
 - Faith in the rational intelligibility of the universe
 - Must believe that science can be done
- Faith in God is compatible with faith in science

Faith in Atheism

- Faith in atheism is not compatible with faith in science!



“If Dawkins is right that we are the product of mindless unguided natural processes, then he is given a strong reason to doubt the reliability of human cognitive faculties and therefore inevitably to doubt the validity of any belief they produce, including Dawkins’ own science and atheism. His biology and his belief in naturalism would therefore appear to be at war with each other in a conflict that has nothing at all to do with God”

- Alvin Plantinga

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Pointers & Breadcrumbs: 'Cause of the Cosmos'

- Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence.
- Premise 2: The universe began to exist.
- Conclusion: Therefore, the universe has a cause of its existence.

Pointers & Breadcrumbs: 'Cause of the Cosmos'

- Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence.



Pointers & Breadcrumbs: 'Cause of the Cosmos'

- Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence.
- Premise 2: The universe began to exist.

Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang.

- Stephen Hawking, Cosmologist



Pointers & Breadcrumbs: 'Cause of the Cosmos'

- Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence.
- Premise 2: The universe began to exist.
 - Second Law of Thermodynamics (Entropy)
 - Universe is expanding
 - Radiation afterglow from Big Bang explosion
 - Great Galaxy Seeds
 - Einstein's Theory of General Relativity

Pointers & Breadcrumbs: 'Cause of the Cosmos'

- Premise 1: Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence.
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The cause must be:

- **Spaceless** – because it created space
- **Timeless** – because it created time
- **Immaterial** – because it created matter
- **Extremely powerful** – because it created out of nothing
- **Intelligent** – because the creation event & universe are extremely precise
- **Personal** – because it made a choice to make something out of nothing

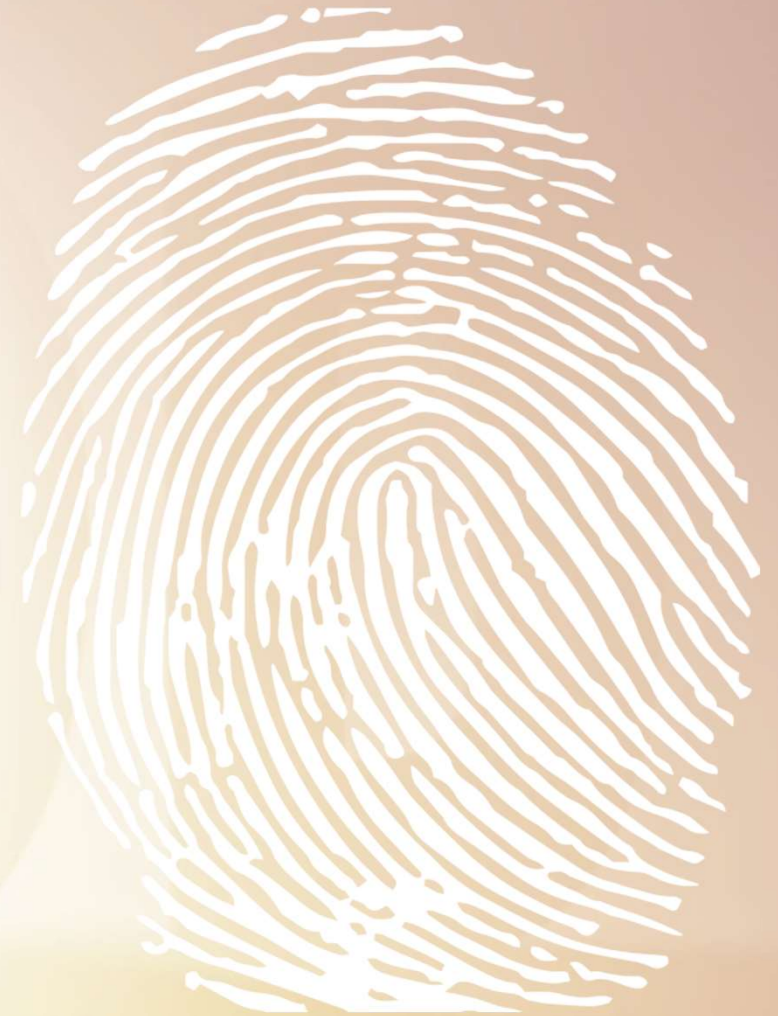
The cause must be:

- Spaceless – 1 Kings 8:27
- Timeless – 1 Corinthians 2:7
- Immaterial – John 4:24
- Extremely powerful – Psalm 62:11-12
- Intelligent – Isaiah 40:28
- Personal – James 4:8



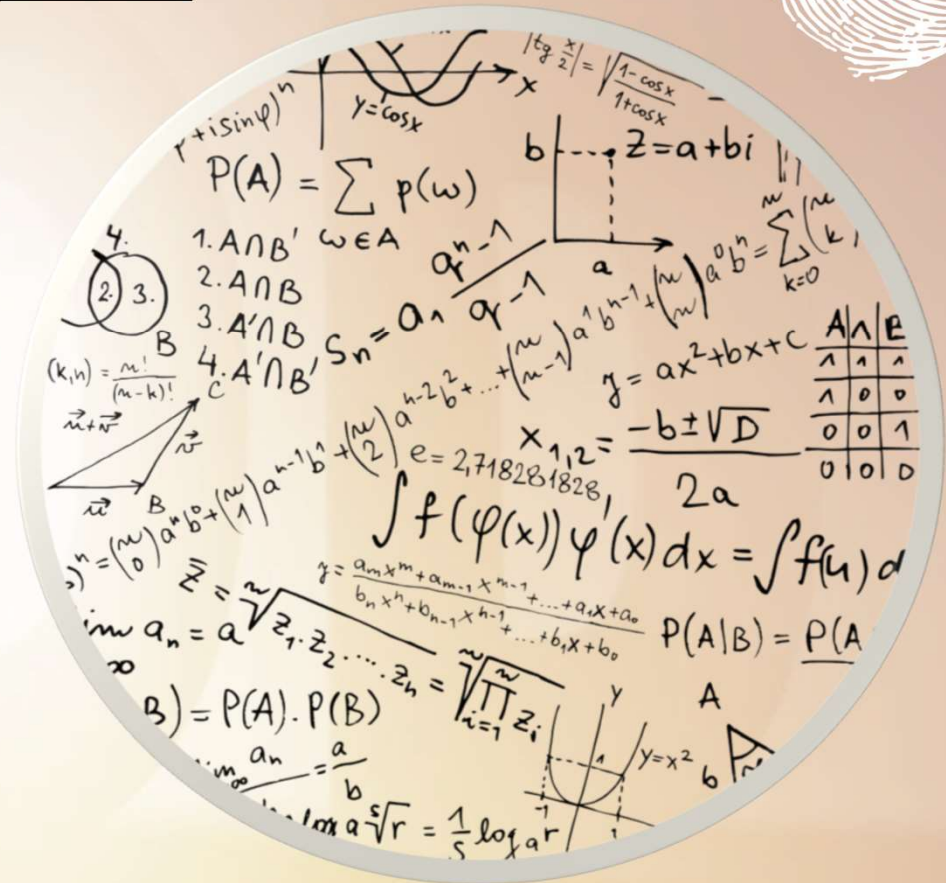
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The Fingerprints of the Creator

- Applicability of mathematics
- Fine tuning of the universe



The Fingerprints of the Creator

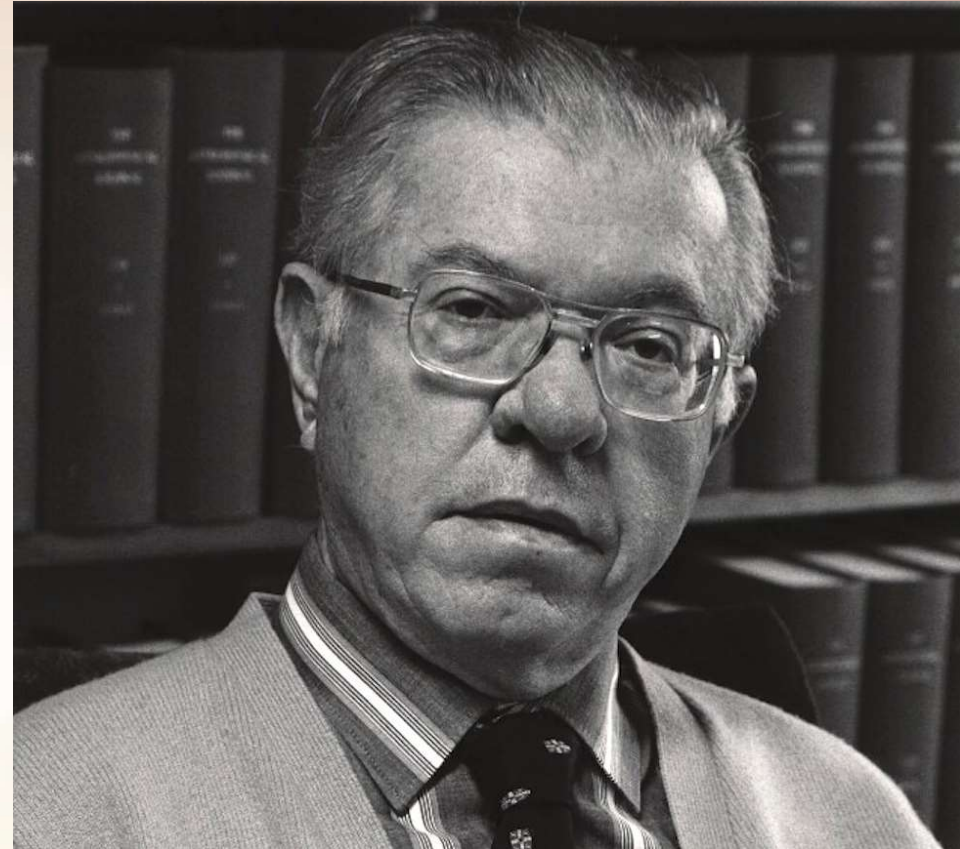


- Applicability of mathematics
- **Fine tuning of the universe**

- 1) Gravitational force (1 in 10^{34})
- 2) Electromagnetic force
- 3) Strong nuclear force
- 4) Weak nuclear force
- 5) Cosmological force (1 in 10^{120})
- 6) Proton:Electron mass ratio
- 7) Velocity of light
- 8) Steady plate tectonics
- 9) Water ration in planet crust
- 10) Moon size & distance
- 11) Planetary mass
- 12) Circumstellar habitable zone
- 13) Sulphur concentration

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

-Sir Fred Hoyle, Astronomer



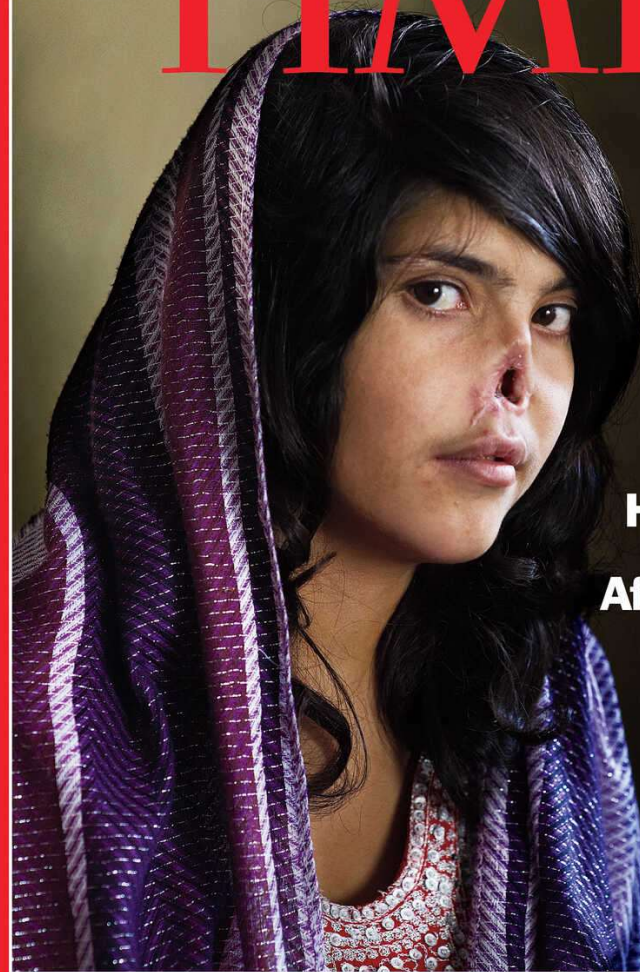
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AUGUST 9, 2010

Inside: Joe Klein on the challenge in Pakistan

TIME



What Happens if We Leave Afghanistan

BY ARYN BAKER

Aisha, 18, had her
nose and ears cut off
last year on orders
from the Taliban
because she fled
abusive in-laws

www.time.com

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Moral Argument

When you say there's too much **evil** in this world you assume there's **good**.

When you assume there's **good**, you assume there's such a thing as a **moral law** on the basis of which to **differentiate** between good and evil.

But if you assume a moral law, you must posit a **moral Law Giver**, but that's Who you're trying to disprove and not prove.

Because if there's **no moral Law Giver**, there's **no moral law**. If there's no moral law, there's **no good**. If there's no good, there's **no evil**.

What is your question?"



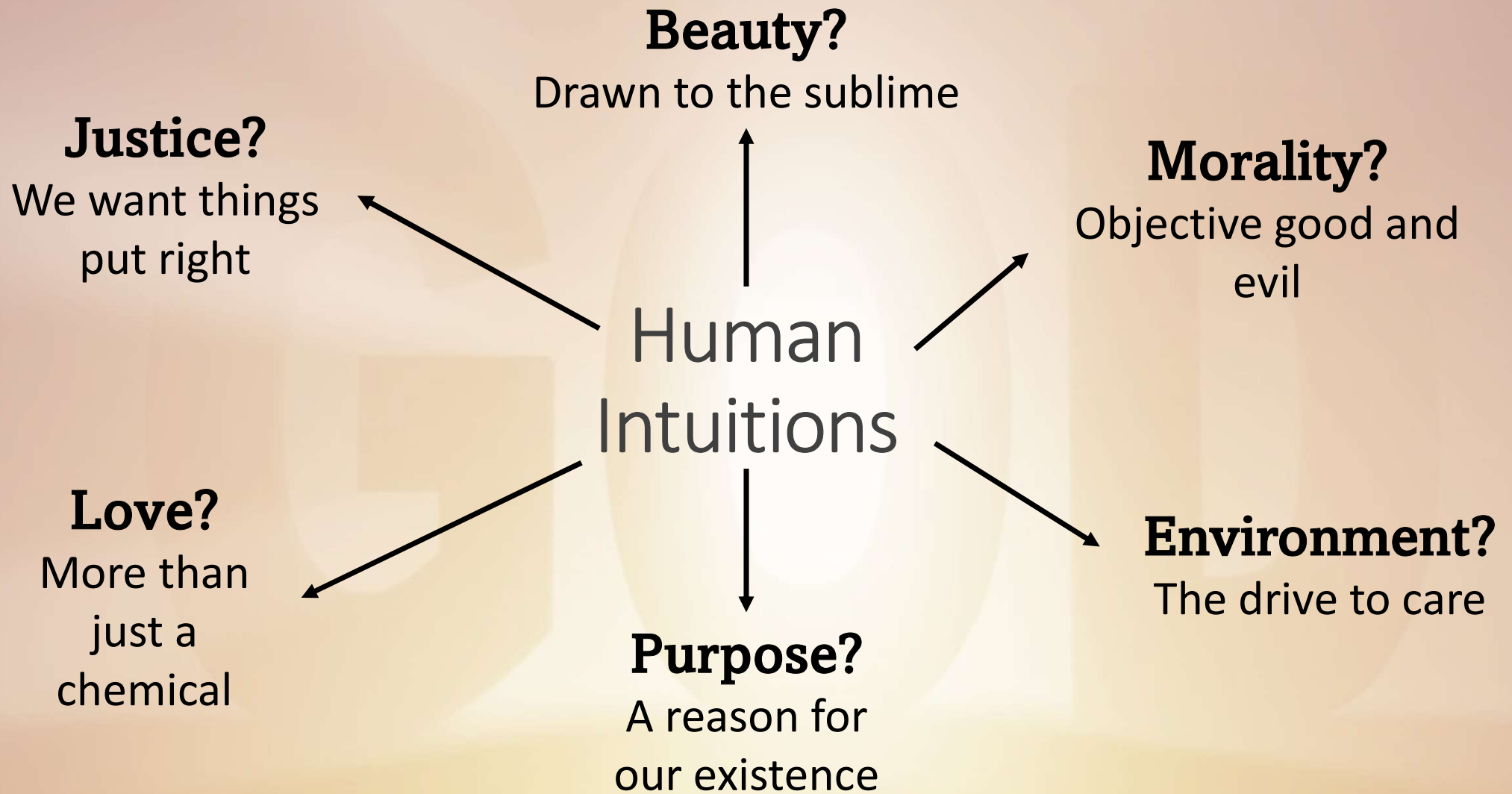
“...my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust?

A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.”

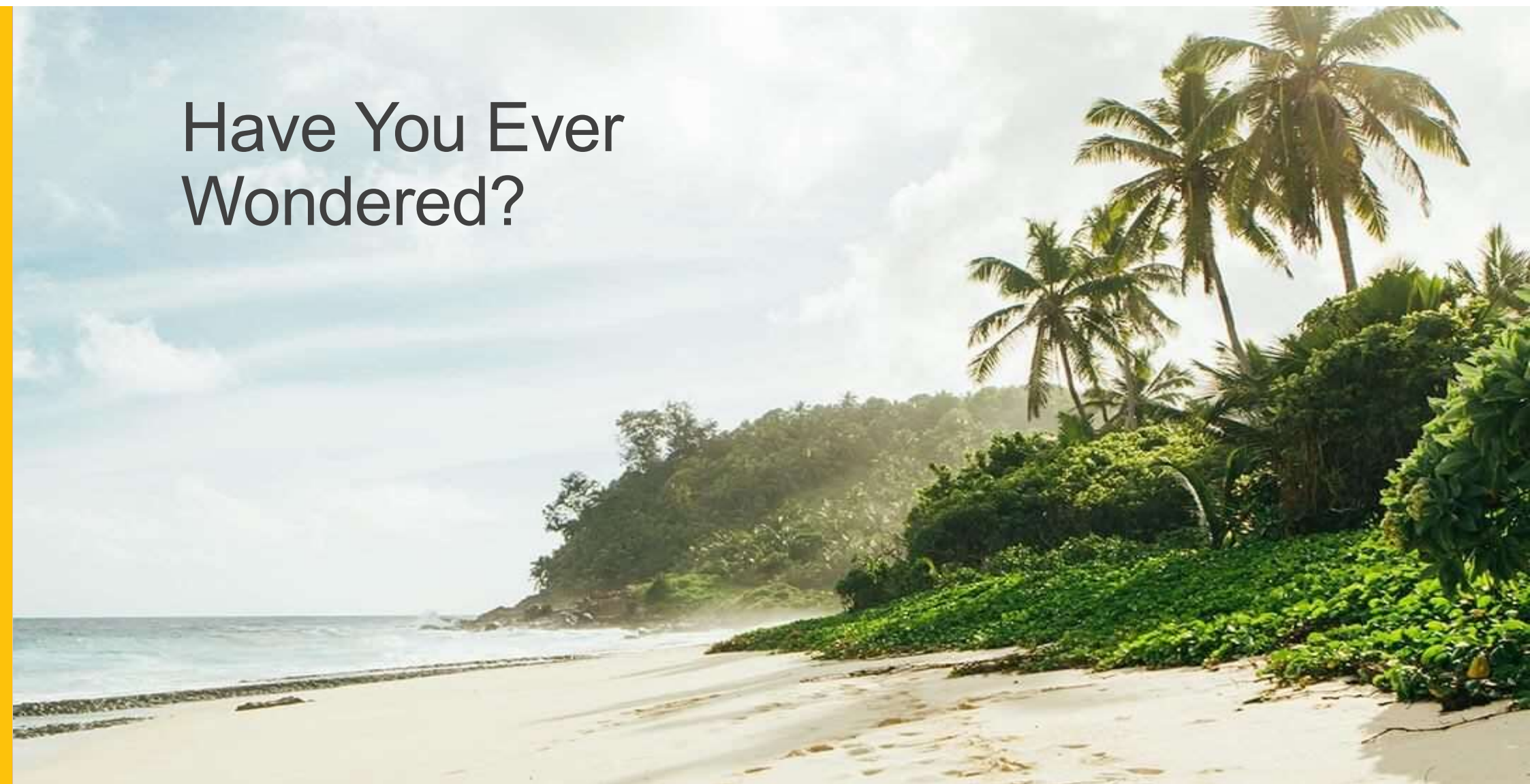
- C.S. Lewis

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Have You Ever
Wondered?





“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

- C.S. Lewis

“For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes** are clearly seen, being understood ***by the things that have been made***, even His eternal power ...”

The Bible, Romans 1

“**His purpose** was for the nations to **seek after God** and perhaps feel their way toward Him and **find Him** – though he is not far from any one of us.”

The Bible, Acts 17



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Thank you

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