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...Concerning atheists and others...
by

...One who wishes to remain Anonymous...

Once upon a time I used to go to Sunday school. There I read the Bible, listened to teacher and in short did everything that little boys should do - even believing in God. Even now I'm rather surprised by the fact that for nearly two years I took in the stuff handed out. Perhaps it is significant that about 3 to 6 months before I left I began to take an interest in Science, reading my first serious books - simple ones I admit for at the time I was a mere 10 - 11 years old, but even at that tender age it was quite obvious that Genesis and "The Earth shown to the Children" did not agree!

All that's by way of a preliminary and boils down to the fact that I became an atheist at the age of 11 though I did not realize it then, and the 8 years which have passed since have only confirmed that - well choice - for want of a better word. For I can't possibly see how anyone, after considering both sides of the question whether or not there is a God can arrive at the conclusion that there is! Although I can see obvious reasons why people - some people anyway - should or do believe in a God more anon.

I think I'd better relate the usual arguments for both sides of the question for the sake of partial completeness - I'm not qualified to cover the ground fully by any means.

The Earth and a few electrons such as the stars and Adam and Eve are supposed to have been created in 6 days. When faced with almost positive proof that this could not have occurred the church adroitly decided that day in the eyes of the Lord was ages in the eyes of man. I wonder why they did not get an angel to tell them so. And of course they had to disregard the date of creation (4004 B.C.) which a Bishop had fixed. Still I admit that was not generally held though men who could decide that 10000 (is that correct?) angels could stand on a pinpoint are capable of believing anything.

And if Eve came from Adam's 5th rib, how did the church come to hold its present (and past) views on incest? While there are sound biological reasons for condemnation of the practice the medieval church never knew them. Oh by the way - I'm using the word church as a general name for organised religion.

If man is - or ever was - the image of God, well the latter is not much to root for. Judging from the old testament his ways are similar to those of man - and some might say worse. He drowns armies, starves people and apparently causes as much misery to his chosen people as to anyone else. "Per Ardua Ad Astra" perhaps? That would be understandable if God is not omnipotent. Well he is supposed to be but he can't stop wars, misery, famine - why not? Maybe he's testing "homo sapiens"? If he's omnipotent there should not be any need to. He could have made the human race perfect whatever perfection is. Anyhow he should know.

Should we conclude from this that God is not omnipotent? The church

es'nt think so. Perhaps, however, he made the human race for amusement. If so, his "toys" would'nt think much of him. Or we may be just a biological accident. Maybe...

If there is a God why does'nt he, as someone suggested write "I am the real McCoy" in flaming letters across the sky. People have defied God to strike them down before now. As yet the results are not obvious. Perhaps he is too merciful.

He could prove his presence easily enough if he was present!!!

Now for something concerning the new testament. Jesus Christ seems a very definite fact and it's as certain as most things that he existed. That he was sincere I have no doubt. He was a man with his own beliefs - and like many before him and even more after he was not adverse to spreading them. That he was the son of God I cannot believe. It's quite certain that he was born as a man and all who read this will agree, I am sure, that fantasies could easily spring up around a man who had founded the world's greatest religion. While his miracles could be explained away thus there's no need - among other reasons look at the miracles at Lourdes... They are very much a fact but those who accomplish them are **not** called the sons of God.

As final proof of the non-existence of God; who if he created the Earth created God??? And so on ad infinitum... You may say that it's equally illogical to assume that the Universe created itself from nothing or was created by something which was created from nothing.

Well the universe is very much a fact - if it's a dream it's a remarkably complex one, and remarkably real. God is very definitely not a fact. So if you're to choose logically which wins? Mobson could'nt have arranged things better.

Most of this article's finished now but there are one or two points I wish to add...

A lot (All surely? - Ed.) of churchmen nowadays admit that the old testament is'nt very reliable - it was probably written largely from hearsay. Yet the old testament was only 2000 years ago the only bible known. It was the law - a book of facts. The "New Testament" has a lot more truth in it but does it prove the existence of God? Is there any record that can be said to do this?? No! Consequently theory is the only alternative and that can be answered easily enough. It is necessary however to draw a very clear line between supernatural phenomena and natural phenomena. If you don't believe in a God then you won't believe in the former - there's just "no seh animal". I don't believe in it - so from one point of view I'm a materialist believing everything has an explanation which can be arrived at from the right data by a process of logical examination.

Now for a rider. I am not proposing to do away with religion - and I hope you don't think I am. My reasons are manifold. To start with it must be nice to "know" that you are under the care of an all powerful being - for religious consolation is a definite fact. Then again the church does a great deal of good - I'm not denying that! The old church is a very beautiful building and it has an atmosphere of calm and quiet that is unique in itself, I never noticed this until I went into a church in the country. - where I consequently found myself alone. I seemed to be alone in the world

And now I'll bore you no further but write finis...

WANTED. "Fighting Man Of Mars." E.R.B. Sept '39 to May '41 inc. and July '42 Weird. Vom July '41. Spaceways nos. 2&3. Blind spot. Y3 Ed.