
Subject: Re: WBC

Posted by [Dave Anderson](#) on Mon, 07 Feb 2011 00:41:09 GMT

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Quote:Better.

Suppose in a thousand years' time, after a nuclear war or something and the collapse of big chunks of our current civilisation, people find a Spiderman comic. This superhero who supposedly lives in New York. Then they find the rubble of New York. Finding out that New York was real doesn't prove much about the existence of Spiderman, does it?

It most certainly does not. In my scenario they were able to confirm the initial event took place; specifics may or may not be confirmed to have existed or be factual, as in your example they could at least confirm some catastrophic event happened to New York and confirm the time frame and event itself occurred.

Quote:fine. then we're faced with the very large number of people who are convinced that hell is a real place of horrific torture, and that you'll go there forever just for not being the right religion, and who spout this poisonous bullshit not just to adults like myself who can logically defend themself but to children.

I most certainly agree. While I accept the fact that Heaven and Hell could be actual 'things' or 'places', I also accept the fact that I simply do not know. They might not exist at all, may be referencing something else we do not understand, or even something we do not yet know about. However, people who act as if they know that Hell is most certainly a physical or spiritual realm where we go when we die; treat this as fact, are blind to the reality that they may be completely wrong. The one thing I absolutely hate is something being taught as fact, when in all actuality we really don't know the answer yet.

Quote:Really, everyone? Bin Laden, for example?

Absolutely. Even myself for example, looking at this 'bmr_71' who comes across completely idiotic, immature, and someone who probably cannot hold an adult conversation with someone with an intelligence factor or IQ above 10, I can still say as a person I love him. I often find myself observing others sometimes, thinking that some of these people are just awful. Some people are evil at heart, some people just don't care. I understand though that there is always a reason for such behaviors, in which I may not know the answer to. I respect all people as human beings. With all that said, it most certainly does not mean like, or can stand them in any way. Maybe God is the same way, I don't know. I joke about it with my father sometimes, how God might think some of his own creations are just dorks, or awful, or how he actually regards them. I don't know, and I wouldn't dare ever say what he actually thinks of people, but it's an interesting thought to ponder.

Quote:I'd be interested in hearing your opinion to my thread entitled "A psychological question: 'Choose to believe", here in Heated Discussions. I ask whether belief is a decision at all.

Well, this is not something I am really prepared to answer. The question in itself is also a very large subject (also touchy), and I find myself possibly not even aware of if I have an answer for

myself on what I think of that. I will have to give it some thought, because I've never really thought about that before in that context.

Quote:I assure you that everything I've said about religion - except perhaps for the occasional joke - has been sincere, and rooted in a desire for skepticism, the continued pursuit of knowledge, and the struggle for human rights (against religious barbarism more often than not).

i certainly don't think bashing religion makes you intelligent; indeed i've said before that you don't need to be particularly bright to see what a crock of shit SOME religious claims are.

and as for the internet not being a good place for this, it's actually the best place for it because there's the least amount of censorship. blasphemy laws and so on. we have those in Europe, they're a relic from a time when the christian churches had everything their own way, and they really could and did force us to believe their bullshit. you wanna see how well that worked out, just look at pakistan today.

I know you're sincere; it's pretty obvious in your posts. I suppose if you are good at filtering the idiots on the internet, then you are pretty okay in saying that its not censored. I guess you could also say that a lot of people, in person, get easily offended when you challenge or dicuss their religion in a manner other then how they see fit. Which so you know, I completely disagree with. I think it is insecurity when people are not comfortable in such a position to the point where they either won't discuss the matter, or will just claim they are correct; and that's that.

Quote:Of course, if you swap "God" for "Thor" or "aliens", you don't need to change another word (except "Christian")

Agreed, because; If you take an individual who claims he was obducted by Aliens, well, to him that is as true as the Sky being blue during the day. He could be crazy, he could be sane. He could have actually experienced something out of the ordinary, and maybe his only explanation is 'Aliens'. It's hard to say because all we can do as people other than himself, is go by what he says. We didn't experience it; although that creates skepticism, and disbelief and a label slapped on him.

Quote:I hope you don't think i'm "condemning" a person just for what they think; i've argued against thoughtcrime many times, especially given the fact many religions thrive upon the concept.

Condeming probably was not the appropriate word, and that reply was sort of more targeted at Starbuzz's reply; I wasn't very clear. I don't feel that you condemn people, you are very challenging in your arguments however, which some people probably do feel the opposite. That however, is not how I feel.

Quote:I think you might actually struggle to find a post from me where I assert the non-existence of any particular god.

Curious here. Do you accept even the possiblity that there may be a God? Maybe even in the context of this discussion, do you accept the possibility that there may be an Intelligent Designer on some level of existance? If you don't mind me asking, what do you actually believe?

Quote:and if something really does happen to make me think that there's a particular God, then it's always worth remembering Hume's advice. i.e. am i really seeing a miracle here, a suspension of the natural order, or am I mistaken?

if everyone involved in writing the bible asked themselves that, it might be a very different book.

I do agree here. If something life changing were to happen these are logical questions to ask yourself. If you didn't, Spiderman would be your God and you would believe everything that's thrown at you. You do have to protect your beliefs with questions and knowledge. It's like people who have found a 'Jesus shaped Cheetoh'. My explanation: C'mon.. billions upon billions of Cheetoh's are processed each day, one is bound to look like 'something'. This is not something I would claim to be an 'act of God' or a 'sign'.
