

# The Existence of God

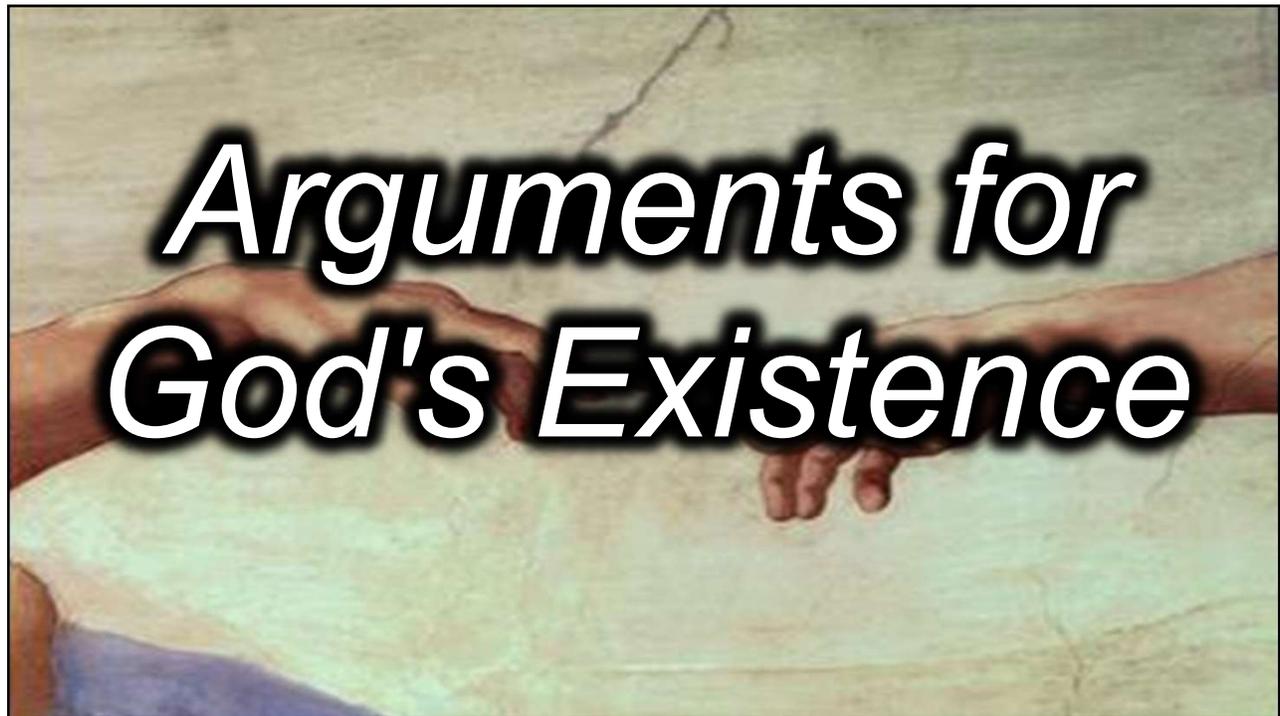
## Design in the Universe

Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.

*Professor Emeritus, Southern Evangelical Seminary*

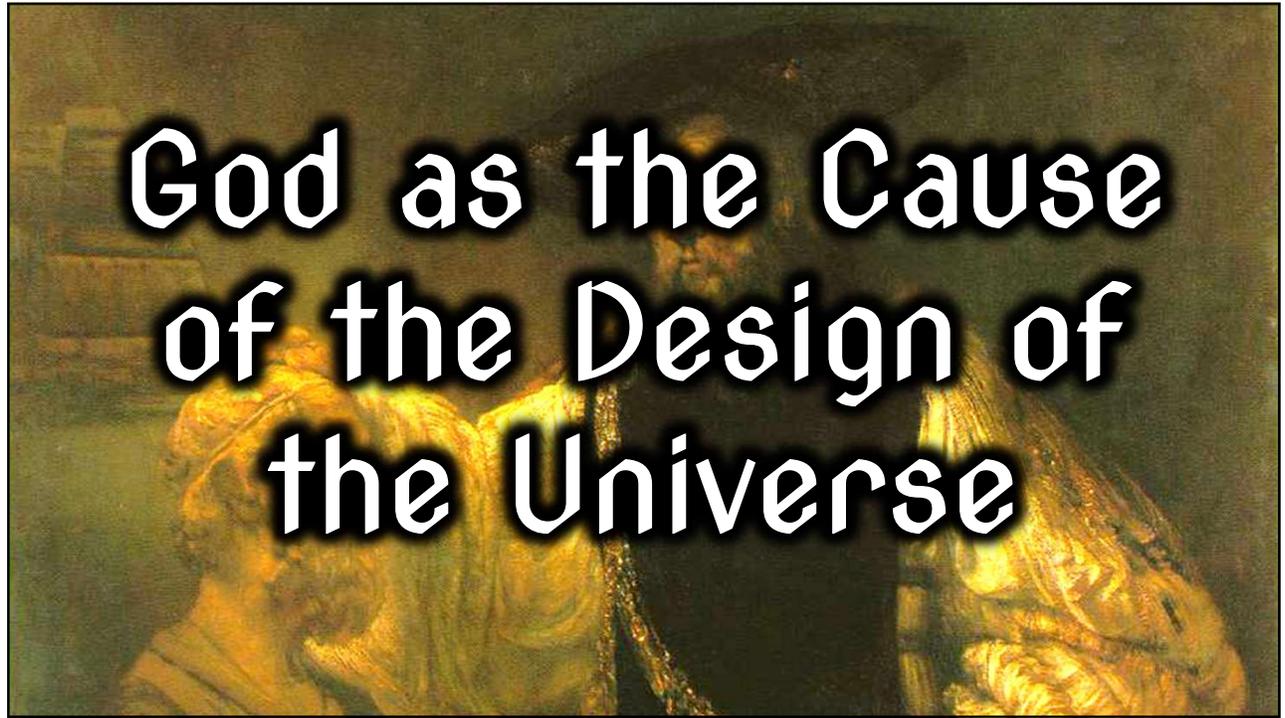
*Past President, International Society of Christian Apologetics*

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# Arguments for God's Existence

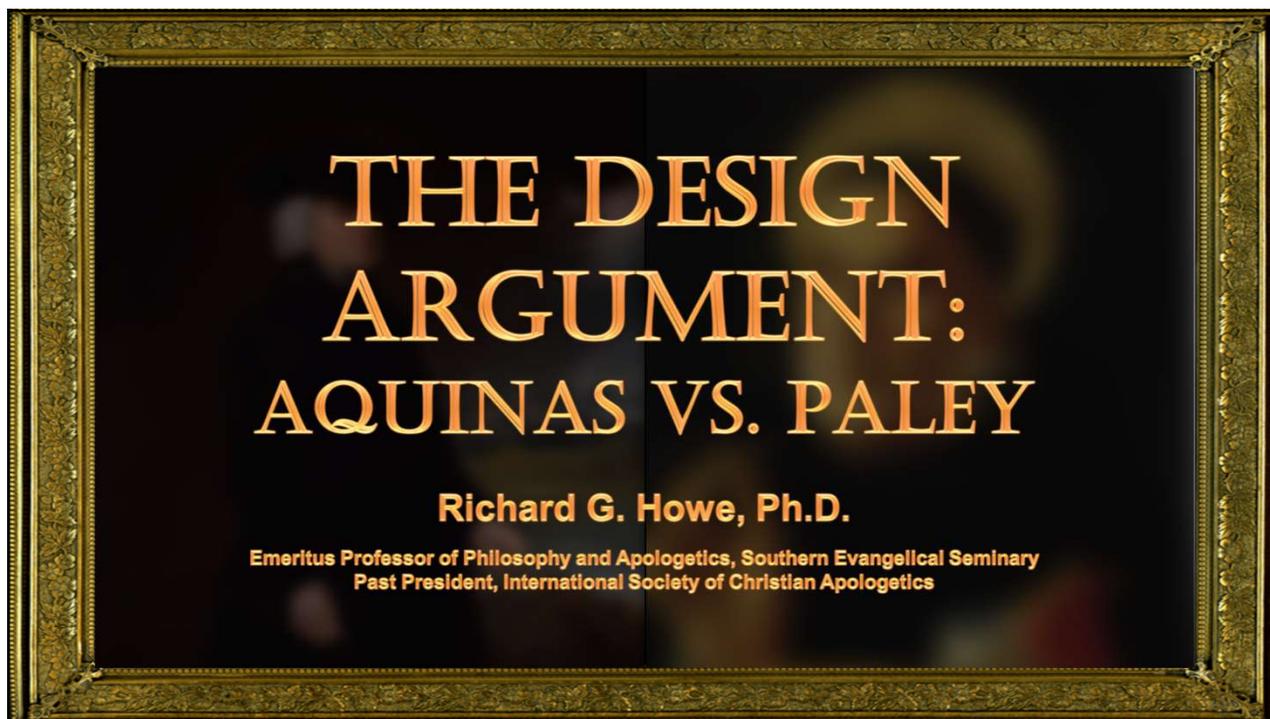
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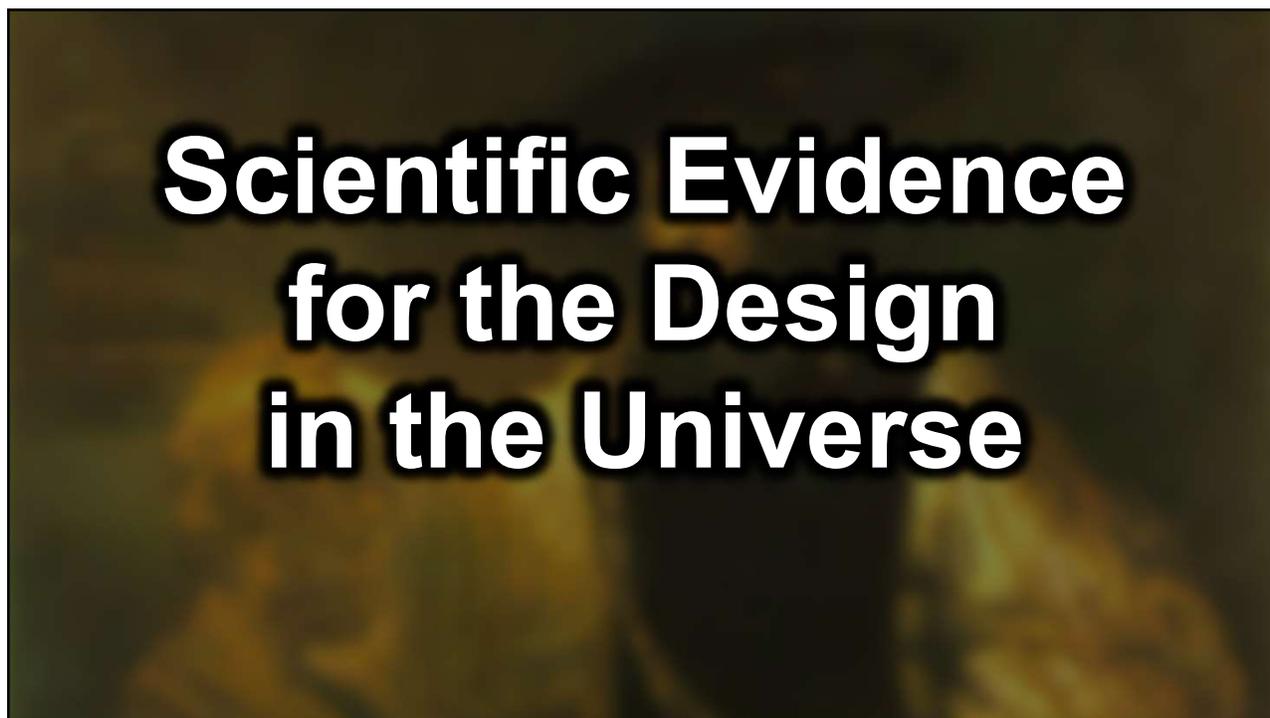
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## ∞ Design of the Universe ∞

*Design as fine tuning for life*

*Design as the origin of life*

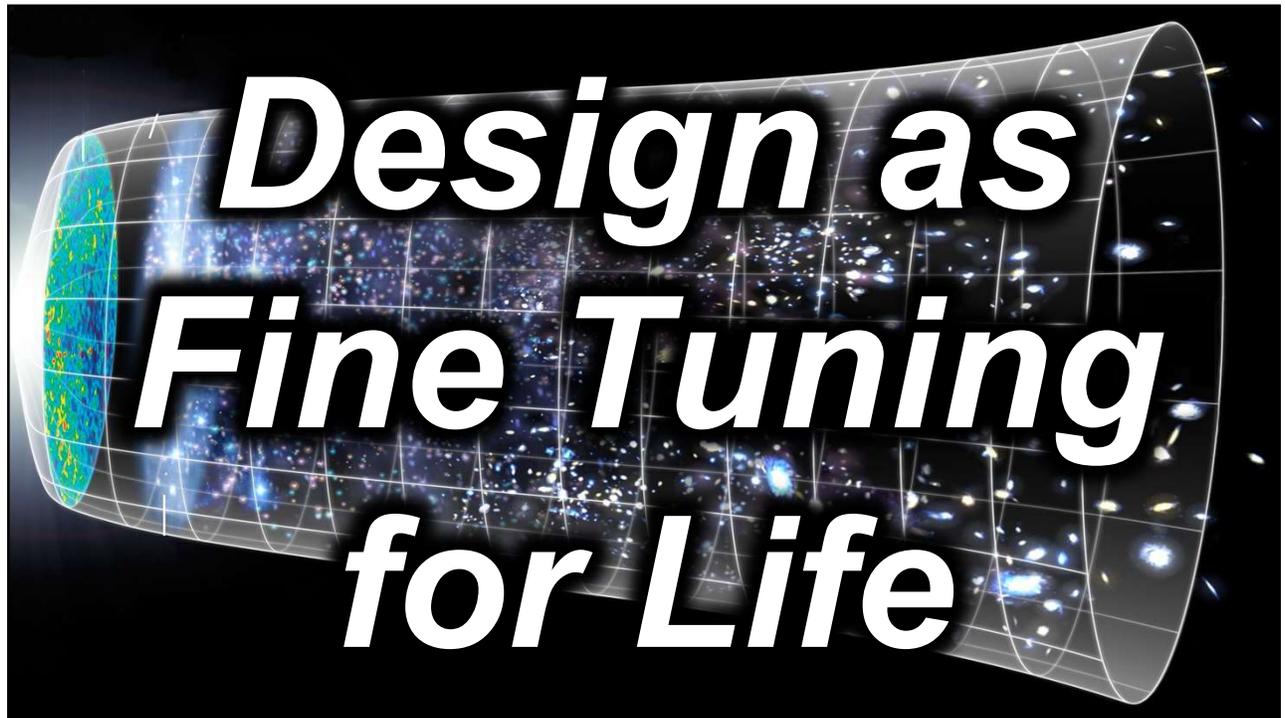
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## ∞ Design of Living Systems ∞

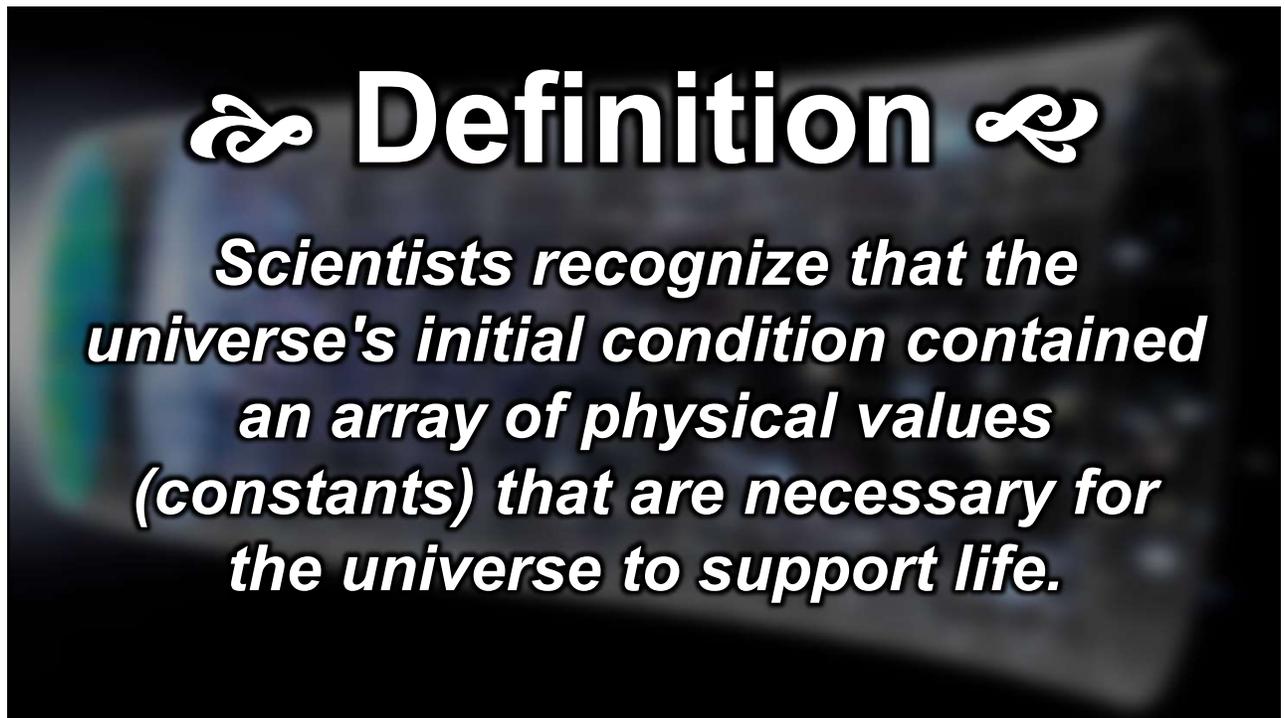
*Design as information*

*Design as irreducible complexity*

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# **Significance**

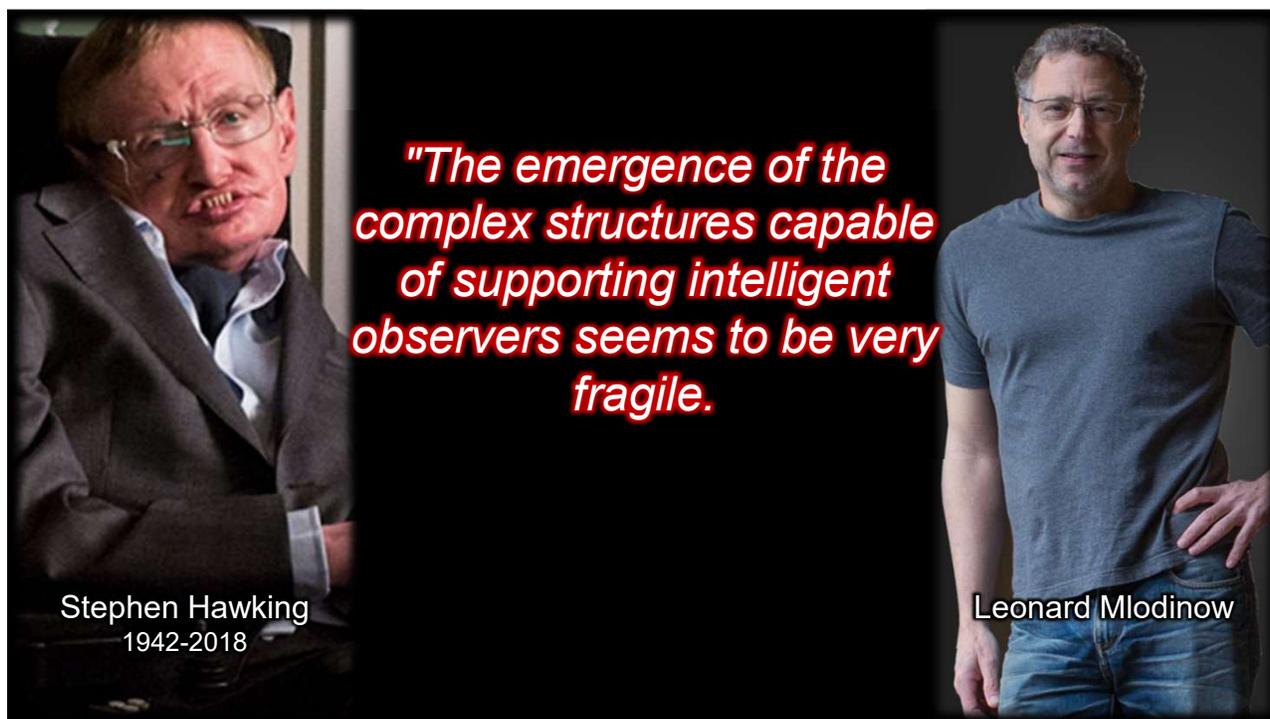
*It would seem to some that the likelihood that these values could come about by chance is next to impossible.*

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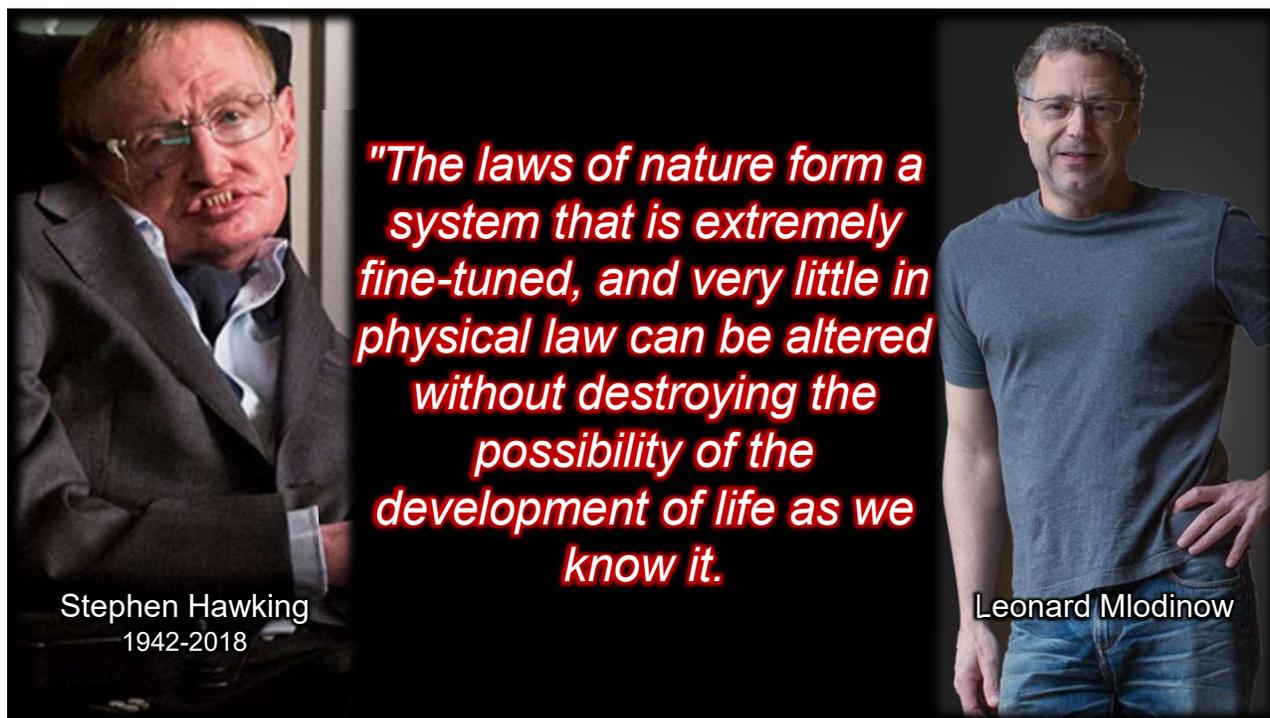
# **Significance**

*Therefore, the status of the universe to support life seems to have been designed deliberately by an intelligent cause.*

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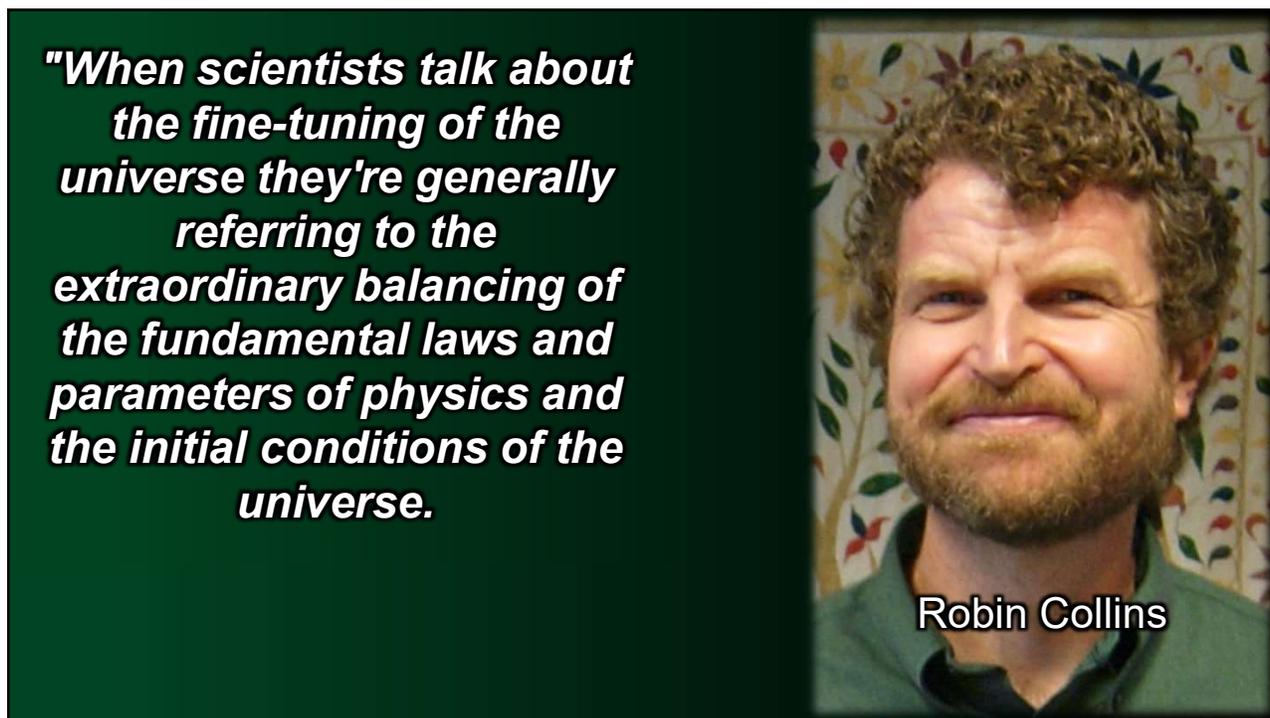
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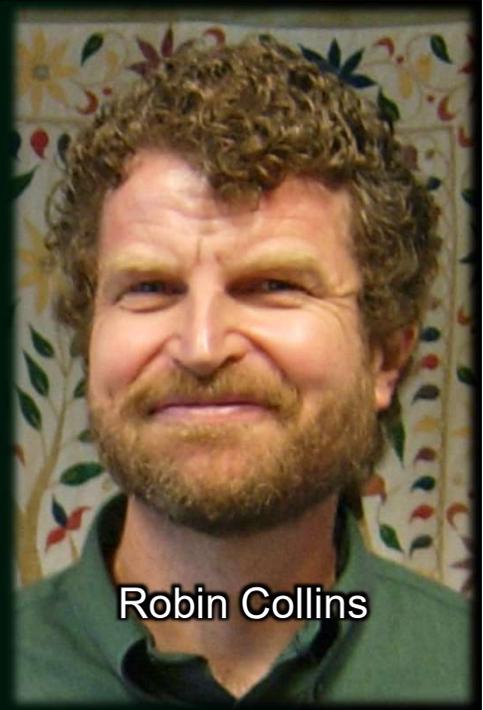
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**"Our minds can't comprehend the precision of some of them. The result is a universe that has just the right conditions to sustain life. The coincidences are simply too amazing to have been the result of happenstance."**

[Robin Collins, "The Evidence of Physics: The Cosmos on a Razor's Edge" in Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator: A Journalist Investigates Scientific Evidence that Points Toward God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004): 130]



Robin Collins

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1. strong nuclear force constant
2. weak nuclear force constant
3. gravitational force constant
4. electromagnetic force constant
5. ratio of electromagnetic force constant to gravitational force constant
6. ratio of electron to proton mass
7. ratio of number of protons to number of electrons
8. expansion rate of the universe
9. entropy level of the universe
10. mass density of the universe
11. velocity of light
12. age of the universe
13. initial uniformity of radiation
14. average distance between galaxies
15. galaxy cluster density
16. average distance between stars
17. fine structure constant (a number used to describe the fine structure splitting of spectral lines)
18. decay rate of the proton
19.  $^{12}\text{C}$  to  $^{16}\text{O}$  nuclear energy level ratio
20. ground state energy level for  $^4\text{He}$
21. decay rate of  $^9\text{Be}$
22. mass excess of the neutron over the proton
23. initial excess of nucleons over anti-nucleons
24. polarity of the water molecule
25. degree of uncertainty in the Heisenberg uncertainty principle
26. size of the relativistic dilation factor
27. supernovae eruptions
28. number of white dwarf binaries
29. ratio of the mass of exotic matter to ordinary matter
30. ratio of number of dwarf galaxies to number of large galaxies
31. number of effective dimensions in the early universe
32. number of effective dimensions in the present universe
33. mass of the neutrino
34. size of big bang ripples
35. size of cosmological constant

Hugh Ross, "Why I Believe in the Miracle of Divine Creation," in Norman L. Geisler and Paul K. Hoffman *Why I Am a Christian: Leading Thinkers Explain Why They Believe* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001): 138-139.

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- ❖ **Had the rate of expansion of the big bang been different, no life would have been possible.**
- ❖ **If Earth's magnetic field were stronger, electromagnetic storms would be too severe. If it were weaker, we would have inadequate protection from hard stellar radiation.**

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- ❖ **If Earth's gravitational interaction with the moon were greater, then tidal effects on the oceans, atmosphere, and rotational period would be too severe. If it were less, orbital changes would cause climactic instabilities.**

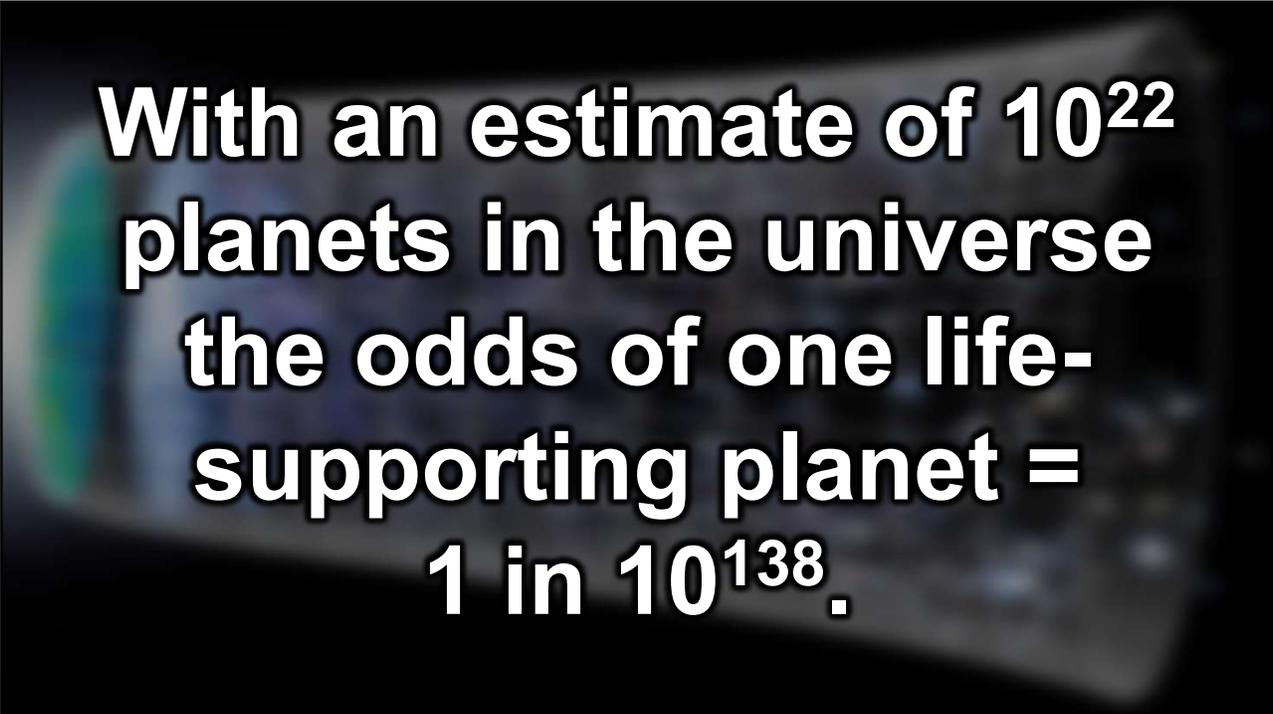
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- ❖ If Earth's axial tilt were any greater or less, surface temperatures would be too great.
- ❖ If Earth's rotational period were longer, diurnal temperature differences would be too great. If it were shorter, atmospheric wind velocities would be too great.

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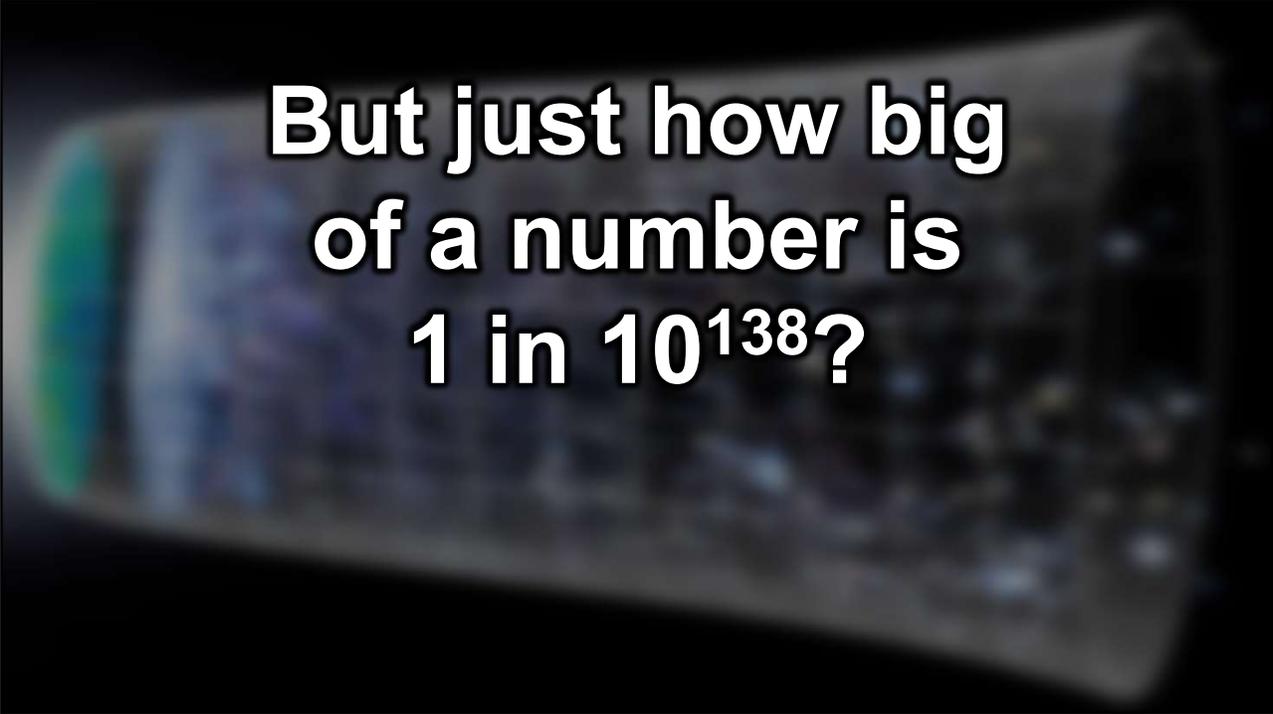
- ❖ Had the values of the gravitational constant, the strong force constant (the force binding protons and neutrons in the nucleus), the weak force (the force responsible for many nuclear processes), and the electromagnetic force been slightly greater or smaller, no life would have been possible.

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**With an estimate of  $10^{22}$   
planets in the universe  
the odds of one life-  
supporting planet =  
1 in  $10^{138}$ .**

23

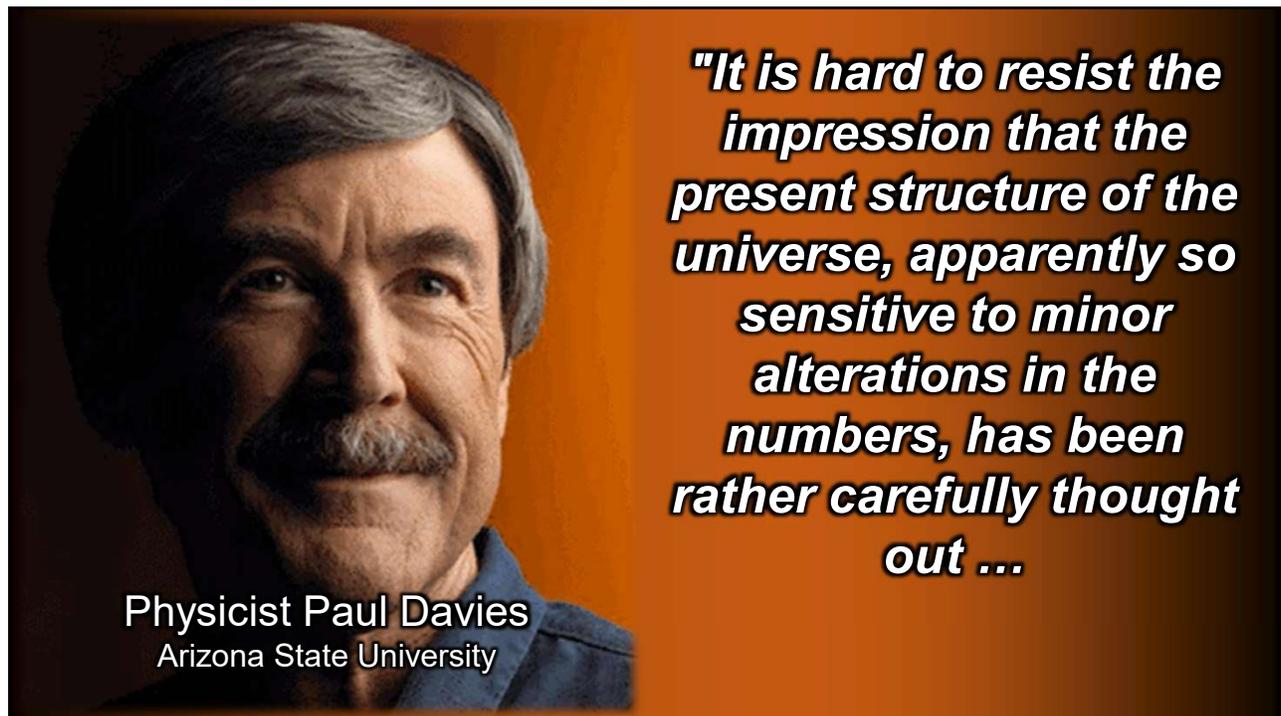


**But just how big  
of a number is  
1 in  $10^{138}$ ?**

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**The number of atoms in  
the known universe =  
 $10^{79}$ .**

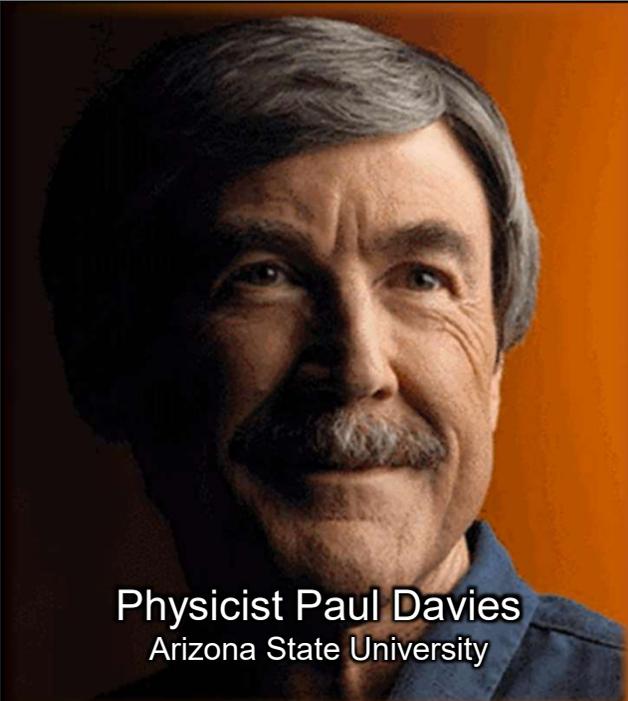
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***"It is hard to resist the impression that the present structure of the universe, apparently so sensitive to minor alterations in the numbers, has been rather carefully thought out ..."***

**Physicist Paul Davies**  
Arizona State University

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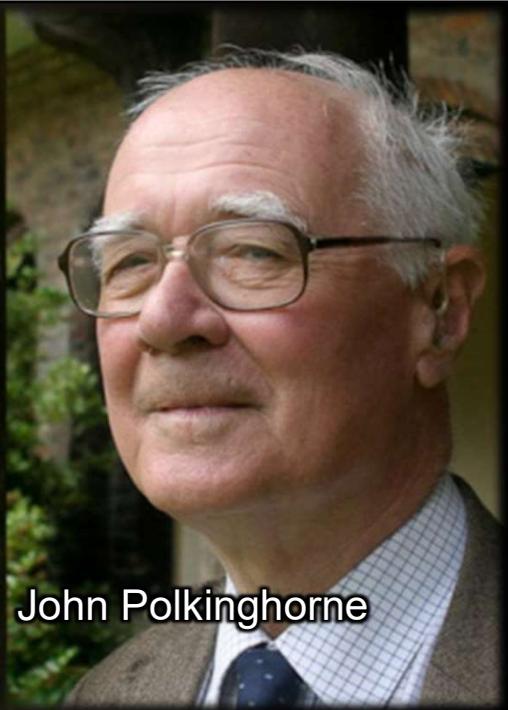
***"The seemingly miraculous concurrence of [these] numerical values that nature has assigned to her fundamental constants must remain the most compelling evidence for an element of cosmic design."***

Physicist Paul Davies  
Arizona State University

[Paul Davies, *God and the New Physics*, p.189]

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***"There seems to be the chance of a revised and revived argument from design . . . appealing to a cosmic planner who has endowed the world with a potentiality implanted within the delicate balance of the laws of nature themselves,***

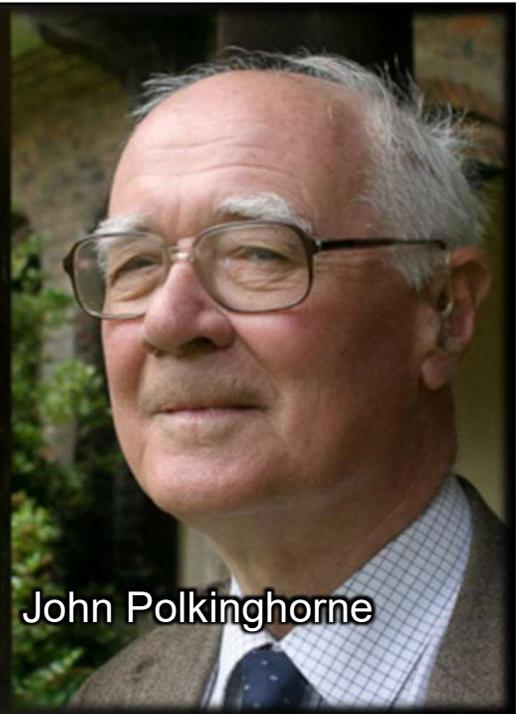


John Polkinghorne

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***"which laws science cannot explain because it assumes them as the basis for its explanation of the process. In short, the claim would be that the universe is indeed . . . the carefully calculated construct of its Creator."***

[John Polkinghorne, *Serious Talk: Science and Religion in Dialogue* (Valley Forge: Trinity Press International, 1995), 69-70]

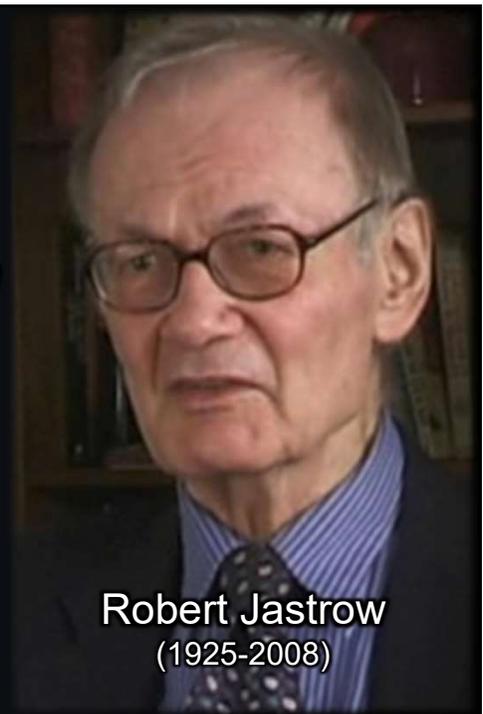


**John Polkinghorne**

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***"According to the physicist and the astronomer, it appears that the Universe was constructed within very narrow limits, in such a way that man could dwell in it. This is called the anthropic principle. It is the most theistic result ever to come out of science, in my view."***

[Robert Jastrow "The Astronomer and God," in Roy Abraham Varghese, ed., *The Intellectuals Speak Out About God* (Chicago: Regnery Gateway, 1984): 22]



**Robert Jastrow**  
(1925-2008)

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## Definition

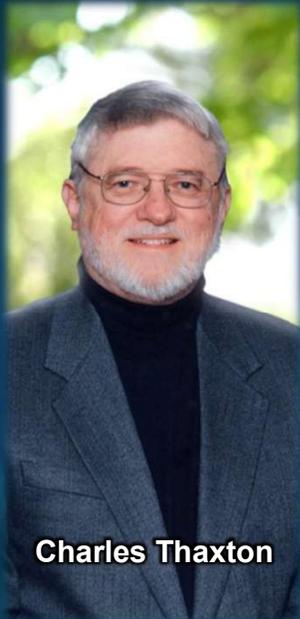
***Biologically speaking, life is physically possible only given certain elements and processes, the existence of which require biological life itself.***

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## Significance

***If the necessary ingredients for biological life themselves require biological life, then biological life could not have come from non-life.***

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**Charles Thaxton**

***"Without a doubt, the atoms and molecules which comprise living cells individually obey the laws of chemistry and physics. The enigma is the origin of so unlikely an organization of these atoms and molecules . . .***



**Walter Bradley**

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**Charles Thaxton**

***"It is apparent that 'chance' should be abandoned as an acceptable model for coding of the macromolecules essential in living systems."***

[Thaxton, Bradley, and Roger L. Olsen, *The Mystery of Life's Origin*, 128, 146]



**Walter Bradley**

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***"Any theory with a probability of being correct that is larger than one part in 10 to the 40,000<sup>th</sup> power must be judged superior to random shuffling."***



Sir Frederick Hoyle  
1915-2001

Chandra Wickramasinghe

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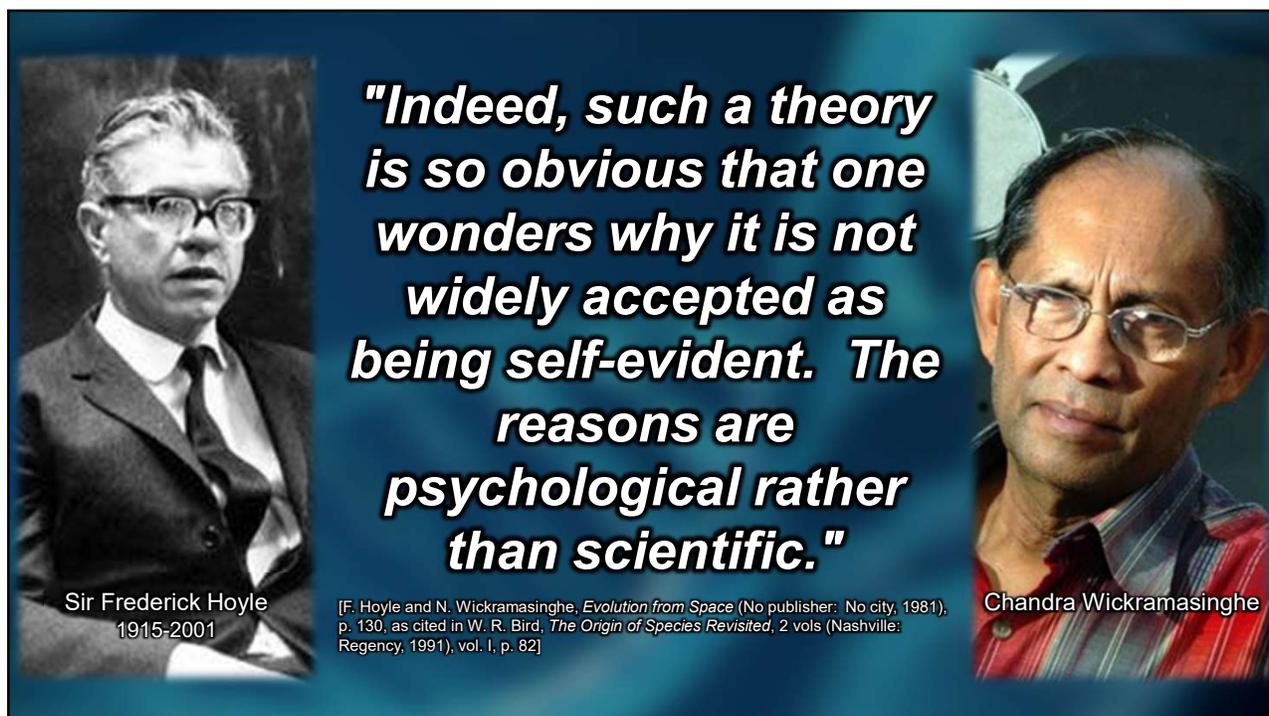
***"The theory that life was assembled by an intelligence has, we believe, a probability vastly higher than one part in 10 to the 40,000<sup>th</sup> power of being the correct explanation ..."***



Sir Frederick Hoyle  
1915-2001

Chandra Wickramasinghe

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***"Indeed, such a theory is so obvious that one wonders why it is not widely accepted as being self-evident. The reasons are psychological rather than scientific."***

Sir Frederick Hoyle  
1915-2001

[F. Hoyle and N. Wickramasinghe, *Evolution from Space* (No publisher: No city, 1981), p. 130, as cited in W. R. Bird, *The Origin of Species Revisited*, 2 vols (Nashville: Regency, 1991), vol. I, p. 82]

Chandra Wickramasinghe

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***"If the universe wasn't so designed so as to support life, we wouldn't be here to observe it!"***

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## **↻ The Response ↻**



***The Firing Squad Example***

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## **Definition**

***Biological information, known also as specified complexity, is physically distinguishable from simple complexity and simple order.***

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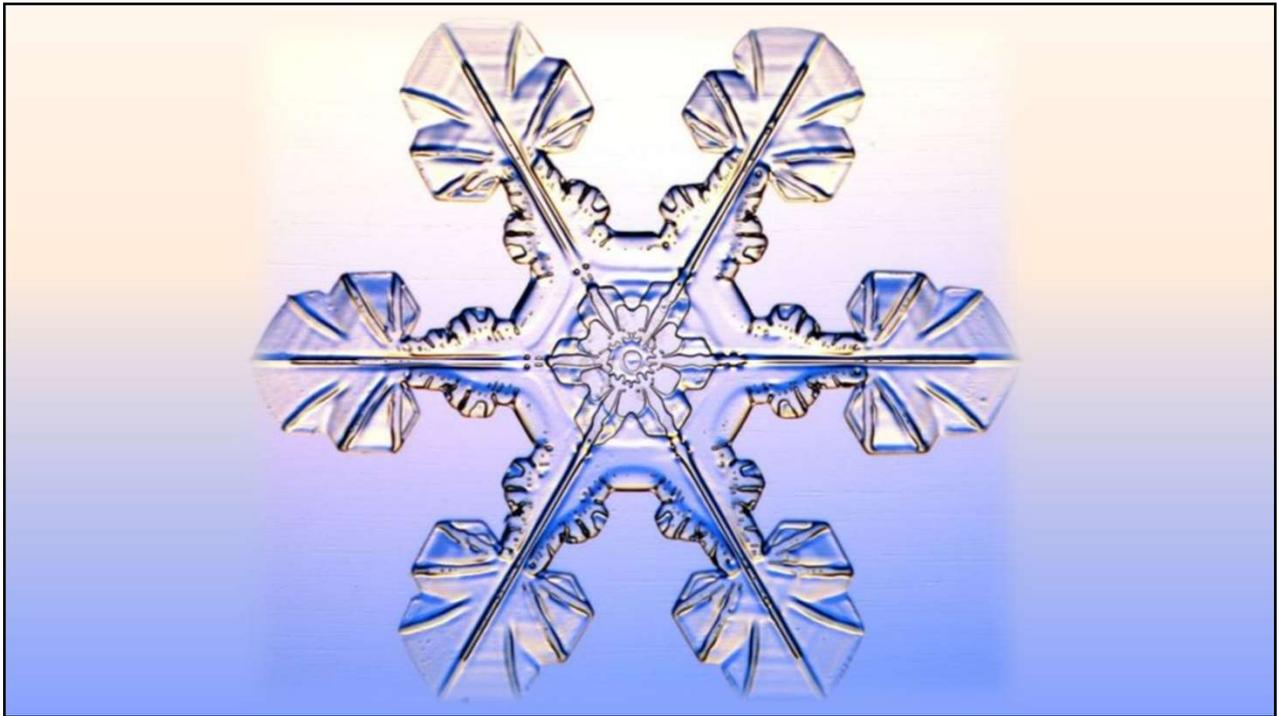
## **Significance**

***The presence of information always points to an intelligent cause.***

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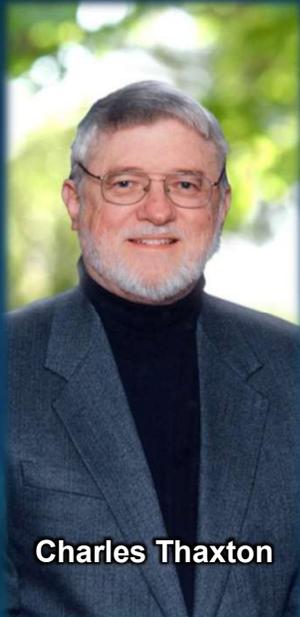
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***"Proponents of an intelligent origin of life note that molecular biology has uncovered an analogy between DNA and language ... The genetic code functions exactly like a language code —"***

**Charles Thaxton**

**Walter Bradley**

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**Charles Thaxton**

***"Indeed it is a code. It is a molecular communications system: a sequence of chemical 'letters' stores and transmits the communication in each living cell."***

[Walter L. Bradley and Charles B. Thaxton "Information and the Origin of Life," in J. P. Moreland, ed. *The Creation Hypothesis: Scientific Evidence for and Intelligent Designer* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994): 205]



**Walter Bradley**

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**Stephen Meyer**

***"At nearly the same time that computer scientists were beginning to develop machine languages, molecular biologists were discovering that living cells had been using something akin to machine code or software all along."***

[Stephen C. Meyer, *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* (New York: Harper Collins, 2009), 110]

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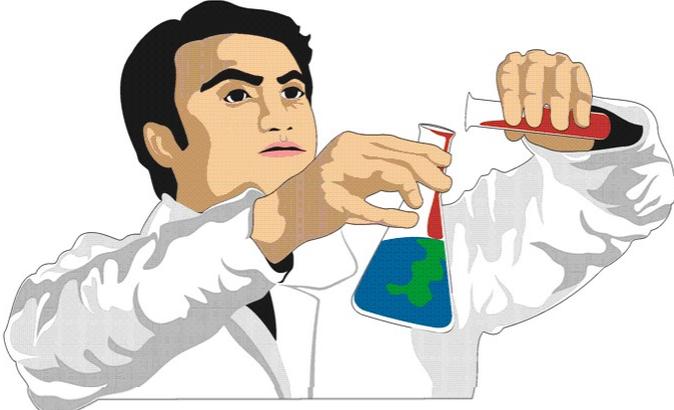
**"**

**"There is enough information capacity in a single human cell to store the Encyclopedia Britannica, all 30 volumes of it, three or four times over."**

Richard Dawkins

[Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1987), 115-116]

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***"If I can create life here in the laboratory, I will have proven that it didn't take any intelligence to create life in the beginning!"***

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# ***Design as Irreducible Complexity***

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## ***∞ Definition ∞***

***Some systems consist of several interlocking parts that must be in place before the system can function at all.***

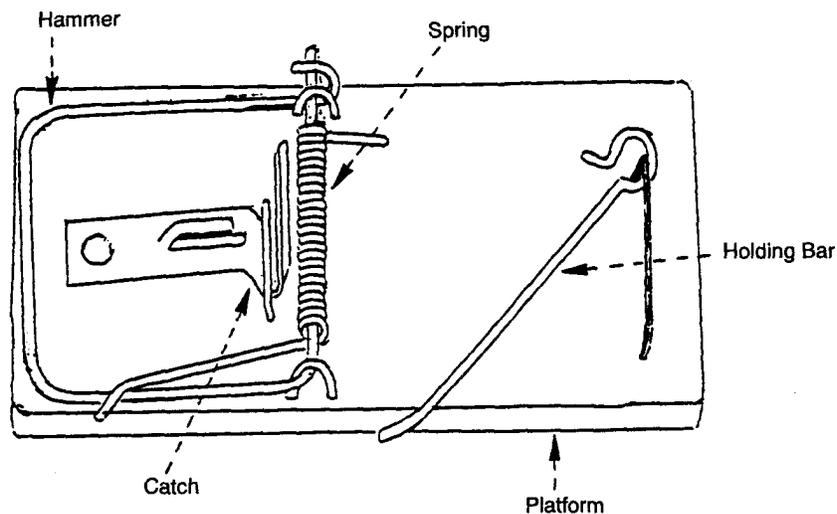
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# ∞ Significance ∞

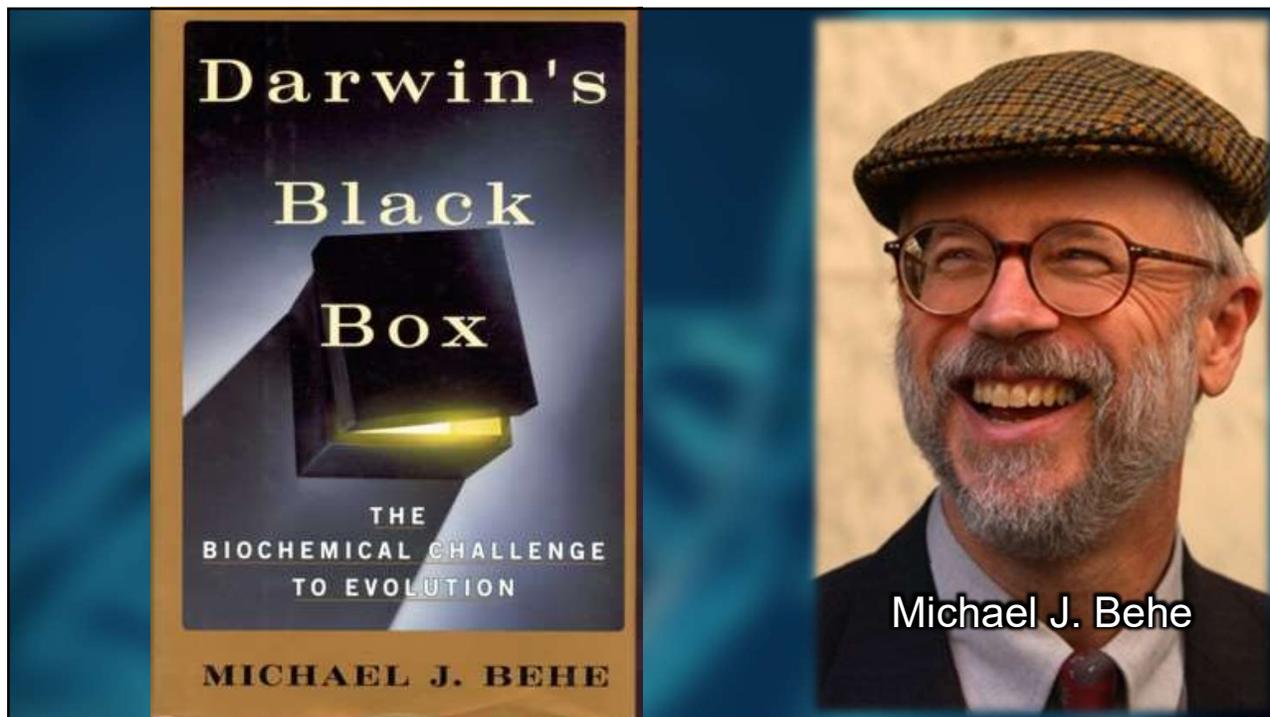
*Since such complexity cannot be accounted for by gradual accumulations of random mutations, the systems must have arisen all at once by an intelligent cause.*

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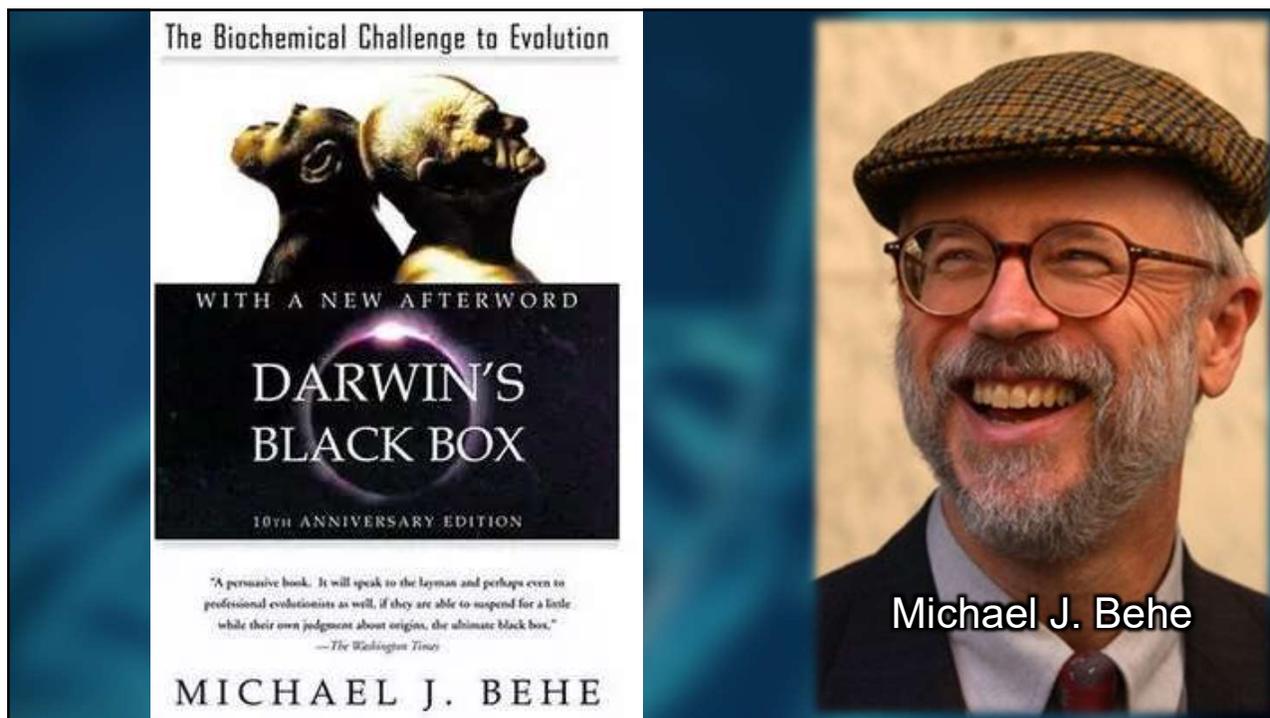
FIGURE 2-2  
A HOUSEHOLD MOUSETRAP.



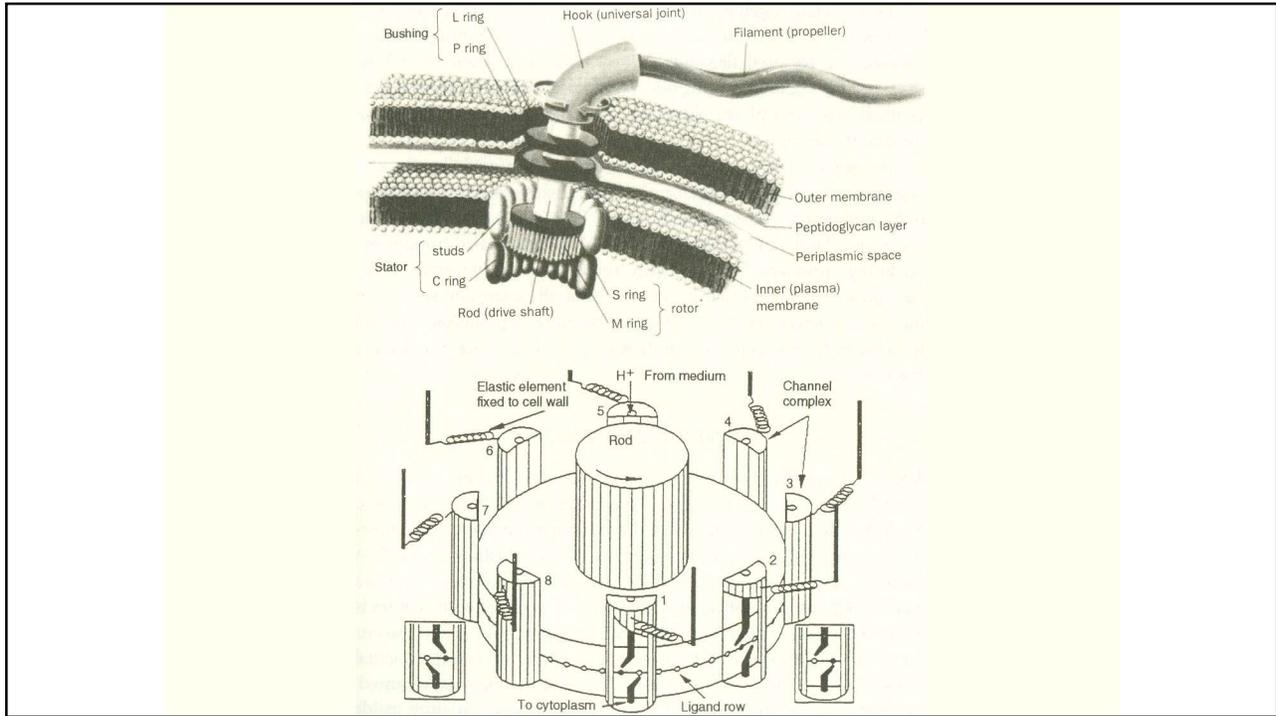
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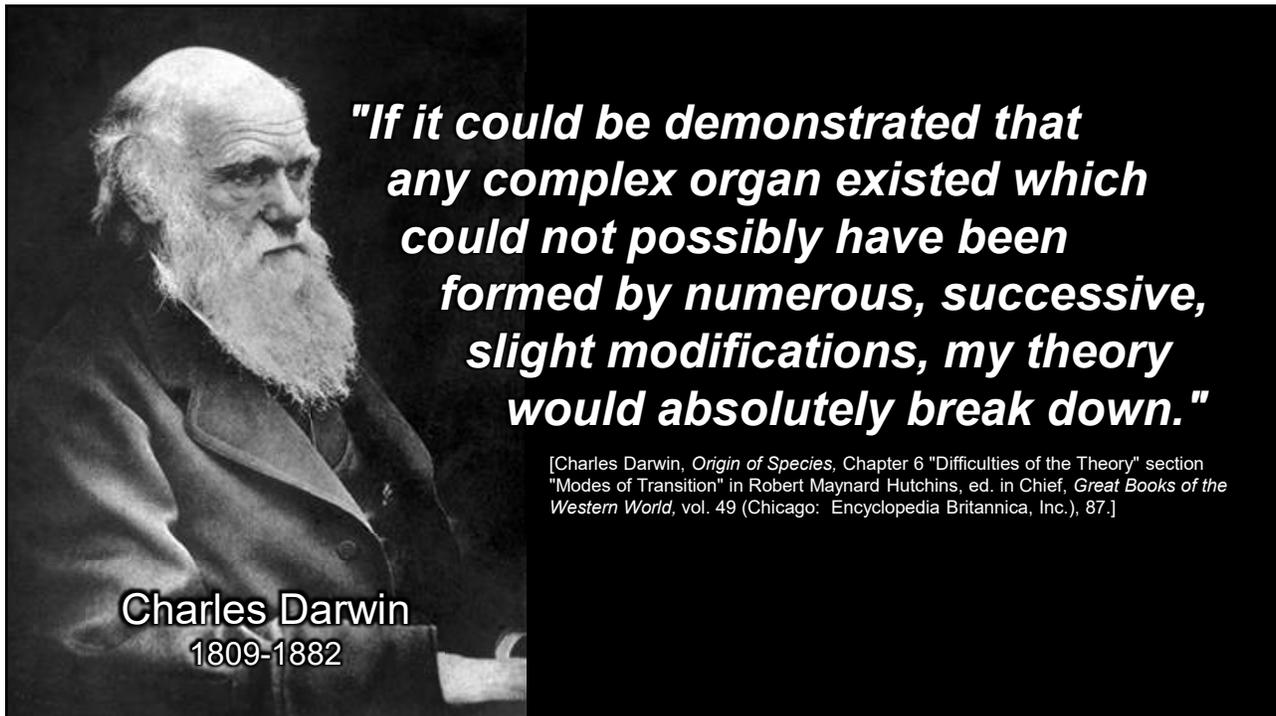
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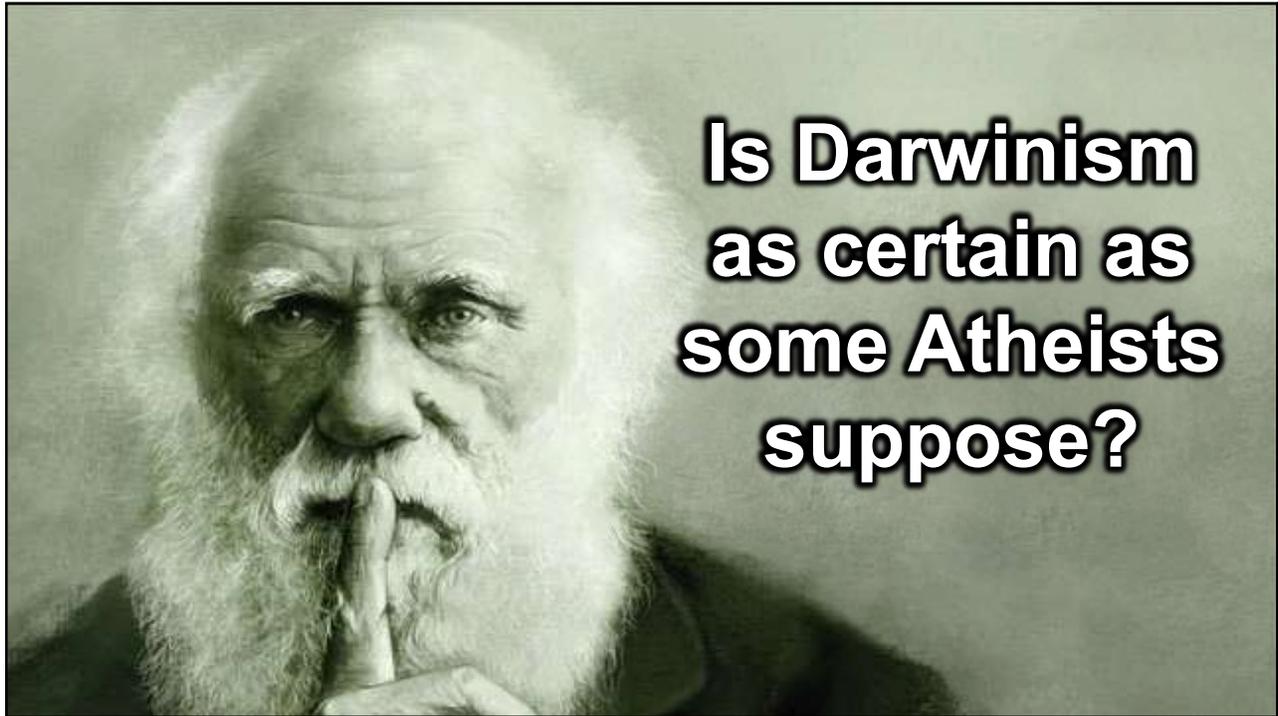
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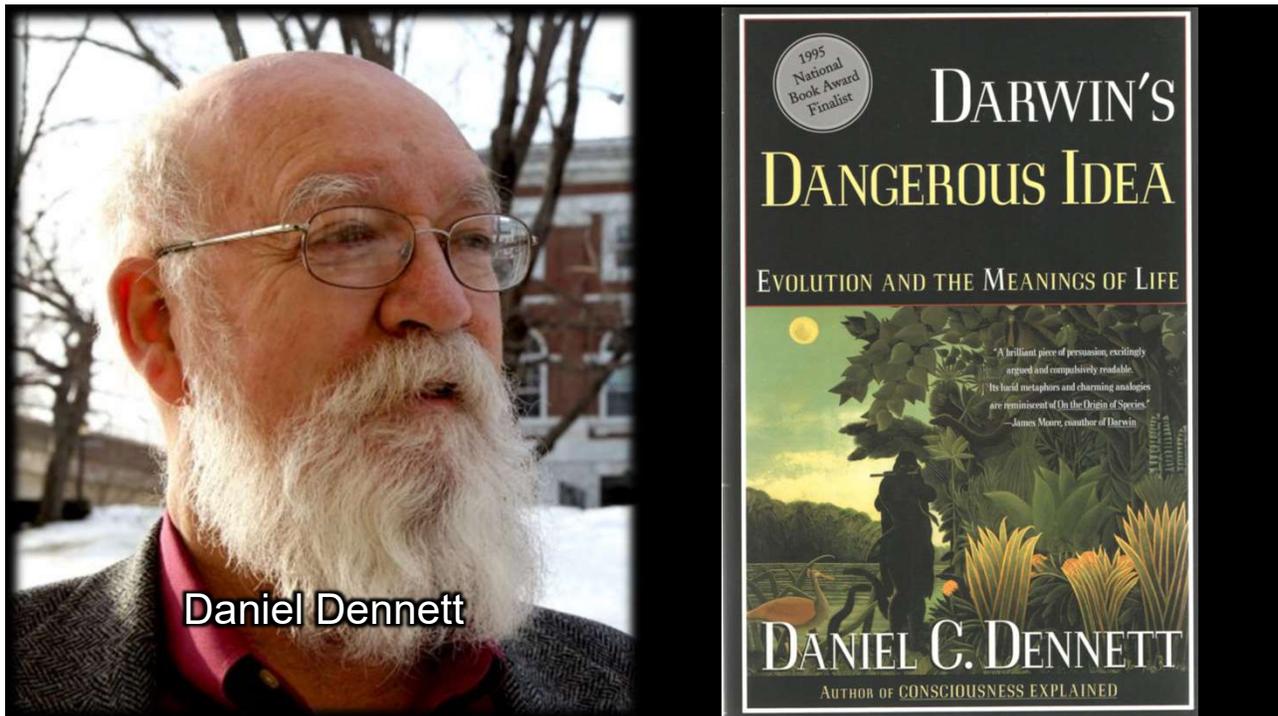
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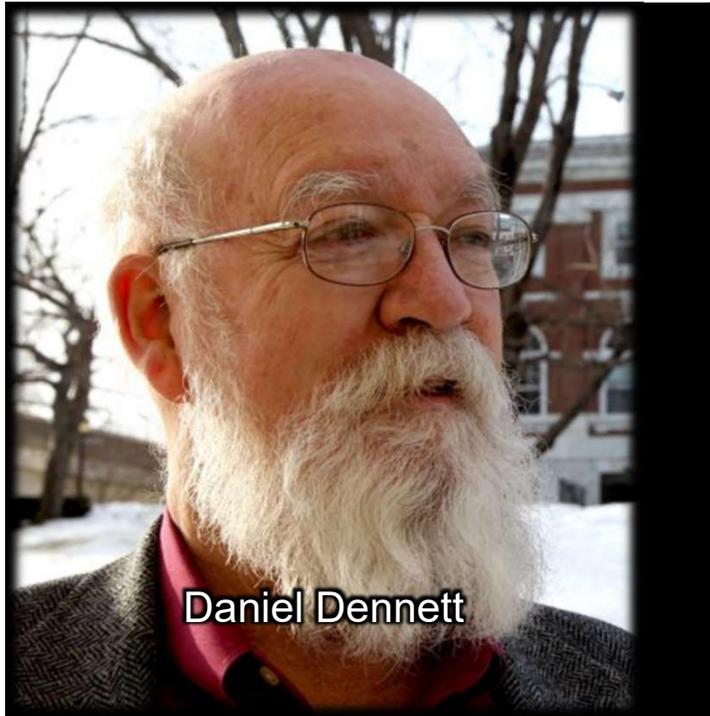
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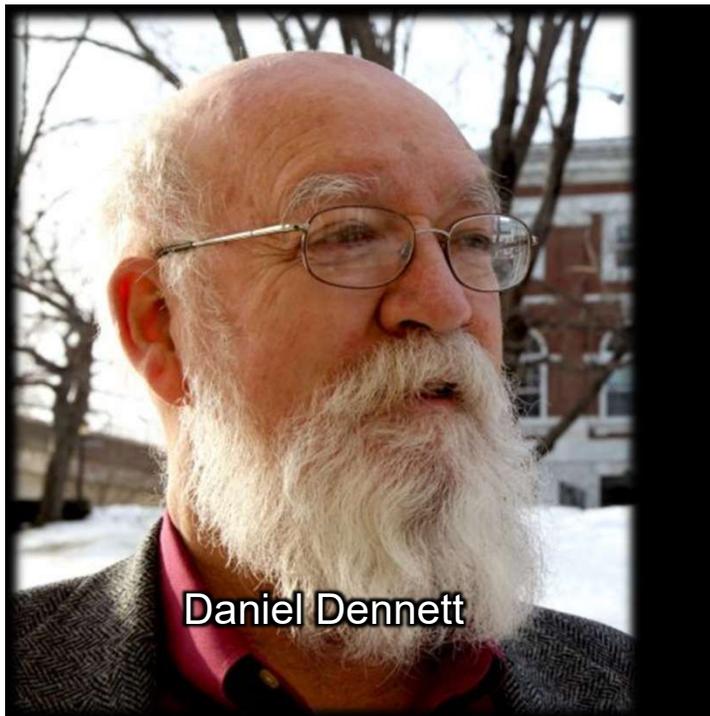


Daniel Dennett

*"There are vigorous controversies swirling around in evolutionary theory, but those who feel threatened by Darwinism should not take heart from this fact. ... The basic Darwinian idea ... is about as secure as any in science ... ."*

[Daniel C. Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, p. 19]

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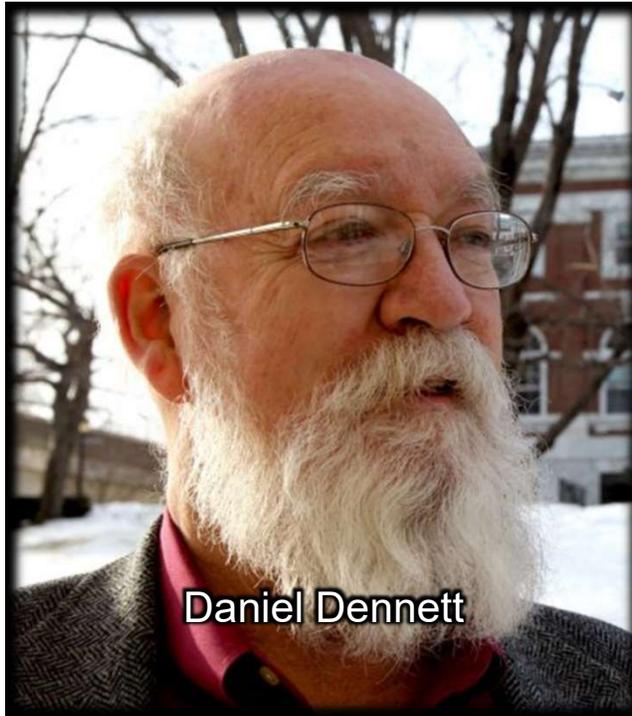


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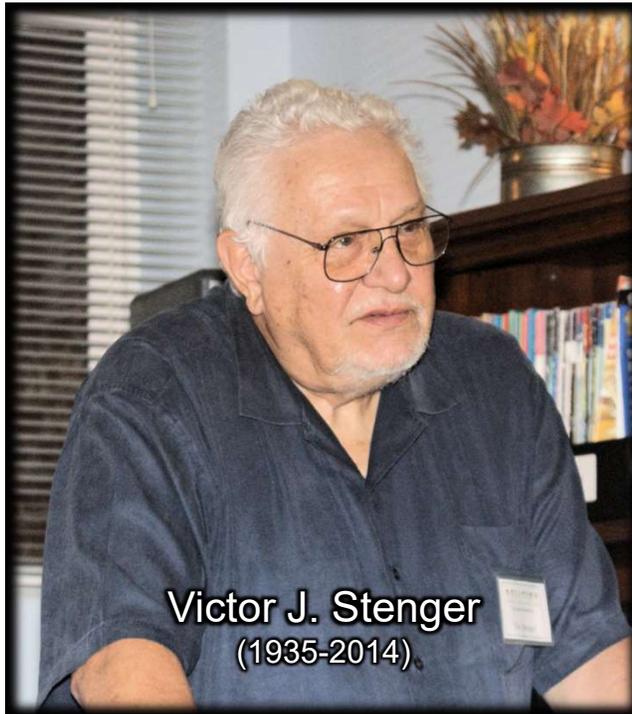


Daniel Dennett

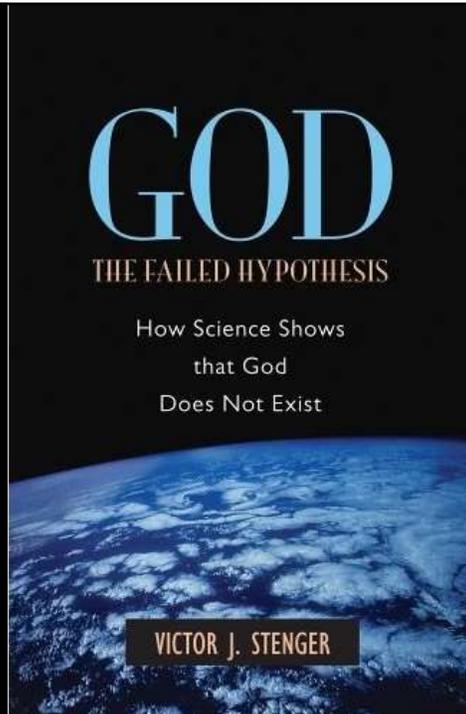
"If you insist on teaching your children falsehoods—that the **Earth is flat, that 'Man' is not a product of evolution** by natural selection—then ... we will ... describe your teachings as the spreading of falsehoods, and will attempt to demonstrate this to your children at our earliest opportunity."

[Daniel Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meaning of Life* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995), 519]

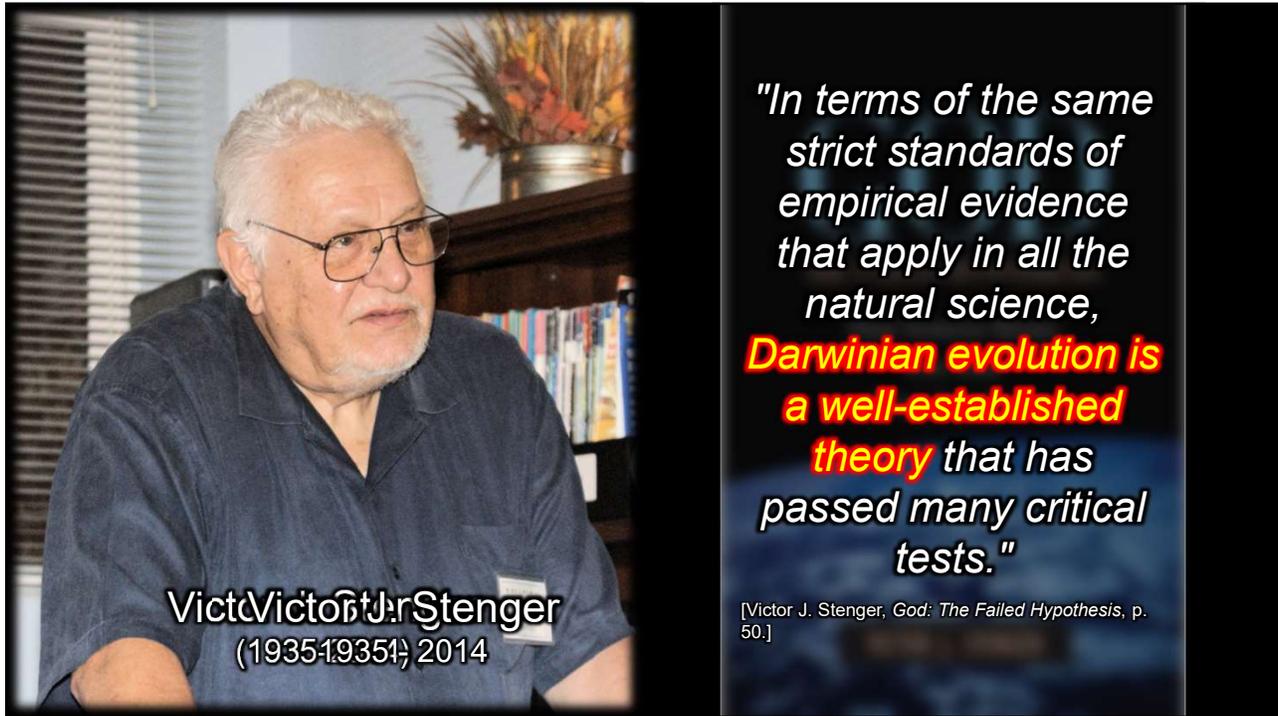
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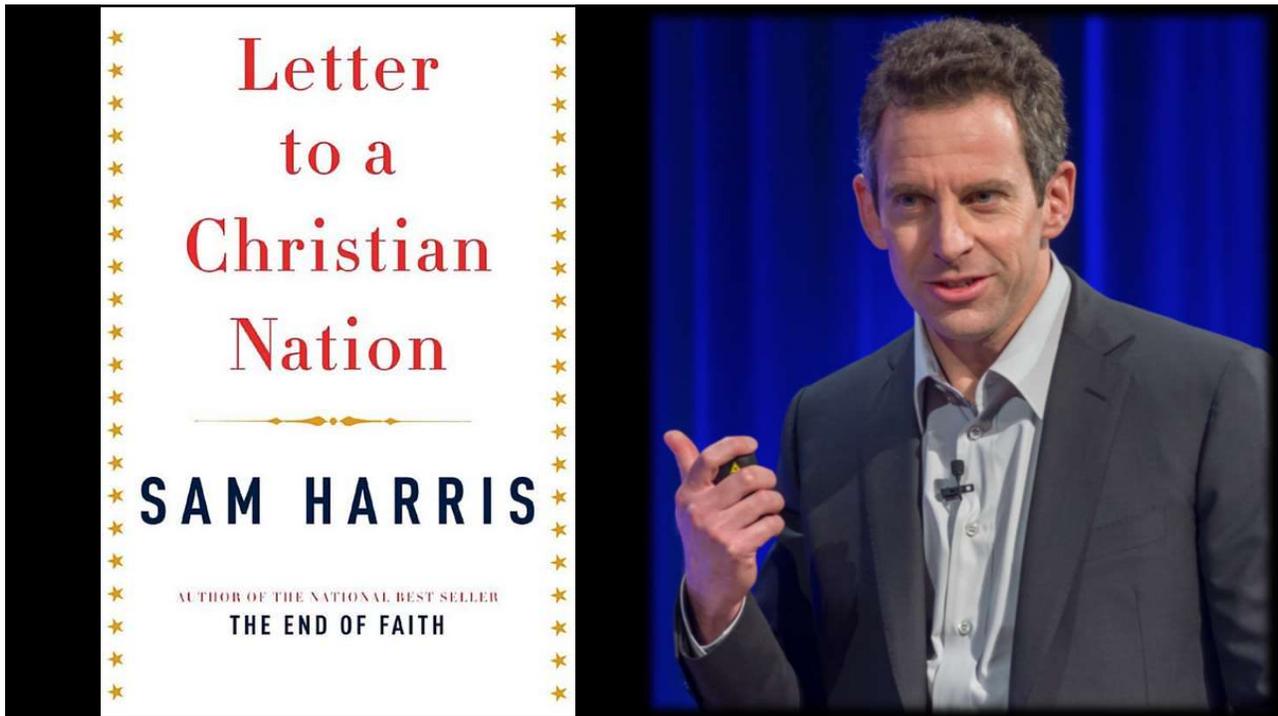
Victor J. Stenger  
(1935-2014)



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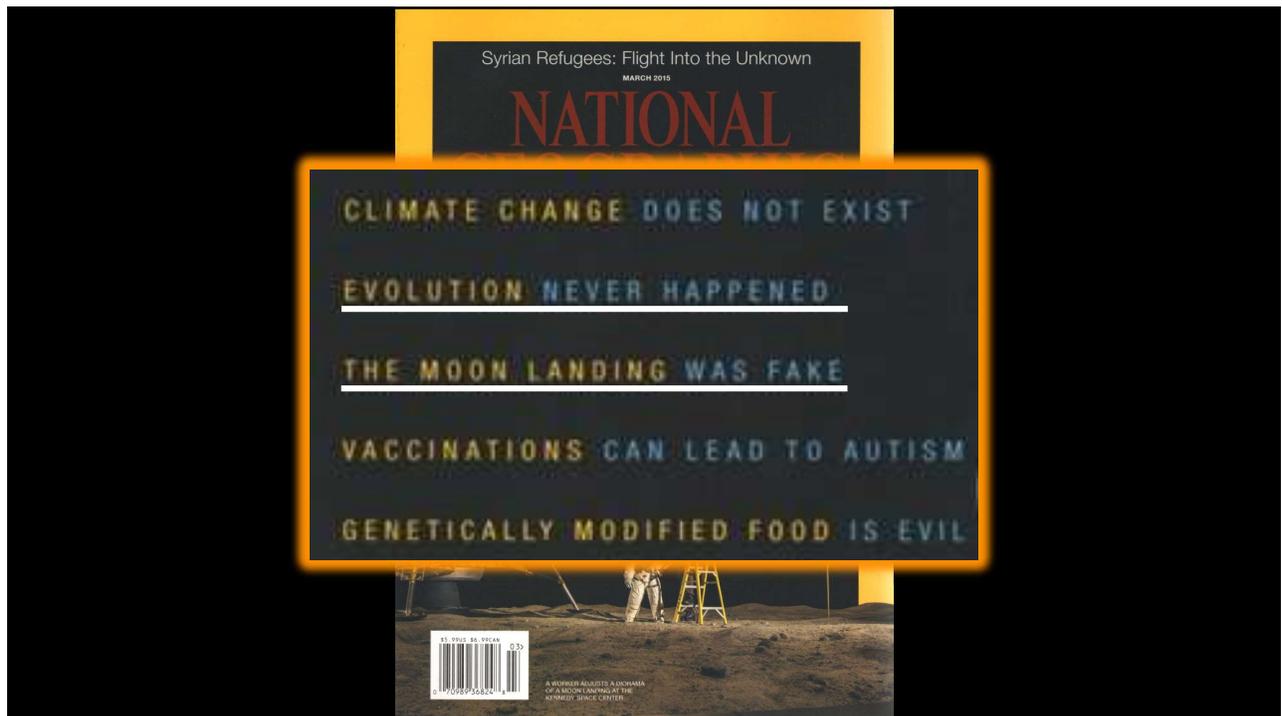
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*"Here is what we know. ... **There is no question** that human beings evolved from nonhuman ancestors ... There is no reason whatsoever to believe that individual species were created in their present forms."*

[Sam Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation*, pp. 71]



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*"The basic Darwinian idea . . . is about as secure as any in science ..."*

*Challenging evolution is on par with believing in a flat Earth.*

*"Darwinian evolution is a well-established theory. "*

*"There is no question . . ."*

*Challenging evolution is on par with challenging the Moon landing.*

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**Is this so?**

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**A SCIENTIFIC DISSENT**  
FROM DARWINISM

**“We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.”**

Did you know that a growing number of scientists doubt the Darwinian ...

**Growing Number of Scientists are Skeptical of Darwinian The**

Sign the List  
Download the List

**There Is Scientific Dissent From Darwinism.**  
*It deserves to be heard.*

“Scientific journals now document many scientific problems and criticisms of evolutionary theory and students need to know about these as well. ... Many of the scientific criticisms of which I speak are well known by scientists in various disciplines, including the disciplines of chemistry and biochemistry, in which I have done my work.”  
Philip S. Skellam, Member National Academy of Sciences, Rowlett Distinguished Professor at Pennsylvania State University

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Philip S. Skell, Member National Academy of Sciences, Emeritus Evan Pugh Professor at Pennsylvania State University

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# Observations

This doesn't prove that  
Darwinism is false.

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# Observations

This doesn't mean that all these signers repudiate evolution entirely.

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# Observations

It does mean that statements such as

*"The basic Darwinian idea . . . is about as secure as any in science ..."*

*Challenging evolution is on par with believing in a flat Earth.*

*"Darwinian evolution is a well-established theory. "*

*Challenging evolution is on par with challenging the Moon landing.*

*"There is no question . . ."*

are unwarranted.

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