

Whoops! 2021

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Belief in the God of Humankind's major mono theistic religions depends on Earth being the center of Existence and humans being the primary focus of God's attention. Until into the 16th Century A.D., this view was credible. But since that time, our understanding of the reality that humans inhabit has changed radically. Unfortunately, to our detriment, our religious belief systems have not adjusted to reflect these changes.

Whoops.....Awareness that there is one and the same God for all of the great mono theistic religions [and most of the polytheistic religions have a mono theistic component] raises the question of why each of these religions has a different set of requirements that followers must fulfill before they qualify to receive the favor of God! There are saviors, saints, prophets, souls, prayers, reincarnations, resurrections, raptures, tithes, devils, fasts, temples, holy ghosts, heavens, hells, purgatories, trinities, idolaters, virgins, infidels, priests, heretics, monks, imams, bishops, mosques, lamas, popes, churches, swamis, ayatollahs, daoshis, gurus, altars, sacred texts, bells, flags, incense, crosses, chimes, wafers, hymns, etc. Why would the one universal God assign such different belief systems for different groups if God's objective is the same for all of humanity? If God is responsible for this diversity of belief systems, is God biased in favor of one group and its belief system as compared to another? If the one God is the source for these different belief systems, why would God be interested in promoting severe competition among the different human groups to the point of their massacring one another – often over minor belief differences?

Whoops.....Awareness of the evolution of species on Earth demonstrates that humans are just one of billions of interdependent, genetically linked species on our planet. Isn't it rather anthropocentric to contend that humans as a species are the primary focus of God's attention on Earth? And, if God is the source of all religious beliefs and if God is equally focused on all species, what is the religion that God has provided to termites?

Whoops.....Awareness of the evolution of species and of the three billion year geological development of the Earth demonstrates that humans arise as a species very late in the evolutionary sequence, and that all multi-cellular species eventually go extinct. If God is omnipotent and focused on humans, why did God not create humans toward the beginning, and why would humans be bound for eventual extinction? Where was God's attention for the billions of years before there were humans and where will it be once humans are gone?

Whoops.....Awareness of Earth as one planet revolving with several other planets around the Sun in a Sun centered solar system demonstrates that the Earth is not the center of all Existence. If humans are so important to God, why is there no evidence for humans throughout the solar system?

Whoops.....Awareness that the Sun is one among billions of solar systems in the Milky Way Galaxy demonstrates that our solar system is not the center of Existence. Again, if humans are so important to God, why is there no evidence for God having located humans on the planets in these billions of other solar systems? Why would God be so focused on one species – humans – in one solar system among billions of solar systems in the galaxy? Or, are there much more capable life species elsewhere that are really the ones “elected” by God?

Whoops.....Awareness that the Milky Way Galaxy is one among hundreds of billions of galaxies in a Universe with trillions of planets that is at least 13.5 billion years old reveals that our galaxy, our solar system, our planet is decidedly not the Center of Existence. In this enormous, virtually human free universe, humans as one temporary species on one planet, Earth, become totally insignificant to the point of irrelevancy at the scale of what we must now propose as God’s creation. This situation raises the serious question of whether even an infinite God cares at all about humans, much less about individual humans.

Whoops.....Awareness that the Universe may very well be one among a virtually infinite number of such universes in a Multiverse where humans as a temporary species exist for a short time, on one small rocky planet, renders absurd the contention that humans are the focus of God’s attention, much less that the God of a virtually infinite Existence is focused on judging each micro act of each nano life of each nano human.

Modern humans are now aware that the God of our major mono theistic religions is at least 8 exponentially magnified scales in space and time removed from each human being on Earth. In this context, humans and our planet are utterly insignificant at the overall material/physical scale of Existence. Yet, our major religions continue to promote belief systems as if Earth remains the center of Everything and as if God is hyper concerned with every act – even thought – that each one of us commits or entertains.

Want a challenge? Even allowing for the existence of God, which is not itself challenged in the above assessment, try resolving the pervasive, worldwide negative impact of our antiquated religious belief systems!

I contend that there is an answer for this antiquated belief problem without throwing the baby out with the bath water. But converting the religions of the world to a strictly pragmatic version of spirituality [eliminating all religious dogma – even the concept of God, while activating and developing intuitive awareness and competence] would be a herculean task! After all, the success in the modern age of science and technology in greatly expanding human knowledge and in improving the quality of human lives has resulted in very few adjustments in our prevailing religious belief systems.

Do we conclude then that our current religious belief systems – along with most of the other major difficulties that humans presently face – have put humans so far behind the 8 Ball that the most likely result is that we will continue to operate on cruise control as we head for the cliff of extinction – for complex society, if not for the species as a whole? After all, eventual extinction is our destination anyway. It is our privilege as humans to decide whether we will facilitate the path at the national and global levels to this extinction result. Or NOT! Personally, I doubt that our major competing religions – still mostly stuck in 12th century theological worldviews – will be very useful to us in supporting a proactive approach to addressing this key question. Pursuing a fundamentalist primary religious goal of achieving salvation for our souls at our deaths while we await a resurrection of a savior, a harsh judgment for unbelievers, and a renewal of the world by God offers us little incentive in life to resolve our challenges OURSELVES!

I have spent most of my professional career dealing with the challenge posed by religion and the many other concerns and objectives for humanity that float unresolved beneath and related to it: material vs. spiritual perspectives, individual vs. community values, liberal vs. conservative viewpoints, rational vs. intuitive faculties, competitive vs. cooperative orientations, economic capitalism vs. political democracy, reliable information vs. free speech, inequality of all types at all levels, climate change, money in politics, universal justice, equal human rights of all kinds, equal access to natural resources, global government, ecological responsibility, cyber warfare, terrorism, conflict and violence at all levels, etc.

As a research social scientist, the proposal that I offer in Dynamic Humanism, 2007 is the best that I have managed to develop to conceptualize what is involved in seeking to resolve this complex set of challenges.

[available on my website www.dynamic-humanism.com Select “Publications” in the top menu bar of the Welcome page. Individual essays – available by selecting “Topics” from the Menu bar – deal with different subjects in greater detail from the D-H perspective]