THE SKEPTIC ARENA.COM

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Ken Ammi Returns To The Arena

Ken Ammi is a Ghost Worshiper who calls himself a "Freethinker." In podcast #291, I provided Ken a link to dictionary.com explaining that "freethinker" is a synonym for "Atheist." How did he react?

He did what all Ghost Worshipers do when confronted with irrefutable facts ... he ignored it.

So what this ghost worshiping "freethinker" did next, was to wait 7 months, until he thought it was safe, and then he posted replies on both his web site and on YouTube. 3 more weeks passed, and still, Ken had not notified me, so it was obvious that this devious little coward had no intention of doing so.

I will now deal with his reply dated January 19, 2015:

In my original podcast, Ken had written:

*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" John 8:31-32*

I replied to Ken at that time:

*Ken, I prefer these 2 verses that Jesus spoke to those Jews who believed in Him:*

*"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." Matthew 16:27-28*

Now, 7 months later, Ken responds:

*For some reason, whenever I quoted the Bible in the about page, he disregarded it and quoted another in reply.*

Ken, I didn't disregard your verses. In fact, I used them to show the contradictions that exist in your Holy Book. If you compare the verses we both gave, you should be able to see a stark contrast between the Jesus described in your verses (the one who values truth) - and the Jesus described in mine (the one who lied to them). Based on this, and on other contradictions, either Jesus had the greatest case of bi-polar disorder in recorded history; or else the verses are more likely referencing two different guys.

*This may be a diversionary tactic whereby he draws attention away from the statement I raised and has his listeners divert towards that which he wants to say;*

Ken, the last thing I would want to do, when demonstrating a contradiction, is to divert attention away from verses, which support that contradiction. So your logic fails.

Did you respond to even one of the contradictions?

No. You didn't. You only whined about them. The proof that it is you who is trying to divert attention away from the contradictions is in your own words above, where you attempt the oldest distraction technique in the book:

to accuse others ... of what you are guilty of.

And Ken ... it didn't work.

*it is sidestepping and avoiding the issue.*

Ken, what issue?

*He actually appears to play tit-for-tat so that for whatever point he assumes I am attempting to make, he will make another which he views as somehow challenging or defeating mine.*

Ken, the purpose of presenting contradictory verses isn't to challenge or defeat your verses; they simply show that the Bible is a jumble of nonsensical, contradictory, ancient horror stories.

*It is unfortunate that he did so because I raised the issue of truth up front and from the get go and he simply disregarded it.*

Ken, as a Ghost Worshiper, you should be indicted for even typing the word "truth." The Bible contains very little provable truth; and the little truth it does contain is trivial, in that those things, were things known to anyone living in the first century in the Middle East.

The mountain of contradictions contained in the Bible proves that it could not possibly have been inspired by an all-knowing god. But it is exactly what we would expect to find from texts written by ancient, ignorant goat herders.

*The issue is that in an Atheist universe (whatever denomination of Atheism he may adhere to)*

Ken, you don't understand the meaning of the word Atheism so let me help you out: Atheism is the rejection of religious mythology.

It is nothing more - nothing less. That is exactly what it is.

*truth is not part of the furniture of the universe, as it were, that is to say; there is no imperative to ascertain empirical truth.*

Ken, that's a great description; no, not of Atheism, but of religion. Reread your statement, but this time apply it to religion and you'll see that your description was perfect. You are discouraged from ascertaining empirical truth upon threat of eternal torture, while Atheists operate under no such coercion.

Ken, millions of people have freed themselves from the horrors of violent religions like Christianity and Islam by attempting to ascertain empirical truth. Those who have braved the threats, intimidation, and violence of the area's dominant religion ... became Atheists and Freethinkers.

*One may choose to do so, like one may chose vanilla over chocolate ice cream or no ice cream at all, but it is a mere personal preference.*

Ken, those personal preferences are strongly influenced by the people around you. In Christian culture for centuries, failure to submit meant severe repercussions for you, and possibly for your family as well, up to and including death.

For Islam, you can repeat the previous paragraph, but just replace "for centuries" with "right now." Violent, radical, modern-day Islam provides us a window to look back into the past and learn what is was like for centuries to be unfortunate enough to be born into a Christian-dominated culture.

*An Atheist view of whence came theism is that it is a Darwinian survival mechanism.*

Ken, based on history they may have a point. If you didn't submit to the local religion, chances are your life would be miserable ... and short.

*This means that theism is not true but a delusion.*

No Ken, that's not what it means. The view that "Theism is not true, but a delusion" is based on the fact that not one of the world's thousands of religions have been able to show that anything supernatural in their religion is based on provable fact.

The belief that Theism may have originated as a Darwinian survival mechanism is simply an origins theory. Forming that theory was very similar to how medical researchers develop theories in an attempt to learn the basis of diseases ... like cancer.

Ken, I thought that analogy was spot on. Can I get a high five?

*That the overwhelming majority of humanity have been theists proves that one can live quite well even whilst holding to delusion as the very core of one’s worldview.*

Ken, that was the "Appeal to Popularity" (overwhelming majority)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appeal_to_popularity>

combined with an unsupported premise (live quite well)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unsupported_assertion>

However, I will agree with the last part of your claim

*"whilst holding to delusion as the very core of one's worldview."*

Though I am surprised you would admit that. I guess it's safe to assume you wrote that one without thinking it out first, huh?

*Thus, one may prefer to ascertain empirical truth or chose delusion and it matters not.*

Ken, actually it does. That is because people's actions are based on those beliefs. Believing that the woman next door is a witch, and believing that an invisible ghost has instructed you to murder her (Exodus 22:18) matters considerably ... to your neighbor.

*Nature cares not for truth (if we may anthropomorphically claim that it “cares” about anything) but only survival. Since humanity has, on this Atheist view, survive quite well despite laboring under a delusion; there is not imperative to ascertain empirical truth.*

Ken, what makes you think humanity has "survived quite well?"

Missed a few history classes, have we?

*This goes beyond asking if truth is absolute or asking for a definition of truth. It is asking “Why truth?” Why even bother seeking to determine it?*

Ken, the scientific method is the process by which we search for truth. The reason we "bother" is because it can make our lives better. It is also the second best method ever found for freeing people from the horror of Christianity; the best being ...

actually reading the Bible.

*The issue is that Neo did not provide me any reason for thinking that even if I am wrong and he can prove it; I should change my mind or even bother considering that which he states.*

Ken, you *cannot* change your mind as long as you truly believe that an invisible monster is listening to every word you speak and every thought you think; and, that if you dare to doubt His existence - your existence will go on forever in eternal torment.

Against such threats, rational people have little hope. All we can do is throw Ghost Worshipers a rope. But we can't make you grab it. No one can save you Ken ... except you.

But from what I've seen, it's more likely that you will live out the rest of your miserable existence enslaved by the threats of your invisible monster.

*He provided no premise upon, no basis upon, no foundation upon to make claims and challenge my claim*

Ken, my challenges to the claims you made on your "about" page were supported by evidence and facts. If you could have defended your positions, you would have. But it is obvious that you can't.

It sounds more like your ego can't handle being challenged. That's too bad because adults with imaginary friends have the minds of frightened little children and need to be challenged; and our nation needs to quit electing them to positions of power where they are wreaking havoc on the rest of us.

*and thus, I have nothing more to say to him as that which he stated is merely the interpretation of bio-chemical, neural reactions, occurring within the gray matter of a temporarily existing bio-organism, that lives atop a spinning rock, orbiting an average star, in the universe’s backwaters.*

Ken, it's so precious when you Ghost Worshipers try to get all sciencey with rational people. But there are a few problems with your attempt to sound rational:

1) You defended having nothing more to say to me by referring

to me as (and then you went into a long scientific

description). But that long-winded description described

everyone on Earth. So how does that justify having nothing

more to say to me?

Based on your description, you should have nothing more to

say to anyone living on this spinning rock.

See the problem with your logic Ken?

2) Neural activity is not restricted to gray matter.

 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neural_pathway>

3) "temporarily existing bio-organism"

 Hey Ken, thanks for the nod to Rationalism.

 I thought you Ghost Worshipers believe you will live forever?

4) Many people think the Sun is an average star. However,

should you choose to do some research instead of blindly accepting popular bullshit, you might learn that our Sun is far from average. It is in the 85th percentile in size.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_sun>

5) There are no "backwaters" in the universe

(whatever you think that means).

Ken, that was a pretty impressive display, considering you made all those mistakes in only one paragraph.

*However, on my worldview; not only is there truth but ascertaining truth is am imperative,*

Ken, then you have a serious problem. The cognitive dissonance required to be a Ghost Worshiper makes me wonder how anyone could function while having such a war going on inside their head.

Without the ability to deceive yourselves (delusion) most of you would succumb to spontaneous head eruption.

*that truth is absolute,*

Ken, and what evidence do you offer to support that assertion?

*actually personified in the person of Jesus and will set us free.*

Ken, free from what?

The only one in this debate who needs to be set free would be the one who is enslaved by an invisible, evil monster, who by His own admission, murders, enslaves, and tortures His creations. You have been ordered to worship this monster or else.

But as you stated earlier Ken, you will not allow anyone to set you free. You can't. Not as long as you believe the threats in the Bible.

Ken, a worm has a better existence than you do.

*In the next segment, we will consider whether Jesus failed to fulfill His own prophecy.*

Ken, there is nothing to consider.

Matthew 24:34

"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Ken, you can spin it all day long for your fellow Ghost Worshipers, but no matter how cleverly you spin it ... Jesus' prophesy failed; and He failed for the next century; and He failed for the next millennium; and He failed for the next 2,000 years; but even if He fails for the next 50,000 ... gullible Ghost Worshipers will still be packing their bags, swearing that He'll be here next Thursday.

"You people" would be hilarious ... if you weren't so dangerous.

Ken, it's probably just as well that you have nothing more to say to me because that last one ... was game, set, and match.

Thanks for playing, Ken.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/reply-to-an-atheist-from-the-skeptic-arena>

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Researchers have crafted the first synthetic molecules

that have both the targeting and response functions of antibodies

The new molecules attach themselves simultaneously to disease cells and disease-fighting cells. The result is a highly targeted immune response, similar to the action of natural human antibodies.

Unlike antibodies, however, these molecules are synthetic organic compounds that are approximately one-twentieth the size of antibodies. They are unlikely to cause unwanted immune reactions due to their structure, are thermally stable, and have the potential to be administered orally, just like traditional, small-molecule drugs.

They work first by recognizing cancer cells and binding with a specific protein on their surface. Next, they also bind with a receptor on an immune cell. This induces a targeted response that leads to the destruction of the cancer cell.

Researchers discovered that synthetic molecules of intermediate size possess perhaps the most important functional properties of antibodies -- targeting and stimulation of immune cells.

It's also noteworthy that molecules of such a small size can bring together two objects as enormous as cells, and trigger a specific functional response, entirely as a result of specific receptor interactions.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

Shaun Mason

He is a novelist and musician from Los Angeles.

"Faith is the determination to remain ignorant

in the face of all evidence

that you are ignorant."