**THE SKEPTIC ARENA.COM**

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**Christian Apologists aren't the only ones**

**claiming that science supports their myths**

**VIDEO**

**The illusion of time : past, present and future all exist together**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrqmMoI0wks**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrqmMoI0wks)

***This video does not say we can see future. It says Einstein's mathematical theory -which we later tested by clock experiment- also tells us that future and past always exist like the present!***

**Paralaks, I don't think you understand Einstein's clock experiment. It doesn't tell us what you seem to think it tells us.**

**Can you give an example of the past existing now?**

**For example, if the Holocaust still exists ... where does it exist?**

**Can you give an example of the future existing now?**

**For example, using a scenario that is not outside the realm of possibility, let's say you are murdered by a prostitute for refusing to pay up - where is this future murder occurring in the physical universe?**

***However, this does not necessitate pre-destination.***

**Paralaks, if the future exists just like the present, as you just stated, how can it *not* necessitate predestination?**

**That could only be true if you could change that future; but if you could do that, then it wouldn't be the future, would it?**

***"Now" is not deterministic as we know from Quantum Mechanics, so neither future nor past!***

**Paralaks, can you prove that future and past are anything other than concepts?**

**When the past happened - it happened in, what was then, the present. When the future happens - it will happen in, what will then be, the present. There is only the present. "Past" and "future" are merely our conceptions of the present at different times in history.**

***A lot of people seem to have trouble understanding why illusion of time (illusion that past is gone, now exists, future has yet to come) does not necessitate predestination.***

**Paralaks, I am one of them. Please enlighten me.**

***I decided to add a comment from my exchange with axypolyas:***

***The "scientific" description of you, me and everything is "energy".***

**Paralaks, you committed another error in understanding. Matter is not energy and the scientific description of you, me, and everything, also includes matter.**

**Everything would also include the laws of physics. Are you claiming that the laws of physics are energy?**

**Before answering that make sure not to confuse our conception of the laws of physics with the laws themselves.**

***We don't know what energy is. We can quantify it, however, in essence what is it? we have no idea.***

**Paralaks, maybe this will help:**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energy)

**Just because scientists don't have all the answers yet, doesn't mean that they "have no idea."**

***And energy takes different forms, like elementary particles, which in turn become atoms, molecules and part of the end result is "us".***

**Paralaks, that's not how reality works. Here is a video that will help correct your misunderstanding of physics:**

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo232kyTsO0**

***We know energy is governed by laws and constants which naturally takes us to the inevitable conclusion: we are governed by those constants and laws. Before discovery of quantum physics, this would mean we are completely deterministic objects. Quantum physics showed us that we are not 100% deterministic.***

**Paralaks, can you prove that Determinism was the scientific consensus before the discovery of quantum physics?**

***We are limited by laws but still we are unpredictable (we can calculate probabilities of what we might do next, but we don't know what we will do next until we do it. What does all these mean for us? Who are we? or what are we? Why do atoms and molecules pile up and make us? to live longer? All the atoms in our bodies are almost 15 billions of years old.***

**Paralaks, that is false. Elements (such as carbon) did not exist in the beginning. They had to be forged in the interior of gigantic stars. That is true of most elements heavier than hydrogen, helium, and lithium.**

**Also, atoms do not always remain constant. Atoms lose electrons through radiation. Atoms also gain electrons. The nucleus also changes - fusion being just one example.**

**Paralaks, I've owned pets who understood physics better than you do.**

***What we call life is just another state in which they continue existing; nothing more; nothing special about it.***

**Paralaks, you don't find the ability of matter to form a sentient being special?**

**You must have awfully high standards.**

***How can we make sense of all these? Can we make sense of all these? If we are only, and only, condensed energy, there is no such a thing as making sense of things.***

**Paralaks, you just made the same mistake that I have seen Creationists make many times: you tried to reduce humans down to our constituent parts and then claim that, that is all we are. Here is a concept that you might find helpful:** [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergence**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergence)

**As that link proves, we are much more than merely a collection of parts. Emergence shows us that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.**

***There is only energy going through one state to another state "mindlessly". Pretty scary and dark explanation of our existence, is the pure scientific one.***

**Paralaks, that *would* be a pretty scary and dark explanation of our existence - if it were true. Fortunately ... it isn't. Energy does not go through "states" - it only converts into other forms of energy.**

***Science is only a tool; only a methodology we use to "make sense" of the universe. It does not tell us why things are the way they are.***

**Paralaks, then you've missed out on most of science. It certainly does answer millions of "why" questions. For example, the science of plate tectonics explains why the Earth had one continent 200 million years ago (Pangaea) and why there are 7 continents now.**

***It tells us how we can construct theories and how we can use methods to test them, so that we can do all these in an objective way. Science is an extremely limited way of looking into existence.***

**Paralaks, science is the *only* way of looking into reality. Perhaps you could give us an alternative?**

**(Why are the hairs on the back of my neck are beginning to stand up?)**

***Are my feelings objective? No. Are they scientific? No. Or, should I greet my neighbour every morning? Should I have an extra spoon of ice cream today? Or why do we do science? Do we have to do science? Say for our survival?***

**Paralaks, if you had kept yourself current on science, you would not have asked such ignorant questions. The relatively new field of neuroscience has made great advances in being able to explain feelings using the scientific method and scientific instruments.**

***Our survival has no meaning given particles making up our physical bodies existed for billions of years and they will continue to exist, perhaps longer.***

**Paralaks, if survival has no meaning, why do nearly all creatures fight so desperately for survival?**

**It apparently does have meaning to them.**

***I will jump to my personal understanding, rather than "destroying ourselves" using science. To me, existence of The Creator makes more sense than anything else, including my own existence.***

**Paralaks, I had a funny feeling this was coming. You pretended to be "Mr. Science" but in the end, you turned out to be nothing more than another screwed-up, delusional Ghost Worshiper, hoping to hijack science to support your belief in fairy tales.**

**Why am I not surprised?**

***The Creator, who logically must be All-Knowing, All-Powerful, (and interestingly described as such in Islam which I have chosen as a path to follow)***

**Paralaks, how in the Hell did you manage to include "all-knowing" and "all-powerful" in the same sentence with the word "logical?"**

***capable of creating a free agent (my soul for example) with life,***

**Paralaks, what evidence do you offer for the existence of a "soul?"**

**I ask because scientists have never been able to produce *any* evidence, so if you have some - you might be looking at nothing less than a Nobel Prize.**

***creating a universe in which those free agents can grow up, examine, study, learn, make sense of it... freely... is the only logical answer I can think of.***

**Paralaks, what is your logical answer for those millions of babies who never get to be born? Who starve to death while covered with flies on an African savanna? Who never get to grow up, examine, study, learn, or make sense of it all?**

***We don't see the Creator, or souls, or anything which would "force" us to believe and accept.***

**Paralaks, and yet that hasn't stopped you from accepting it as fact, has it?**

**So since you admit there is nothing that forces you to believe, what is your excuse for flying off the rails into irrational, superstitious belief?**

***Creator made us free***

**Paralaks, that actually doesn't apply ... to slaves.**

***and as part of making that choice freely, we will always be bothered by our existence, but we will never find an answer.***

**Paralaks, so now you think you are a psychic?**

**How do you know we will never find answers to our existence?**

**Especially in light of the fact that scientists have already found thousands of answers related to our existence?**

**To educate yourself on some of them, I would suggest that you start with Charles Darwin's On The Origin of Species and work your way up from there.**

***That will remain as a matter of choice and it has always been like that.***

**Paralaks, truth and reality are not a matter of choice and never have been. Ghost Worshipers, like you, push that nonsense because truth and reality, as revealed by science, contradict nearly everything your ancient 'holy' books teach you.**

***-- Albert Einstein***

***"The knowledge of truth as such is wonderful, but it is so little capable of acting as a guide that it cannot prove even the justification and the value of the aspiration toward that very knowledge of truth. Here we face, therefore, the limits of the purely rational conception of our existence."***

**Paralaks, I like this Einstein quote better:**

**"*The word god is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of honourable, but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish* *....*"**

**To see additional Einstein quotes on religion, click here:**

[**http://atheism.about.com/od/einsteingodreligion/tp/Einstein-on-a-Personal-God.htm**](http://atheism.about.com/od/einsteingodreligion/tp/Einstein-on-a-Personal-God.htm)

**FINAL COMMENT**

**Paralaks, if you want to have imaginary friends ... that's your business. But when you start spreading your ignorant, superstitious beliefs on YouTube - you can expect to be called on it, by rational people.**

**You demonstrated that you do have some scientific education so you cannot use the excuse of ignorance. Like most weak, frightened, vulnerable humans, you have simply succumbed to the threats from the spirit world. And your attempts to spread that fear and ignorance to others will be met with the full resistance of the rational and scientific communities.**

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**THE SCIENCE SEGMENT**

**Blood sample provides a new way of detecting cancer**

**Being able to detect cancer at an early stage is vital. Researchers have studied how a whole new blood-based method of biopsy can be used to detect cancer, which in the future renders an invasive cell tissue sample unnecessary in diagnosing various cancers. In the study, nearly all forms of cancer were identified, which proves that blood-based biopsies have an immense potential to improve early detection of cancer.**

**Researchers have investigated how a new method of blood-based RNA tests of the part of the blood called platelets could be used in detecting and classifying cancer. The results show that blood platelets could constitute a complete and easily accessible blood-based source for sampling and hence be used in diagnosing cancer as well as in the choice of treatment method.**

**Blood samples from 283 individuals were studied, of which 228 people had some form of cancer, and 55 showed no evidence of cancer. By comparing the blood sample's RNA profiles, researchers could identify the presence of cancer with an accuracy of 96% among patients. Among the 39 patients in the study in which an early detection of cancer had been made, 100% of the cases could be identified and classified.**

**In follow-up tests using the same method, researchers could identify the origin of tumors with a so far unsurpassed accuracy of 71% in patients with diagnosed cancer in the lung, breast, pancreas, brain, liver, colon, and rectum. The samples could also be sorted in subdivisions depending on molecular differences in the cancer form, which can be of great use in the choice of treatment method.**

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**FAMOUS QUOTES**

**Faisal Saeed Al-Mutar**

**He is an Iraqi born writer, public speaker, web designer and social activist, currently living in the United States. He is the founder of the Global Secular Humanist Movement.**

**Before quoting Faisal, I would like to quote from his "About" page:**

**"As a huge proponent of religious freedom, I assert that humans have the right to believe and do whatever they want as long as their actions or beliefs do not harm somebody else or limit the freedom of another individual to do and believe whatever he or she prefers. The only way to ensure and maintain religious freedom is to have a separation of Mosque and State or Church and State."**

**It can't be said any better than that. And here is the money quote from Faisal Saeed Al-Mutar:**

**“What’s it like being an atheist in the Middle East?**

**It’s like being the only sober person**

**in a car filled with drunk people**

**and not being allowed to drive.”**