**Mind Before Matter**

The Supernatural Worldview

The Recentness (and Bankruptcy) of Modern Naturalism

Naturalism: the theory denying that an event or object has a supernatural significance; *specifically* **:**the doctrine that scientific laws are adequate to account for all phenomena

Also called “scientific materialism”

Ontological (or metaphysical) naturalism: there is nothing more to the mental, biological and social realms than arrangements of physical entities; hence there is no transcend God, gods, or spirit.

Methodological naturalism: we can’t know if the supernatural exists, and knowing does not help us, so we use science, reasoning, and logic to solve problems

Percentage of Americans who believe in God

2021

81% Yes

64% Convinced

2017: 87%

1950’s: 98%

1944: 96%

College professors

35% Believe in God with no doubts

17% Believe in God but are not sure

19% Believe in a “higher power”

13% Agnostic

10% Atheists

84% of the world's population believes in God or gods or spirits

Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, animism.

There are an estimated 10,000 distinct religions worldwide.

My point:

Our supernatural worldview is not as rejected as we are led to believe in 2023

The ruling philosophy we grew up with (methodological and/or ontological naturalism and its faith in the scientific method)--

Is not widely held to be true by:

Most college professors; Americans; People of the world

And virtually no one in history before the Enlightenment (1700 to present) did not believe in the supernatural

Naturalism believes *Matter Came Before Mind*

The universe was created spontaneously from nothing

Matter, energy, space and time were created in the Big Bang

Plants, animals and humans evolved from matter

Plants: no consciousness

Animals: consciousness (primitive to moderately sophisticated—apes)

Humans: consciousness slightly above the other apes

This “explains” (???) human innovations such as:

Music

Musical instrument building

Art

Architecture

Communication

Transportation (autos, ships, planes)

Electricity

Nuclear Energy

Navigation

Printing

Drama/Entertainment

Combustion Engines

Space Travel

Computers

No innovation of which is needed to have an evolutionary advantage over an ape (or a saber tooth tiger)

In Reality: Mind Came Before Matter

The innovations and “triumph” of humans over plants, animals, and the earth are the result

of a Mind granting His creativity and genius to humans, and overseeing their development

The correct order:

The Mind (of God) then Matter then the Mind (of mankind)

A mind with intellect, emotion, will, creativity and imagination

The correct interpretation is that life is:

Not random, purposeless, spontaneous

But planned, deliberate, meticulous

Full of purpose: an expression of love and commitment to bless and interact with man

The universe was intentionally created by a pre-creation, eternal, Mind with humankind in mind

To believe otherwise is to be a philosophical and metaphysical fool

Rom. 11: 34

Who has known the *mind of the Lord*? Or who has been His counselor?”

Gen. 1:2-3

Now the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. And the *Spirit of God* was hovering over the surface of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,’ and there was light.

Gen. 1:25

God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that crawls upon the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Gen. 1:27

God created man in His own image; *in the image of God He created them*; male and female He created them

Heb. 8:10

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put m*y laws in their minds* and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Phil. 2:5-6

…let *this mind be in you* which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, existing *in the form of God,*

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped…

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a *spirit* not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

David understood:

PS. 8

When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars,

which You have set in place—what is man that You are *mindful of him*, or the son of man that You care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; You crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler of the works of Your hands; You have placed everything under his feet: all the sheep and oxen, and even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

Ps. 139

For You formed my inmost being; You *knit me together in my mother’s womb*. I praise You,

for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well. My frame was not hidden from You when *I was made in secret,* *when I was woven together in the depths of the earth*. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all my days were written in Your book and ordained for me before one of them came to be. How precious to me are *Your thoughts*, O God, how vast is their sum!

Mind then Matter then Mind

Brain cells do not generate human consciousness

God-placed human “minds” in our human brains generate our human consciousness

All ancient peoples believed in the supernatural

And, ironically, virtually every Western scientist who contributed to the modern naturalistic viewpoint believed in the supernatural

Atheism and agnostism are rare, new phenomena

We should not be intimidated by this inadequate and unquestionably false point of view

Their adherents should not be proud and confident

But should fear

Ps. 14:1

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

Ps. 2:4

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
The Lord shall hold them in derision.

The Supernatural History of the World

Ancient men and women of all cultures uniformly believed in the supernatural

They were convinced that gods and spirits controlled the material world and exercised

power over it

They attributed virtually every event around them to gods and goddesses

Their circumstances in life

Good luck, bad luck

Everything *(like lightning strikes)* meant something

Everything was a punishment, a reward, or a warning

They believed that dealing with gods and spirits was dangerous (hence the need for priests)

They had reason to belief this

Being “open-minded” to the supernatural, they experienced it more

The gods of mythology revealed themselves to these “believers” in god-forms and hidden-as-human-but-god forms

And as demi-gods (the offspring of gods and humans)

The Nephilim

Hercules, Orion, Perseus, Helen of Troy

Egyptian, Norse, Sumerian demigods

Demi-gods ruled ancient man, taught him, and helped him build the wonders of the

ancient world (the pyramids, Machu Pichu, the temples)

Ancient folk experienced these fallen gods first hand

Ancient man/women had two great concerns:

1) How be kept safe in this dangerous life;

From human enemies, natural disasters, wild animals, diseases, and from the influence

of evil spirits

2) How to make a safe trip to “heaven” or some similar good destination

Rather than end up in a hell-equivalent

Or in a cycle of reincarnation

Ancient men and women believed that you could learn how to navigate the afterlife in this life

Those who learned had an easier time of it

Siddhartha (Buddha), for example, through his “eightfold path” made it directly to Nirvana

without numerous reincarnations

It appears that ben elohim (angels, the fallen [the ancient pagan gods] and the faithful good angels) have more power and authority if worshipped (of if Jehovah alone is worshipped in the case of “good” angels who do not receive worship)

And they can do things and manifest and show themselves more if worshipped

So…in a skeptical age, spirit beings and God are harder to experience and detect

But are nevertheless present

Ancient mankind were “supernaturalists” and not ontological naturalists because the met gods, knew gods and experienced gods

They were not “superstitious”

They were “aware” and spiritually “enlightened”

The Four Tiers of the Spirit and Physical World of “Minds”

1) Creators

Jewish/Christian: Jehovah

Greek/Roman: “Chaos” then Uranus-Gaia

Norse: “A Chasm” then Ymir

Egyptian: “Chaos” then Ra/Atum, Shu, Geb, Nut

2) Creator’s “sons and daughters”

Jewish/Christian: the ben elohim (angels: faithful) (Michael, Gabriel) and fallen:

(Lucifer, Apollyon)

Greek: the Titans (Kronos, Atlas, Prometheus, others) then

the Olympians (Zeus, Hades, Hermes, Aphrodite, Ares, Artemis, Athena, Poseidon)

Norse: Odin, Thor, Freyja

Egyptians: Set, Osiris, Isis > Horus

3) The offspring of these “sons and daughters” and humans

Jewish/Christian: the Nephilim

The Demigods

Greek/Roman: Herakles, Perseus, Orpheus, Orion, Helen

Norse: Sigur, Sleipnir

Egyptian: Imhotep

Mesopotamian/Sumerian: Gilgamesh (Nimrod??)

4) Humans

Prophets, priests mystics; adepts, yogi, initiates

The clueless

This was the experienced, accepted REALITY of historical man until the Enlightenment (1700 AD+)

Clarification: Jehovah God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ is the Greatest God

Why?

Because He is the creator (not Uranus, not Gaia, not Ra, not Ymir)

He created all of the “lesser” gods—ben elohim (angels)

And the “lesser” pagan gods worshipped by the lost are “pretenders and false gods”

Is. 40: 25-26  
“To whom will you liken Me, or who is My equal?” asks the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high: Who created all these?

He leads forth the *starry host*by number;

He calls each one by name.

Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

We Christians are the most fortunate and blessed

We get to enjoy and worship the Creator

And His Son

Who was not “quite” created: He and the Father and the Spirit are “Co-Creators”

The Mystery of the Trinity

John 10:30

I and the Father are one.

Col. 1:15-16

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him.

All “false” religions are based on prophets, priests, adepts, yogis, initiates trying to contact and figure out how to appease these created, false pagan gods:

Initiation rites

Ceremonies

Secret societies, hand-shakes

Statues, temples (“thou shall make no graven images “[Ex. 20:2-4])

Sacrifices (animal, human, and child)

Wars

The pagan demon gods convinced the ancients that their *lives on earth* would be more miserable if these gods were not placated

And their *afterlives* less traumatic as well

The Egyptian pyramids and mummies and provisions

Mankind needed the priests, mystics and adepts to help them



Contrast this with Jesus’ teaching:

John 14:1-6

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; *how can we know the way?”*

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Jesus’ heavenly promise has a deeper meaning to the supernaturalist ancient mind

He was promising a safe trip to heaven in the afterlife

Throughout time there have been “human mediators” between the spirit realm and mankind

Priests, prophets, mystics, adepts, yogis, alchemists

Alchemists tried to “help” mankind by purifying and perfecting certain materials for physical and spiritual purposes

The changing of "base metals" (e.g., lead) into "noble metals" (particularly gold)

The creation of an elixir of immortality

The creation of a panaceas able to cure any disease

Perfection of the human body and soul by finding “the philosophers' stone”

There were two kinds of alchemists

For personal gain

For the experience, the science, the “journey”

These were reputed to be more successful

Alchemist and mystical scientists and philosophers (some with a Christian worldview):

Ancient

Pythagoras

Plato, Socrates, Aristotle

Indian, Persian mystics

Kabbalism (Jewish Babylonian Mysticism)

Medieval

Charlemagne

Knights Templar

Thomas Aquinas

Roger Bacon

Catherine de’ Medici

Leonardo de Vinci

Michelangelo

Paracelsus

Modern

Galileo, Tycho Brahe, Johannes Kepler, Isaac Newton

Descartes, Pascal, Leibnitz, Voltaire

Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner

John Milton

Thomas Paine

Charles Darwin

Edison, Tesla

Freud, Jung

Mostly alchemists were dismissed as charlatans and tricksters

Alchemy was associated with the occult:

Free Masonry, Theosophical Society, Rosicrucian Movement, Kabbalism, the Illuminati,

Had its initiates, apprentices, adepts

Famous Freemasons:

George Washington

Benjamin Franklin

John Hancock

9/56 Declaration of Independence signers

14 U.S. Presidents

FDR

Henry Wallace

Harry Truman

J. Edgar Hoover

Esoteric symbolism on the back of the U.S. dollar bill

A picture containing diagram

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*Novus ordo seclorum* ("new order of the ages")

*Annuit cœptis*  (“He favors our undertakings”)

Both are lines from the Roman poet Virgil’s epic pagan poem the *Aeneid*

The “god” whose favor is sought: "Jupiter the Almighty” before Aeneus goes to war

Set under the “all-seeing” “third eye” of Osiris, an Egyptian god

The One True and Righteous Alchemist, Mystic and Adept: Jesus

Jesus, the faithful, true spiritual guide and alchemist

He does not turn lead into gold for His followers

He turns our good deeds into treasures in heaven that are of more value than gold

Matt 6:19-21

Do not store up for *yourselves treasures on earth,* where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for *yourselves treasures in heaven*, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

Heb 10:34-36

You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, knowing that you yourselves had a *better and permanent possession*.

Spiritual alchemy: converting material things of no eternal value into eternal things of eternal value

And not motivated by gain

Just motivated by pleasing the Lord and doing what is best

I Peter 1:7

so that the proven character of your faith—*more precious than gold*, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

We the fortunate, the informed, the confident

Heb. 10:35-36

So do not throw away your confidence; it holds a great reward. You need to persevere, so that after you have done the will of God, *you will receive what He has promise*

I Cor. 2:16

…for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.