

Humanizing God: A Form Of Idolatry

This is a good a point as any to make clear my absolute contempt for creationism or intelligent design in any guise.

Firstly, you can tell it is from the deceiver because people have tried to repackage the concepts of creationism into a different name and pretend it is something new. Secondly, it tries to reduce God to a few thousand years; thus giving Him "nip and tuck" plastic surgery to write millions of years off (and thus denying God His full glory).

Thirdly, it turns the human form (particularly white males) into a form of idolatry as *the* only form of consciousness that can know and have a proper relationship with God (and thus the authority to as a gatekeeper between God and "lesser" souls, including women). One of my jokes is that if God lets humanity explore the stars that we pray that intelligent designers are not included on initial exploratory crafts. Message from earth "so is there intelligent life on that planet". "Please hold" as space team discuss the life doesn't look human, nuke it so it is dead, and then reply "Nope, no intelligent life here" (Terra Nullis on a galactic scale).

Fourthly, there is an arrogance that humanity is God's ultimate creation and that therefore God wouldn't let humanity become extinct. The problem with the latter is that the Babylonian powers then placate people that they can "trust God" to rescue them from a world ravaged by sin and on the brink of ecological collapse. The same people tend to make claims that Eden is not this world but what God will create after this world and so it's okay if this world is destroyed.

Earth is a beautiful gem of a planet that needs to be nurtured in co-operation with God to enable it to be restored to an Eden-like state.

Another rebuff to the accuser is the "perfection" of Eden. If all the coastlines were swept clean there would be no beaches for children to build sand castles or youth to frolic in the waves. Volcanoes cause death but they also bring up trace elements. The rotting mulch of rainforests creates the sustenance that feeds complex ecosystems that support some of Gaia's lungs. Creativity such as evolution involves risk, exploring possibilities with many dead ends to discover that something special that God chooses to nurture and allow to flourish.

People who cling to highly structural, tightly framed models often have difficulty coping with ambiguity and the unexpected. They find the idea of a universe that might becoming more complex but that is unpredictable in the details frightening. One of the roles of religion is to enable souls to cope with ambiguity, trusting God to do the best and to comfort those who are in a "dead end" passage of history. A particularly useful secular text is Daryl Connor's "Managing at the Speed of Change". In particular his concepts of resiliency provide practical examples of what kinds of behaviours and thinking help cope with ambiguity and change, and which actually make it harder. Rational Emotive Therapy, whilst nihilistic without God, also provides useful mental models to help surface peoples' intrinsic assumptions and challenge their validity and thus develop more robust mental models.

For example, the model there "ought not be any natural disasters" or "natural disasters are God's punishment" are unrealistic as there will continue to be natural

disasters. More realistic models accept that there will be natural disasters, but that if we listen to God's creation we can anticipate to reduce risks (e.g. relocating village about to be drowned by rising sea levels, using New Orleans buses to move civilians), or move more quickly to save lives and reduce damage (e.g. getting clean water to tsunami to stop secondary diseases, or shelter to Pakistani earthquake victims before winter sets in).

Back to Intelligent Design, my fifth complaint is that it reeks of the deceiver using humanity as living hostages to justify continuing his own pathetic existence "if I can't have this planet, then no one else will".

Last but not least, it is just plain dishonest. When caught out in recent court cases, manipulative spinsters said it was the only way to get religion into US schools. Rubbish. These manipulators want *only their form* of fundamentalist religion in the schools. The debate about teaching theology in schools isn't as hard as they have made out. Religion could be taught as electives, with religions having the option to send scripture teachers to teach religion. This is what they do in Australian scripture classes, the children are released from normal classes (with their parents' consent) for their nominated religion's scripture classes e.g. Protestant, Judaism, Islam, Hindu, Catholic...]