

## **Why Atheism is Irrational: The Fatal Weakness in Atheists' Armor**

Is it possible to trust in reason and rational thought if there is no God? Although many atheists call themselves “Brights” and claim to bask in the light of reason, their materialistic worldview provides them no foundation to ground their claim to think rationally. Surprisingly for them, a reliance on reason points not to atheism, but to the existence of a God who is the source of logical thought. Beginning with thinkers from the second century before Christ and continuing up to the current time, this talk demonstrates that atheists have in reality no reason to trust reason. Then, turning to the work of theists, it shows how those who trust in reason have good reason to believe in God.

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### **I. Why atheists have no reason to trust reason**

A. Joke about cause and effect

B. David Hume's skepticism

1. No proof of cause and effect

2. No proof of objective reality

3. No proof of the continuity of nature

C. If materialism is true, then all thoughts are only the “accidental collocations of atoms” according to Bertrand Russell

D. Some thoughts do have chemical causes

1. LSD

2. Psychoactive drugs

- E. If all thoughts are caused by chemicals, then there is no way to distinguish between rational and irrational thoughts, as John Nash had to do to recover his sanity
  
- F. In the past many thinkers have known that without God they had no reason to trust reason
  1. Carneades used “logic” to prove and disprove that justice exists
  2. Al-Ghazali used logical paradoxes to argue we cannot trust reason
  3. Cabanis said, “the mind secretes thought as the liver secretes bile”
  4. Hume showed there was no reason to trust reason
  5. Kant argued that reason is not “out there” in the world but only “in here” inside our minds
  6. Darwin realized that our minds share common ancestry with the monkeys, but wondered who would trust a monkey’s mind
  7. Balfour thought science needed to be supplemented by a belief in God if human thinking was to have any validity
  8. Haldane said, “I have no reason to suppose that my beliefs are true”
  9. Lewis pointed out the fatal self-contradiction of naturalism
  10. Plantinga showed how Darwinism eliminates any basis for trusting our minds
  11. Davies wonders why we can think about atoms and black holes if our minds were developed only for avoiding danger and finding mates
  12. Nagel says the evolutionary explanation of human reason is “laughably inadequate”
  13. Hawking claims “philosophy is dead” and then makes elementary mistakes in philosophy

## **II. Why belief in reason points to the existence of God**

- A. Abductive logic is finding the best explanation
  
- B. Human reasoning must come from irrational or rational causes
  
- C. Human reasoning cannot come from irrational causes
  
- D. Therefore it must come from a rational cause
  
- E. Reason allows us to know which of our thoughts are rational and which are irrational
  
- F. Reason also allows us to understand the cosmos

- G. Human reasoning points to the existence of reason independent of human beings
  
- H. Many thinkers have believed in the existence of reason that is independent of human beings
  - 1. Heraclitus said the *logos* (or reason or logic) was the principle which creates and explains the world
  - 2. Philo said the *logos* was God's creative agent
  - 3. St John identified the *logos* with God the Son
  - 4. Lennox pulled all these ideas together to argue that if people can think logically, then God must exist
  - 5. Einstein exclaimed that the most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible
  
- I. Belief in reason which created and explains the world and enables human thought opens the door to belief in God.

***Recommended reading:***

Tom Gilson & Carson Weitnauer. *True Reason: Confronting the irrationality of the new atheism.*

John Lennox. *God and Stephen Hawking: Whose Design Is It Anyway?*

C. S. Lewis. *Miracles.*

Alvin Plantinga. *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion, and Naturalism.*