

Intelligent Design to the Universe?

by
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Many people today are searching for evidence that there is some rhyme and reason to the universe. It is then assumed that this would give humanity a justification to exist. Scientists are looking deeply into the atom and outwardly into the vastness of space. Others are looking into themselves and still others into some ancient religious scriptures. All of them are seeking answers. Actually, they're seeking same answers. Many of those searching are looking outward with pre-set biases thus eliminating possibilities and of learning from others' findings.

The search begins with the question: *Is there an intelligent design to the Universe?*

Every question has certain presuppositions inherent within it. The immediate presupposition in the question is that there was/is some sort of reason for the Universe to be as it is, what it will become, and that *something* set about to create what we know and are seeing and experiencing as the Universe. Western religions have already made up their minds that there was some sort of anthropomorphic entity; a person, or persons who had a design and purpose in mind as well as a reason for creating the Universe. Many of these religions have chosen not to look any further than their scriptures and dogma. It must be remembered that these scriptures were written by *human beings* with no scientific knowledge or information and, whom, with nothing more than religious tradition and their own statements to back them, claimed to be somehow in direct contact with the creator of this Universe. Further, these traditions and their writings have changed, in some cases quite drastically, down through the centuries. Accepting only one misunderstood ancient scriptural point of view is unfortunate because the findings of science actually do not destroy religious thinking, but bring out the beauty of the workings of nature.

The second presupposition to the question is that there was *something*, or a person or persons, who made a decision and performed some actions or activities to make the Universe happen. The idea that there is a "god" and/or "goddess," or "gods" is an ancient idea. From the time that early humans began to figure out that they were actually one of the frailest creatures on this planet, they considered that there *must* be something or someone greater than themselves "out there". If you will look at the concept of God, you will see that it has been under constant change, not only in the mind of humanity but also in the different religious scriptures. Down through the eons God has gotten smaller and more and more unreachable. From the idea of many gods which controlled every aspect of humanity and life on this planet who could be found in special places to that of one god controlling every aspect and life on this planet living "out there" somewhere, God has changed with the times. As more and more was found out about nature, the concept of God went from a "spirit" that was everywhere and in

everything to an entity created in humanity's image sitting on a throne somewhere in the sky. Originally, many ancient cultures looked to the mountains as the dwelling places of the gods. With the advent of monotheism, this man on the throne was placed in the sky and had his intercessors because he could not be disturbed by the entreaties of the mere mortals that he had supposedly created.

The third presupposition is that the Universe has an order to it. As we shall shortly see, this idea cannot actually be proven either scientifically or scripturally. Scriptures, from the most ancient in India to Sumer to Egypt to Central America do not talk about an orderly Universe. It just *appears* to be orderly. This was the reason for the many gods. There were those gods who did good and those who did evil. In an orderly Universe it would be easy to tell when good or bad would happen. Consequently, this Universe does not have any true order to it physically or metaphysically.

The last presupposition is that there is such a thing as a "Universe". The word Universe implies that it is a single existence when, in fact, the Universe is actually a "Multiverse"; a myriad of existences. The idea of a Universe is that all of the objects we perceive combine to create this one thing called a Universe. That is, our perceptions create this singular experience known as the Universe. Does that imply that one person or thing created all of this? If you are referring to *you* being the creator of *your* Universe, that is true. If you are referring to the idea of a creator outside of yourself creating the Universe, no, it does not. The idea of a creator is a convenience to explain a process that, has not been and at this time, is not fully understood, but is under investigation. Consider also, just because something is presently insoluble doesn't mean that it is inherently unsolvable.

To get back to the original question: **Is there Intelligent Design in the Universe?**
In answering the question, several points need to be looked at.

Point #1: *Chaos (or entropy) exists in the minutest structures of matter.*

If there is a singular group of people who would love nothing better than to see order in the Universe, it is scientists. Order implies predictability and one of the main outcomes of scientific research is predictability. Unfortunately, what scientists are finding is that in the smallest particles of matter, chaos reigns supreme. Particles "pop" in and out of existence randomly. There is no rhyme or reason for their existence or non-existence, and this can be frustrating. It is this finding from which the recent chaos studies have developed. To add to this, it has been seen that even in higher levels, chaos exists. How genes combine is more chaotic than orderly with mutations occurring more often than anyone would like to discuss. (See below) The placement of cells in a structure isn't in an orderly pattern as well. Even human behavior has an underlying chaos to it or there would be no necessity for governments, laws, police, armies, or religions. Consequently, chaos is at the basic structure of the Universe.

It is a fact that the whole Universe is in constant flux. That is, it is perpetually changing. This means that the underlying design of the Universe is chaotic, not

constancy. If there was an “intelligent design” from the beginning then there would be order and in that order, predictability. Unfortunately, this doesn’t happen. The reality that we perceive is a transient reality. Whatever we’ve perceived is already in the past and has changed even before we have perceived it, imperceptibly changed, but it has changed. All that can be counted on is constant change. What chaos implies is that change is inevitable.

Point #2: *Every animal and insect evolved in such a way that it perceives life according to the inherent structure of its brain and nervous system.*

Every organism in every niche of existence evolved to fit most appropriately into that niche. That’s how evolution works. Consequently, wherever a particular organism is living, it perceives its environment a particular way. It eats only certain foods and it knows what its predators are in that environment. That is why when humans went into certain environments where humans never existed before, there were animals that were curious and did not run. This is because humans were not perceived of as a threat. Those animals soon learned that was not to be true (e.g. the emu).

Humans are different than any of the other animals on this planet. Their brain is not exactly the same as those animals who survive on instinct alone. Humans *learned* ways to survive in whatever environment in which they settled. Consequently, instead of evolving into a particular environment, they changed the environment to suit themselves. This included the extinction of animals as they took over an area.

What is necessary to understand is that there is an inherent human need to see an orderly environment. That’s part of human survival, and that’s how the human brain evolved. Art, philosophy, religions, mathematics, science, societies, and so on all developed out of this inherent need for order.

Point #3: *The human brain, in order to make sense out of the environment, constructs its perceptions.*

Physicists, neurophysiologists, and psychologists all agree on one thing: Everything that humans perceive is actually constructed by the brain. Theoretical physicists put it this way: Nothing exists outside of the mind; all that we perceive are external *representations* of internal *concepts*. (Emphasis mine) Psychologists see perception as a construction process where a series of unconscious choices brings about the experience. It doesn’t matter whether it is a visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory, or gustatory experience; whatever sensation is picked up by the sensory system is turned into neural energy. That neural energy is then *interpreted* by the particular area of the brain into which that sensory translated neural energy goes. This is how external energy patterns become internal objects. We actually don’t perceive physical *things*, only neural energy *reflecting* physical energy.

The perception of what we see as the Universe is the same. What we perceive as

the physical Universe is a *reflection* of physical energy (light, vibrations in the air, etc.) streaming in from outside of ourselves. It is a known fact that we do not perceive the whole Universe, only an extremely small part of it. Our visual senses pick up only 1/1 millionth of a meter of the whole electromagnetic spectrum. Consequently, the order that appears to exist in the Universe is based on an unbelievably minute portion of what actually exists. Consequently, any order that *humans* place on the Universe is their *choice* to see that order, not what is actually there.

Point #4: *If one perceives “intelligent design,” it is because of how one chooses to interpret the construction of the sensations in their brain.*

What we perceive is based, not just on the construction of the brain, but also past experiences, personal biases, beliefs, needs, values, and motivations. Every time we experience anything, our brain automatically cross-references it with what we already know. This process *organizes* the experience – and its accompanying perceptions – into a pattern which we interpret as *ordered*. That’s how the brain works. It has nothing to do with the construction of the Universe. It has to do with the construction of the brain. Remember the old axiom: People see what they want to see, and hear what they want to hear. Whoever sees “intelligent design” in the Universe *wants* to see it. That’s their bias, their need, their belief, and their motivation. It doesn’t mean that “intelligent design” or a “designer” actually exists. Our perception and interpretation of our environment is based on evolution and *survival*, not on philosophy.

Point #5: *If “intelligent design” exists in the greater Universe, it must also exist in every aspect of the Universe.*

Intelligent design implies order. If you will look around you will see very little order. This is one of the reasons that there is that nagging question when something tragic happens: Why would God let something like that happen? The pat response is: God’s ways are beyond finding out. People come together into societies and societies have developed governments, laws and those to enforce those laws in attempts to place some order on the lives of people who may be disruptive. The term for a society out of order or in chaos is anarchy. An ordered society supposedly has little or no chaos. As a society changes, the laws change in order to accommodate the chaos that brings about those changes. Consequently, underlying every “orderly” society is chaos ready to spring forth.

Many don’t realize it, but the early Christians felt that the world was in chaos; that it had no order, in spite of Pax Romana. The Christian Gnostics (who were most likely the original Christians, because orthodox Christianity came later and became The Church and *The Christianity*) called the creator of this world evil because nothing is what it appears to be. It is so easy to prove that the senses are *not* reliable. As you have seen, our senses perceive only an extremely small portion of the electromagnetic

spectrum and, hence, the Universe and actual reality. All you need to do is to watch a stage illusionist to see how easily your senses can be fooled. If other humans can fool the senses, then to assume that your senses actually perceive what is actually there becomes an exercise in futility. Consequently, the idea of “intelligent design” is nothing more than a mental concept based on unreliable perceptions of a transient reality.

Consider this: Where is the intelligent design in the human body? There are, for example, useless body parts such as the appendix, wisdom teeth, the third eyelid, extrinsic ear muscles and at least a dozen other parts as well. The seemingly intricate construction of the eye is used by many who believe in the concept of Intelligent Design. The fact is the eye of the squid is more efficient and better designed. Further, the formation of the body from the union of the egg and sperm, through the zygote, through the fetus, and, eventually, to the infant is a process based on *probabilities*, not reliabilities. Genetic problems occur more often than we’re led to believe. For example: Down syndrome occurs in 1 in 9,000 live births at age 20, 1 in 300 live births at age 35, and 1 in 45 live births at age 45, cystic fibrosis occurs in 1 in every 2,000 live births; diabetes occurs in 1 in every 2,500 live births; hemophilia occurs in 1 in every 10,000 live births; Huntington disease occurs in 1 in every 20,000 live births; phenylketonuria occurs in 1 in every 14,000 live births; sickle-cell anemia occurs in 1 in every 400 African American live births; spina bifida occurs in 1 in every 1,000 live births, and Tay-Sachs disease is carried in 1 in every 30 individuals of Jewish descent. Consider also that 1 in every 500 infants is either missing a second sex chromosome or has more than two. This produces abnormalities such as Klinefelter syndrome (1 in 800 live male births), Fragile X syndrome (a very common male abnormality), Turner syndrome (1 in 3,000 live female births), and XYY syndrome (1 in 1,000 live male births). The fact is, spontaneous miscarriages occur at a very high rate as well. Is this part of that Intelligent Design?

The human body is also very inefficient. There are only two redundant systems and when one of these redundant systems is compromised, and then the efficiency of the body is impaired. If intelligent design exists in the Macrocosm, it must also exist at the microcosm. Unfortunately, that is not so. In all, this doesn’t sound like intelligent design. It sounds more like attempts to *evolve* a species that will better fit into an environmental niche that is constantly changing.

The “intelligent design” people see in the Universe is a product of one’s own choice. It has nothing to do with anything that had happened, is happening or will happen. To conceive of an intelligent designer doesn’t mean that one actually exists. The designer is the mind of the human beings who are conceiving it and it is the choice of the individual who is placing order onto the Universe. We’d all like to have order and consistency in our lives. This would make life so much more predictable and we could make better decisions with reference to ourselves and our loved ones. Seeing order outside of ourselves gives us hope that some sort of order and purpose exists to our own lives.