

"THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS ATHEIST"

I was recently re-reading one of my seminary Theology textbooks and came across an example articulated by the renowned atheist Anthony Flew. His analogy formed the basis for his well-known paper called "*Theology and Falsification*." He actually shared some of his ideas in Oxford with a group led by *C.S. Lewis*.

I was initially baffled in terms of how to respond to this example. I researched to see how others were responding and I found a brilliant response from someone named . . . Anthony Flew! It turns out new discoveries in science, like the unique DNA each of us possess, led Flew to become a theist in 2004. I consequently read his 2007 book cleverly called "*THERE IS NO A GOD.*"

If someone found a watch, they would probably not believe it came into existence by itself or that it evolved and mutated over thousands of years so it could accurately tell time. No, we would conclude the watch had a maker . . . someone manufactured/created it. With increased DNA knowledge, it is easy to see that we humans are much more complex than a watch.

Upon examining that same watch, is there anyone who would believe, given enough time, the watch would evolve to the point that someday it would have life and thought and emotions and conscience within it? If there is no outside Higher Creative Power working on it, it seems there is no way it will eventually learn to walk, become intelligent, exercise thought, and morally have a conscience to know right from wrong. Yet something vastly more complex must happen to explain the existence of the human race without the influence of a Being we may call God. If the species is to evolve to this level, Anthony Flew concluded it must be because of a Higher Power.

He detailed and documented another fascinating experiment in his book. Could it be that given enough time, anything could happen by chance (e.g., a random cell without life eventually reproducing to become what we now see as human life)? They did a test to see if given enough time, *monkeys in a room* could type some of the greatest literature in history, like a Shakespearean sonnet. Six monkeys were in a room with a computer for one month typing hour upon hour. Not only did they not type a sonnet, they did not even type ONE complete word. Not even the word "a" which has to be surrounded by a space before and after! Similarly, *Sir Fred Hoyle* (one of Britain's brilliant mathematicians and astronomers who coined the term "*Big Bang*"), though initially an atheist, determined the probability of life without God is virtually zero. "*The likelihood of the formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 zeros after it.*"

I can't conclude without including the argument called *Pascal's Wager*, which though not really an argument for the existence of God, is quite thought-provoking nonetheless. Blaise Pascal was a French mathematician/physicist/philosopher who invented a calculating machine, a forerunner of modern computers. His argument basically states that if I choose to believe there is a God, but I am wrong, I have lost nothing. But if you gamble there is NO God and you are wrong, you have lost everything.