

Atheism and laundry,
rudely
interrupted ...

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Saturday morning was laundry time -- hooray!

I decided, primarily because the folks in my apartment complex are rude and leave their clothes IN THE MACHINES, and there is only ONE WASHER AND ONE DRYER in my complex, to venture forth and wash my clothes at a coin-wash laundry -- the Lunar Laundry and I can recommend it as a good place to wash clothes!

While sitting at a table there, minding my own business (its 7 AM on a Saturday folks!) an old woman walked up to me and offered some religious info. She had a small book, written for young adults/children on the 'riddles' of evolution and creation. She was trying to sell me god.

"I recently took a trip to see the proud Sequoias..." She said with a dazed grin, the kind you often see on true believers and people who are high.

"Can you imagine their age, their size?... Did you know that they have root structures that stretch almost a half a mile..." (not sure if her facts were accurate, but that wasn't really my problem with her at the time)

"Can you imagine that?" She said, looking at me but not really looking in my eyes: another thing drug users, religious zealots and liars have in common.

"Yes, I can imagine it." I said, not intending to be rude but just answering the question honestly. I can imagine the complexity in nature.

I don't believe in **God**¹, but I can see the beauty, variety and complexity that surrounds me. My absence of a belief in God is not due to 'evolution' (frankly, I think the theory of evolution has gaps/problems too -- many researchers who are also atheists feel the same).

1 I was an atheist, up until 2012, and found the grace of our lord, at that time.

Evolution doesn't answer every question, in fact it seeks to explain very little.

We don't really know "the why" or "the how" of life's beginnings on this planet. Evolution can explain things (reasonably well) once life gets here -- but there are many mysteries around the current theories of 'symbiosis' (the theory that life arose from simple biological structures joining together into larger ones), 'directed pan-spermia' (the theory that life came from another place in the universe and MAY have been engineered) and 'crystallization' (the theory that life hitched a ride on crystal structures and gained complexity from this) -- yes, there are MANY explanations of life's beginnings which leave much to be desired and this leaves us with more questions than answers.

If evolutionary biologists are honest with themselves and us (and sometimes you can catch them in the mode of honest reflection with the stern shield of scientific rationalism removed), they will admit that the moment of life existing where there was once none is still a deep mystery.

We really don't understand our purpose in this world completely (or at all). We struggle in life with questions -- many of these questions we will take to our graves. I'm OK with that. But nowhere is there some God or (gods) that I need to fill in the blanks.

I'm not really upset with this old woman. I feel like she has as much a right to sell God as the laundry-mat has a right to sell expensive clothes washing. I just think that there are rules, laws and basic human respect. If you see someone, on an early Saturday morning, just sitting there washing clothes.. Please, don't see this as an opportunity to sell God -- see this as a chance to say "good morning" and then maybe have a real conversation. Be human first,

then, if it seems like a reasonable topic, bring up God...
Just try to have a dialog before the monologue...

Or, maybe the question(s) of 'God?', 'who we are?' and 'how did we get here?' are deeply personal questions and therefore something that should be understood rather than propagandized.