

Funny, I Don't Feel that Stupid!

The fool says in his heart,

"There is no God."

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;

there is no one who does good. – Psalm 14:1

Whenever I have commented on this verse in the past, I have always conscientiously pointed out that David's term for "fool" was essentially synonymous to "the wicked one" as the latter half of the verse tends to make clear. They are corrupt, vile and reticent to do good because, whether or not they are actual atheists, they live as though the presence of god or of any law descending from god is irrelevant. The word does not primarily refer to a lack of intelligence (at least not as intelligence is typically measured), so it always seemed unnecessarily provocative for me to cast aspersion on anyone else's intelligence. Having said that, those fools David has in mind, be they actual atheists or simply those who shake their fists at heaven, never seem the least bit reluctant to denigrate the intelligence of people of faith.

Paul seemed to take scorn and ridicule from the "wise" of this age in stride, understanding that it was foolishness in the eyes of God. I'm not convinced that modern Christians are quite so secure in their beliefs. It seems to bother us greatly to be thought of as rubes. As a result, we have often felt the pressure to harmonize historical, biblical convictions with popular modern "consensus" particularly in the realms of science and ethics. In the meantime, a few angry atheists have released books declaring their aggravation over having been made to feel marginalized by religious people, inspiring a flood of closet atheists to come out. Unbelief is now in vogue. Now, it is no longer just the "wise of this world" poking fun at the intelligence of Christians, but their sheepish followers as well.

I think our culture is at a point where believers would be much happier and much less neurotic if they would just choose to be okay with being thought of as fools by the likes of Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris or Richard Dawkins, three of the "great minds" of this new atheism. In the meantime, I will just enjoy this creation through the filter of loving the One Who I know spoke it into being.

- On a float trip in the Tetons this week, our guide made a reference to the ability of "Mother Nature" to correct and repair herself. Without implying that I knew if the guide was or was not a believer, I simply find it interesting how even an atheist acknowledges the design of nature (even to the point of personifying it as Mother Nature) while at the same time, denying any intelligence behind its wonders.
- As I was descending the Route 14 pass through the Big Horn Mountains of central Wyoming, I noticed many signs matter-of-factly identifying this or that rock layer as anywhere from 640,000 to 250 million years old. Does it not seem logically absurd to believe that even science can authoritatively date anything that predates human existence? I understand how numbers can be extrapolated according to certain dating principles and gimmicks, but certainly, the possibility of undocumented cataclysmic events would obliterate any semblance of accuracy.

- A few weeks ago, my wife sent me a video of a chameleon rapidly changing colors as it climbed over various colors of sunglasses. The video may or may not have been doctored in terms of the numbers of colors represented and/or the speed with which the creature changed colors. That does not alter the fact that the chameleon exists in nature and that for some reason, it is equipped with this remarkable mechanism for preservation. My response to her email was immediate: "Only an imbecile could conclude that this happened randomly!"
- The last straw was Ida, a fossilized monkey with a bone in its foot like unto some bone in a human foot. In the last few weeks, Ida was acclaimed by some to be the missing link, the find to silence evolution skeptics. I could only respond: "And they call *ME* naïve. They scorn *MY* faith and call it blind."

I concede that I am powerless to prevent anyone from calling me stupid for my beliefs in the God of creation and revelation. But, I have learned something of value. Those who would scorn my faith are utterly powerless to make me feel stupid.

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