

Atheism and Theism

If you were to ask one who believes in God as designer if they would change their beliefs if scientific evidence were discovered that would explain everything in the universe without needing to invoke the deity argument, how would they respond? If you were to ask an atheist if they would change their beliefs if the apparent inconsistency between the macro universe of relativity and the micro quantum world were scientifically proven to be without resolution, how would they respond? Reticence.

Instead, the theist might say that any explanation of origins is beyond science. They may remind the atheist that the conservation of mass/energy implies either the universe has always existed and will always exist or that there a God who created it at a moment in time. The atheist may respond by pointing out that particles seem to pop in and out of existence in the quantum world, events which do not seem consistent with conservation and imply that new matter/energy can generate without needing to presume a god.

There's a psychological answer too for this reticence: each would be unwilling to change because of fear. Our beliefs represent who we are at our core. The possibility of changing identity is too frightening ever to consider. For a theist to have to acknowledge that God need not exist and for an atheist to have to acknowledge that God does exist are moments too terrifying for each to even contemplate or imagine.