

CONSIDER THE CONTRAST: Scientific Objectivity vs. Senseless Obstinacy

Dr. Wernher Von Braun [1912-1977], the First Director of NASA [July 1960–February 1970] was Director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the Director of U.S. Army ballistic missile program, He wrote:

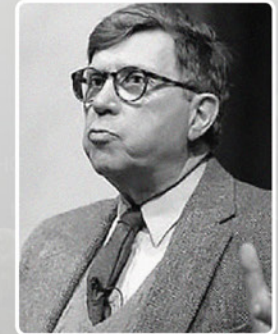


"One cannot be exposed to the law and order of the universe without concluding that there must be design and purpose behind it all. In the world around us, we can behold the obvious manifestations of an ordered, structured plan or design... The better we understand the intricacies of the universe and all it harbors, the more reason we have found to marvel at the inherent design upon which it is based.

While the admission of a design for the universe ultimately raises the question of a Designer... the scientific method does not allow us to exclude data which lead to the conclusion that the universe, life, and man are based on design. To be **FORCED to believe only one conclusion – that everything in the universe happened by chance – would violate the very objectivity of science itself.** Certainly there are those who argue that the universe evolved out of a random process, but what random process could produce the brain of a man or the system of the human eye?"

Dr. Wernher von Braun, written response to the California State Board of Education concerning the "Case for DESIGN" as a viable scientific theory for the origin of the universe, life, and man, September 14, 1972.

Professor Richard Lewontin, evolutionary biologist and geneticist of Harvard University, is certainly one of the world's leaders in evolutionary biology. He wrote:



"Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism.

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are **FORCED by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door."**

Richard Lewontin, Billions and billions of demons (review of The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark by Carl Sagan, 1997), The New York Review, p. 31, 9 January 1997.