

THE FAKE DEBATE

© by John M. Knowles, July 2006 (823 words)

Director, Psychognosia

P.O. Box 62064

8060 Paphos, Cyprus

psygnos@spidernet.com.cy

“What fools these mortals be!” - Puck

According to a 2005 American court ruling, so-called “Intelligent Design” may not be taught in a tax-supported public school in Pennsylvania because such teaching would be contrary to the doctrine of separation of Church and State as decreed by the US Constitution. This judicial decision reflects, once again, the all-too-common misunderstanding of the true meaning of “Intelligent Design”.

A court ruling of this kind has been made possible only because creationist religion has succeeded in hijacking this term and converting it to its own purposes. This success misleadingly frames the debate as if it were properly to be conducted between physical scientific evolutionists and so-called “spiritual” religious creationists. The true doctrinal dispute is, or should be, between two wholly incompatible paradigms: Mentalist Monism, and Materialist Dualism of both the scientific and the religious varieties.

Scientific (or, more properly, scientific) materialists fail to take into account their own source and recognize only mechanical forces of nature as having any relevance. They see a mechanistic world, separate and distinct from its inhabitants. These are all, in turn, forever separate and distinct from each other. “Things” may be “objectively” studied without interference by the observer. Consciousness is declared to be an epiphenomenon, i.e., a chemical secretion of, and limited to, the brain. Ignoring the momentous implications of their own Quantum Physics, materialist-reductionist scientists either fail to perceive or choose deliberately to disregard the underlying unity of a shared existence in which all things are intimately interwoven. Consequently, they reject all of the obvious indications of “Intelligent Design” in the world’s creatures, both individually and, especially, in how they relate to each other in an incredible complexity, the whole united in a vast cosmic harmony. They consider advocacy of a unifying cosmic intelligence to be merely an effort by religionists to introduce an unacceptable “Creationism”.

In turn, the “creationist” materialists have hijacked “Intelligent Design” by smothering it in a narrow, religious context that attributes the existence of the universe to an anthropomorphic God in a far-off Heaven who made everything at a specific time out of nothing, as related in a Book. “He” also separately creates individual souls to be inserted into bodies that will eventually be magically resurrected at the end of days.

What is not generally appreciated is that both scientific and religious materialists visualize the world from within the same paradigm: a Gestalt imposed on them and characterised by their assumption of a materialistic duality. Yet the universe is, by definition, One. Accordingly, beneath the outer appearance of separateness, there can only be an underlying unity. It is only their shared assumption of duality that both generates and reinforces the egos that block both varieties of materialists from perceiving this.

From the monistic standpoint, there is an essential difference between the dualist materialist, whether scientific or religious, and the monistic mentalist. To the mentalist, the universe, *as actually experienced*, is not composed of an unknown, and indeed directly unknowable, “matter”, but is alive, conscious and mental. What the mentalist calls for is a Gestalt Switch, a complete transformation to a new paradigm, wherein one perceives the same world, but in an entirely new and different way. The universe is no longer “out there”; it is “in here”. From this standpoint, materialistic dualism is seen as having been generated by the egoic minds of self-imagined

individuals who, out of fear of imagined “others”, psychologically project an “external” world and thereby wall themselves off from transcendental Reality.

For the mentalist there is no “external” world in the sense in which the ego-blinkered materialist, self-locked into the belief that he or she is forever separate and apart from everything and everyone else, naively *assumes* there is one. The mentalist perceives the all-timed, all-spaced universe and everything in it within the One Being, his or her essential Self. There is no separateness here. All is One in an Eternal Now. Consciousness is primal and ubiquitous. Universal Consciousness clearly implies Universal Intelligence.

Hence the true debate over “Intelligent Design” should lie between the ego-bound materialist, scientific or religious, and the ego-liberated mentalist. In the eyes of the American court, this crucial distinction has been all but obliterated. Although outwardly they appear to be diametrically opposed, the scientific and the religious materialists are both self-confined within the same egoistic box, their own projection. However unwittingly, they have connived to fabricate a straw man to flog publicly in support of their respective illusory, purely dualist-materialist visions of the world.

If it is not already too late, let us at least try to salvage the very important and meaningful term “Intelligent Design” by restoring to it its transcendental mentalist interpretation. We simply cannot sit idly by and allow the hijacking materialists of both schools to continue to get away with their ultimately meaningless charade.