Believing in God and Science,

Einstein and Religion

“. . . provocative, sometimes entertainingly whimsical, mind-stretching and logically solid. . . one of those rare books that gives serious food for thought.”

Professor Owen Gingerich, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

“Neither science nor theology can consider itself informed without taking into account Haisch’s views.”

Larry Dossey, MD, author of Healing Words

San Francisco, CA (May 1, 2010) — By a prominent astro-physicist, editor and author, The Purpose-Guided Universe: Believing in Einstein, Darwin, and God is a new book that declares 21st century science, the Big Bang and evolution as entirely consistent with the concept of intelligence behind the Universe. One can believe in both God and science.

The author, Bernard Haisch, Ph.D., bases his recent discoveries on the numerous coincidences and fine-tunings of the laws of nature that seem extraordinarily unlikely—thereby calling for a more rational concept of God. He advocates the serious scientific study of phenomena outside the traditional scope of science, reconciling modern scientific belief with traditional religious belief.

Dr. Haisch was Scientific Editor of the Astrophysical Journal and Deputy Director of the Center for Extreme Ultraviolet Astrophysics at U.C. Berkeley. He was also a visiting scientist at the Max-Planck Institute for Extraterrestrische Physik in Germany, and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Scientific Exploration.

He has published more than 100 research papers, many in prestigious journals such as Nature, Science, Physical Review, Astrophysical Journal, and Annalen der Physik. And, he has also been published in Science and Spirit and the Journal of Noetic Sciences, a parapsychological journal that “sponsors leading-edge research into the potentials and powers of consciousness.” Haisch is also the author of the best-selling book, God Theory, the Universes, Zero-Point Fields and What’s Behind It All.

— more —
Haisch said: “... you can, and should, be a rational, science-believing human being and at the same time know that you are also an immortal spiritual being, a spark of God. I propose a worldview that offers a way out of the hate and fear-driven violence engulfing the planet.”

# # #

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Career Press Turns 25!

Career Press was founded in 1985 as a niche publisher of career directories which since has grown into one of the best known independent publishers of its kind. Career Press boasts an active, strong-selling backlist of nearly 300 titles spanning careers, personal finance, business management, and study skills.
About the Author

Bernard Haisch, Ph.D.

Bernard Haisch, Ph.D., is an astrophysicist and author of over 130 scientific publications. He served as a scientific editor of the Astrophysical Journal for ten years, and was Principal Investigator on several NASA research projects. After earning his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Haisch did postdoctoral research at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

His professional positions include Staff Scientist at the Lockheed Martin Solar and Astrophysics Laboratory; Deputy Director of the Center for Extreme Ultraviolet Astrophysics at the University of California, Berkeley; and Visiting Scientist at the Max-Planck-Institut fuer Extraterrestrische Physik in Garching, Germany. He was also Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Scientific Exploration. Prior to his career in astrophysics, Haisch attended the Latin School of Indianapolis and the St. Meinrad Seminary as a student for the Catholic priesthood. His first book, The God Theory, received excellent reviews.

He is married, with three children, and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Marsha Sims.
Interview Questions

The Purpose Guided Universe: Believing in Einstein, Darwin and God

Written by Bernard Haisch

- Is there a God?
- What is The God Theory?
- Is the God you are proposing at odds with science?
- What are the key properties of the Universe that make it conducive to life?
- What is the Multiverse Theory in Astrophysics?
- What is the difference between The God Theory and that?
- How can you have spirituality without religion?
- Why is it important to differentiate between spirituality and religion?
- Is religion a good or a bad thing for mankind?
- What are the biggest problems with organized religion?
- Are some religions better than others?
- Why do most scientists reject the idea of a supreme intelligence?
How does consciousness arise out of matter?

Does consciousness create reality?

Does quantum mechanics have anything to say about consciousness?

What is quantum entanglement?

Is there a purpose for the Universe?

Is there a purpose for my life?

How can you be so sure of The God Theory?

Can science and spirituality be bridged?

Is physics facing a crisis today?

Do you accept Darwinian evolution?

You present a very interesting twist on creation. It's not something out of nothing, it's something out of everything. Can you tell us about that?

What do you hope to achieve with this book?
THE PURPOSE-GUIDED UNIVERSE

By Bernard Haisch

Preface

Is it possible that there is a purpose behind the universe? One that is consistent with modern science and especially the Big Bang and evolution? I propose that there is such a grand purpose and that this has profound implications for the meaning of our lives.

More than 30 years ago, Nobel laureate Steven Weinberg famously (some would say infamously) wrote in his book, The First Three Minutes: "The more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless." This is a pretty bleak view of things. If the universe is pointless, then probably so are we. That is not a life-enhancing perspective. There is no joy in Mudville.

Things have changed dramatically since then. The evidence today is quite the opposite. It has come to light in the fields of physics and astrophysics over the past two decades that there are numerous coincidences and fine-tunings of the laws of nature that altogether seem extraordinarily unlikely and need to be explained. These key properties of the Universe have just the right values to make life possible.

To be fair, it is possible to explain these coincidences and fine-tunings as just a matter of statistics. This involves a concept called the multiverse. The concept of the multiverse is that our apparently special universe is just one of a vast number of universes all of which may be different from each other in unimaginable ways. There is no evidence whatsoever for this, but it makes for an interesting theory.

I am proposing that an equally likely—and perhaps even slightly more likely—explanation is that there is a conscious intelligence behind the universe and that the purpose of the universe and of our human lives is very intimately involved with that intelligence.

The intelligence I am proposing—and we might as well call it God—has nothing to do with the anti-evolutionary view called "intelligent design." On the contrary, a Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago, a 4.6 billion year old Earth, and Darwinian evolution are essential ingredients of a purposeful universe in the view I present. This God needs Darwin to carry out his plan.

Two of the most prominent and accomplished astrophysicists of the last century were Sir James Jeans and Sir Arthur Eddington. Both espoused the view that consciousness was likely the foundation of the universe itself. Jeans wrote in his The Mysterious Universe: "The universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a
great machine." Even Max Planck, the discoverer of the quantum, wrote in *The Universe in Light of Modern Physics* that "there are realities existing apart from our sense perceptions." And exceptional human experiences and accounts of mystics throughout the ages point in the same direction of a fundamental underlying consciousness. There is indeed mounting evidence from the opposite side of physics—the microscopic realm of quantum mechanics—that this view of consciousness as the basis of reality is correct.

As long ago as 1932, mathematician John von Neumann showed that quantum mechanics requires consciousness to produce any kind of measurement result. The connection between quantum mechanics and consciousness has ever since been a nagging, unwelcome, best to pretend it doesn’t matter sort of skeleton in the physics closet. But new experiments have pried open the closet door. Quantum theory states that it is the act of observing an object to be at a certain place that actually causes it to be there. This is verified in the laboratory. But we ourselves and the world around us are comprised of atoms which are governed by quantum laws. If consciousness is at the heart of quantum physics (and it is) that puts it at the basis of everything.

Recent bestsellers have denounced the evils of religion and proclaimed that science has shown that there is no God. But the human misuse of religions and the existence of God are very different matters. The problem is: what kind of God are we talking about?

In his little pull-no-punches *Letter to a Christian Nation*, anti-God author Sam Harris goes on a romp through the Bible finding example after example of God decreeing things for his followers to do that only a sociopathic deranged despot would decree. Such things as stoning your bride to death if she proves not to be a virgin; such things as demanding the slaughter of even women and children if they happen to live in the wrong city at the wrong time... and even innocent cattle to boot.

"Destroy it utterly!" says the God of Deuteronomy. Nowadays he would probably issue the command to nuke the enemy city. If that nut case is God, add me to the ranks of the atheists. But I say with confidence that there will be no retribution coming my way because that God does not exist. He is merely the product of the dark side of the human imagination (which unfortunately is alive and well in certain parts of the world today).

I am proposing a new concept of God which is actually very old. It is part of the Perennial Philosophy, which is basically a distillation of core religious beliefs throughout the ages. My contribution is to bring this to the attention of a world sorely in need of an uplifting sense of purpose, and to put it in the context of recent scientific discoveries about the exceptional properties of the universe and the actual scientific evidence for consciousness creating reality at the quantum level.

Aldous Huxley made the heroic effort of collecting and comparing this mystical stream of fundamental metaphysical truths from many cultures and eras in his book *The Perennial Philosophy*. It concerns the nature of reality, the self, and the meaning and
purpose of existence. Huxley’s book was greatly praised by one of the founders of modern physics, Erwin Schroedinger.

Key tenets of the Perennial Philosophy are:

- The physical universe of matter is not the sole reality. Other non-physical realities exist which may contain other life-forms. Interestingly this is consistent with string theory and M-theory at the forefront of modern physics.
- Our human nature has both a material side subject to physical laws, birth, and death, as well as a non-material immortal spirit or soul.
- All humans possess a capacity to intuitively perceive the true multifaceted nature of ourselves and the greater reality. Unfortunately this is pretty dormant in modern society.

But the greatest truth of all is the saying: Thou art that! Here "thou" refers to our own spiritual nature and "that" is God. And therein lies the answer to the great riddle: If God is responsible for creating the universe (in the Big Bang), why in heaven’s name did he do this? The answer, I believe, is to experience physical reality in all the diverse ways possible in such a universe. That is why I think that the just right laws of physics are really the just right ideas of God made manifest, the "great thought" that Jeans proposed.

An infinite intelligence selects an ensemble of compatible ideas that then become the laws of nature of a given universe. The proper combination results in a universe where life can originate and evolve and the consciousness of God can then experience its potential. This does indeed give us each a great life’s purpose: to create God’s experience as the incarnations of him in physical form.

I certainly am not claiming that what I am proposing can be proven. Unresolved riddles remain, such as the origin and nature of evil. Free will and karma surely play a role in that conundrum, but when it comes to God’s plans, the devil is in the details.

The Jesuit paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin wrote: "Surely we are not human beings having a spiritual experience, but spiritual beings having a human experience." I would modify this to say: We are God having a human experience. This book explains why this makes sense, is in no way in conflict with science, and has the potential to transform human consciousness.