

## How Did Everything Get Here?

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • March 7, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021  
Scripture Reader and Reading: Chris Meyer – Hebrews 13.1–3  
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on God

### I. When I was in high school,

- A. I remember thinking that everything that exists
- B. can be classified as either matter or mind.
  - 1. Some friends of mine and I talked about it.
  - 2. Chuck Myberger was involved, but I do not recall others.
    - a) He and I liked to talk about such things.
    - b) Whether I came up with this myself or
      - (1) someone influenced me this way,
      - (2) whether teacher or friend,
        - (a) I do not remember.

### II. However, that still sounds plausible to me.

- A. Name anything and
- B. it will have one of these two characteristics, and
  - 1. humans have both.
  - 2. That we are matter is obvious.
    - a) To the atheist and evolutionist,
    - b) having a mind that is separate from the body, or
    - c) that inhabits the body, and
      - (1) that mind not having materialistic characteristics,
      - (2) does not jive with their thinking.
- C. However, if you are not already persuaded
  - 1. that the mind is separate from the body,
  - 2. that the mind is not the brain,

- a) please continue to follow me, and
- b) give additional time later on your own to contemplate these things.

### **III. The body can affect the mind, but**

A. I will illustrate that a little later with a driver in a car.

B. For now, consider that the mind has power over the body, hence over matter.

- 1. King Solomon said in the Book of Proverbs somethings
- 2. that I think people recognize as happening all the time, yet,
  - a) these things show that we are not all matter,
  - b) that the matter of our body
    - (1) houses mind,
    - (2) which includes
      - (a) the inward heart,
      - (b) the spirit, and
      - (c) the soul.

C. First, consider the affect of anxiety:

**25     Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression,  
But a good word makes it glad.**

**– Proverbs 12.25**

- 1. Is the anxiety nothing more than matter acting a certain way?
- 2. Is the gladness also nothing more than matter acting a certain way?
  - a) How is it that mere matter can hear a word and become glad?
  - b) How is it that mere matter can cause depression?
    - (1) It seems that we are more than a bag of chemicals and reactions.
    - (2) Mere matter cannot fully define who and what we are.

D. Second, the affects of being merry or sorrowful:

**13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance,  
But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.**

**– Proverbs 15.13**

1. How does the condition of the heart,
2. meaning the inward nature, not the blood pump,
  - a) affect the countenance or attitude?

**22 A merry heart does good, like medicine,  
But a broken spirit dries the bones.  
– Proverbs 17.22**

**14 The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness,  
But who can bear a broken spirit?  
– Proverbs 18.14**

- b) In both of these passages,
  - (1) I think we have trues
  - (2) that everyone on both sides agree happens.
    - (a) The evolutionist and the creationist, the atheist and the theist
      - i) can see how being merry helps the body, whereas
      - ii) a broken spirit hurts the body.
    - (b) Both camps have witnessed
      - i) people whose spirit enabled them to endure sickness, and
      - ii) they have seen the travesty that a broken spirit can work.

**IV. For me, this narrows it down to these questions:**

- A. Can matter bring about mind?
- B. Can mind bring about matter?

1. What I am asking is
  - a) which one is first and greater, or

- b) which one is active and which one is passive.
  - (1) Which one does the acting upon and
  - (2) which one is acted upon?
- 2. By answering these questions
- 3. we can determine
  - a) whether matter brought about mind or
  - b) whether mind brought about matter.
    - (1) Is the universe the maker or the made?
    - (2) Is mind the maker or the made?

**V. How can matter always be?**

- A. From where did it come?
- B. We observe matter and
  - 1. it is subject to the laws of nature.
  - 2. Those laws tell us
    - a) that things have a beginning and
    - b) that things have an ending.
      - (1) Atheists tell us that the universe has an age.
      - (2) What does that tell you?
        - (a) It tells me it had a beginning.
        - (b) They tell you that it began with the Big Bang.
          - i) Some will tell you that nothing existed before.
          - ii) Others will tell you that everything was condensed into the size of a period at the end of a sentence.
  - 3. In their minds,
    - a) either matter created itself or
    - b) matter, in the size of that period, has always been.

- (1) How can either one of those options be possible?
  - (a) Something cannot come from nothing and
  - (b) matter could not have been here since eternity.
4. Consider the matter that is present on the earth.
  - a) Compare the variety and abundance of the earth
  - b) with our moon and now with Mars.
    - (1) They are bland.
    - (2) Pretty much one color. One substance.
      - (a) Yet, the earth has variety that is beyond spectacular.
      - (b) Go to Mars and try to make anything that you desire.
        - i) Then return to the earth and
        - ii) make anything that you desire.
5. My point is that the earth, and all its matter, is very special.
  - a) It is as though the earth was made for us to be here.
  - b) Stuart Clark, an astronomy journalist, wrote an article titled:  
**“How Come Earth Got All the Good Stuff?”**
    - (1) It is not just that mind created matter, but
    - (2) that same mind arranged a bunch of matter
      - (a) in a particular location
      - (b) that is ideal to life.
6. I am arguing
  - a) that not only did mind, or a mind,
  - b) create the matter of the universe, but
    - (1) that mind created the earth as a special home for man.
    - (2) That mind has something specific for us in mind.

C. To me,

1. it is reasonable to say that something made everything.
2. That something was mind, not matter.
  - a) Mind was the creator.
  - b) Matter was the created.

D. Whereas, the atheist argues

1. that either something came from nothing, or
2. that everything has always been although condensed to the size of a period.
  - a) Either way the miracle of the atheist far surpasses
  - b) anything that I affirm as a theist.

## **VI. How can mind always be?**

A. Mind is not matter.

1. Remember that the mind is not the brain.
2. The mind uses the brain to control our bodies, our matter.

B. When we think the mind is fading or deteriorating,

1. it is not the mind, but
2. it is the brain,
  - a) like the rest of the naturalistic body
  - b) that is breaking down.

**16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.**

**2 Corinthians 4.16**

C. It is like a man driving a car.

1. The car begins to deteriorate.
2. However, that does not mean

- a) that the man inside is having the same experience as the car.
  - b) Eventually, the car will need serious repair, or
    - (1) it may just finally break down and
    - (2) be beyond repair.
      - (a) The man gets out of the car and
      - (b) buys another one.
3. That is what happens to us.
- a) Our bodies break down to the point
  - b) that nature and man cannot repair them anymore.
    - (1) Then we die:

**26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

**– James 2.26**

**7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was,  
And the spirit will return to God who gave it.**

**– Ecclesiastes 12.7**

- (2) However, our spirits, our minds, our hearts, our souls,
  - (a) take on something new:

**1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.**

**– 2 Corinthians 5.1–4**

- (b) Our inward nature enters the realm of the spirit, and

- i) we receive some type of temporary covering,
- ii) as we wait for the resurrection,
  - (1) when our spirit reenters our bodies,
  - (2) which will have been given a glorified makeover.

D. Eventually the matter of our bodies so break down,

- 1. that the doctor can no longer make repairs, and
- 2. the mind, the spirit, the real person on the inside,
  - a) leaves the matter of the naturalistic body and
  - b) goes to another place,
    - (1) awaiting a new body,
    - (2) which will be better than his old body.
      - (a) Doctors may not be able to repair the body, but
      - (b) the Great Mind who created all things,
        - i) can remake the body,
        - ii) turning it into a glorious spiritual body.

E. Here is my point.

- 1. I am not arguing that our minds created matter or us.
- 2. But by using us as an example
  - a) that mind and matter are different things and
  - b) that mind is greater than matter,
    - (1) I want you to transfer that thinking
    - (2) to see that mind, the mind of God, created matter.
      - (a) Mind has always been.
      - (b) Matter had a beginning.
- 3. The Big Bang Explanation argues that matter has always been.
- 4. The Creation Explanation argues that mind has always been.

- a) Which one will you believe?
- b) Which one seems more reasonable to you?
- c) Which one explains the appearance of the universe better?