

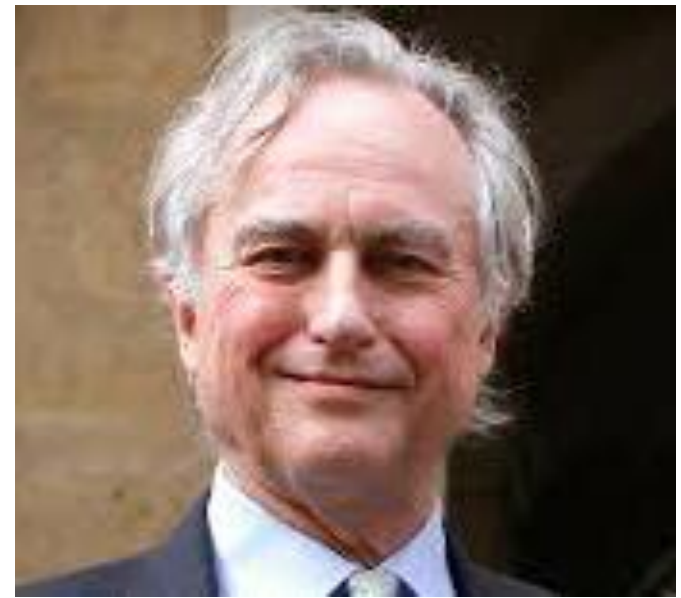
# **Intelligent Design and the Being of God**

Larry D. Paarmann

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“Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”  
Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*.



Is design in nature appearance only, or is the design real?

“Yet the living results of natural selection overwhelmingly impress us with the **appearance of design** as if by a master watchmaker, impress us with the **illusion of design** and planning.”  
Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*.

ID is contributing substantially to a long-standing assault on the integrity of science education.



Eugenie Scott



Nicholas J. Matzke

Does the natural world show evidence of intelligent design, or is the apparent design only illusory?

# Brief Historical Review

“Almost everybody throughout history, up to the second half of the nineteenth century, has firmly believed in the opposite [the opposite of Darwinian natural selection] the Conscious Designer theory.” Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*.

In 1802, William Paley published *Natural Theology or Evidence of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity, collected from the appearances of nature*. Famously, in the first chapter, Paley describes in detail someone discovering a watch along a path and even if he had no knowledge of watches at all, or even if such things exist, ascertains that the watch was designed.

Paley presents evidence that God is the master designer of the universe and all things therein just as much as a watchmaker is the designer of a watch. Dawkins' book, *The Blind Watchmaker*, is, of course, a take-off on Paley's watchmaker.



“The first point, Lucilius then said, does not seem to even need discussion, for what can be clearer and more obvious, when we have lifted our eyes to the sky, and have gazed upon the heavenly bodies, than that there exists some divine power of exalted intelligence by which these are ruled?” Marcus Tullius Cicero (d. 45 BC), *On the Nature of the Gods*.

Further on in the same book, Cicero wrote: “there is something in nature which the mind, the reason, the strength, and the power of man would be unable to produce, surely that which does produce it is higher than man; now the heavenly bodies, and all those phenomena which observe an everlasting order, cannot be created by man; consequently that by which they are created is higher than man. And what could you say this was rather than God? . . . But that there should be a man who thinks that in the whole universe there is nothing higher than himself shows senseless arrogance. There is, then, something higher, and therefore there is assuredly a God.”

Plato wrote in *Dialogue Philebus* as follows:

“Socrates: Very good; let us begin then, Protarchus, by asking a question.

Protarchus: What question?

Socrates: Whether all this which they call the universe is left to the guidance of unreason and chance medley, or, on the contrary, as our fathers have declared, ordered and governed by a marvelous intelligence and wisdom.

. . .

Socrates: Do not then suppose that these words are rashly spoken by us, O Protarchus, for they are in harmony with the testimony of those who said of old time that mind rules the universe.

Protarchus: True.

Socrates: And they furnish an answer to my enquiry; for they imply that mind is the parent of that class of the four which we called the cause of all; and I think that you now have my answer.”

For hundreds of years BC up until recently, that is throughout recorded history, we have it that many have seen compelling evidence of design in the natural world that implies a creator. Darwinian evolution has led many to deny such implications of nature, but as we will see, many others still find the evidence of design in nature compelling.

# Some Who See Design

Scientists are slowly waking up to an inconvenient truth – the universe looks suspiciously like a fix. The issue concerns the very laws of nature themselves.



Paul Davies  
Prof. of Physics

There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all . . . It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature's numbers to make the Universe. . . . The impression of design is overwhelming.

Paul Davies, continued

A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.



Fred Hoyle  
Astronomer

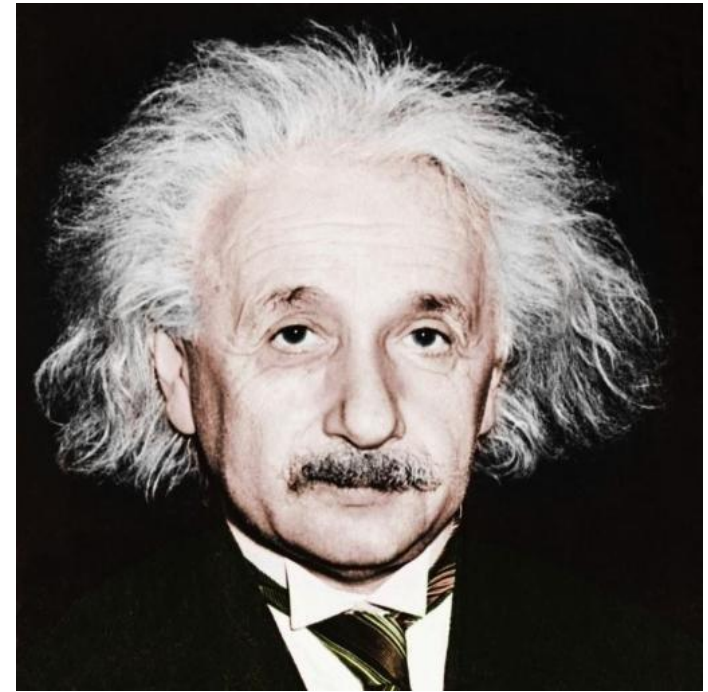
The idea of a universal mind or Logos would be, I think, a fairly plausible inference from the present state of scientific theory.



Arthur Eddington  
Astronomer

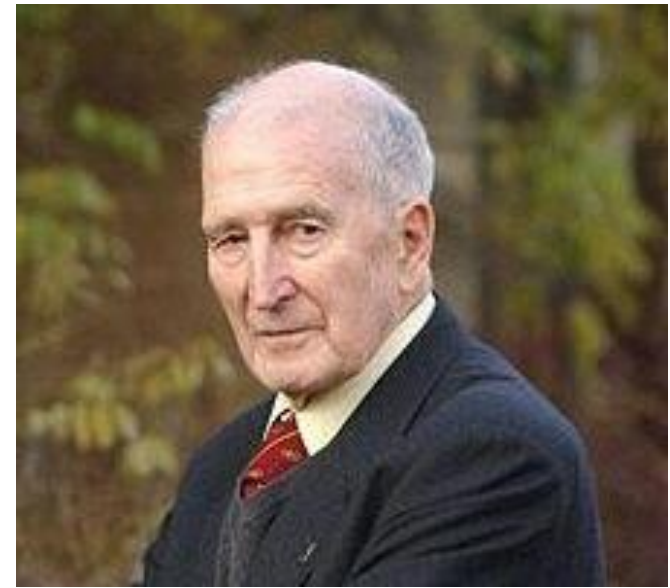


The scientist is possessed by the sense of universal causation. . . . His religious feeling takes the form of a rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.



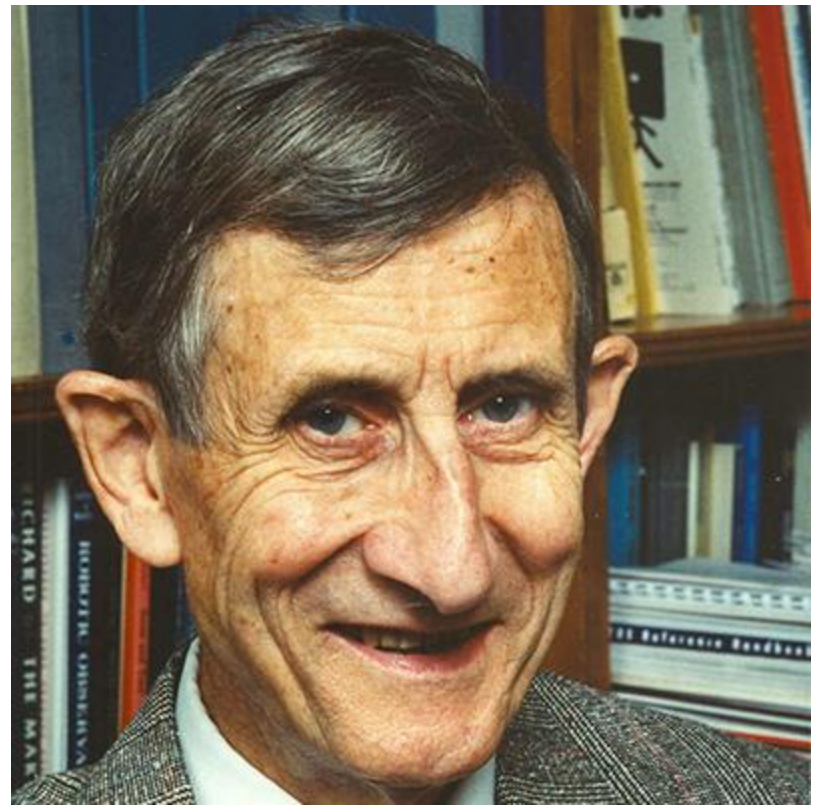
Albert Einstein  
Nobel Prize winner

I think that the most impressive arguments for God's existence are those that are supported by recent scientific discoveries. . . . I think the argument to Intelligent Design is enormously stronger than it was when I first met it. . . . It now seems to me that the findings of more than fifty years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to Design.



Antony Flew  
Renown former atheist

The universe shows evidence of the operations of mind on three levels. The first level is elementary physical processes, as we see them when we study atoms in the laboratory. The second level is our direct human experience of our own consciousness. The third level is the universe as a whole. . . . I am sure of only one thing. When we look at the glory of stars and galaxies in the sky and the glory of forests and flowers in the living world around us, it is evident that God loves diversity.



Freeman Dyson  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Princeton

Such bewildering complexity is exactly why language (including genetic language) can never be the product of chance, but requires intelligent design. The genome is literally a book, written literally in a language, and short sequences are literally sentences. Having random letters fall into place to make a single meaningful sentence, by accident, is numerically not feasible.



John C. Sanford  
Plant Geneticist

It seems to me that when confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask why and not just how. . . . But the context of religion is a great background for doing science. In the words of Psalm 19, 'The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork'. Thus scientific research is a worshipful act, in that it reveals more of the wonders of God's creation. . . . I find a need for God in the universe and in my own life.



Arthur Schawlow  
Nobel Prize winner in Physics  
Stanford University

Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe that was created out of nothing and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence of an absurdly-improbable accident, the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say, supernatural plan.



Arno Penzias  
Nobel Prize winner in Physics

# Summary & Conclusion

Intelligent Design as an area of scientific research, while embraced by some, is rejected by others, and perhaps by the majority of scientists. Yet, observing design in nature is something reported throughout the ages. And, as indicated above, many modern very accomplished scientists report observing design in nature as well. Above we briefly indicated some 8 scientists (19 in the paper) who see design in nature, including 4 who are Nobel Prize winners.

# Summary & Conclusion

- Proving that something is designed, rather than occurring naturally, is not easy. However, it should be noted that detecting design is routinely done in forensics and archeology, and sophisticated design detection procedures have been developed.



# Summary & Conclusion

- Whether Intelligent Design is indeed “science” or not is not really a “scientific” question, but rather one of semantics, or definition. The real question is not so much is Intelligent Design science, but rather is it true.

# Summary & Conclusion

- Let us end with the question we began with, “Does the natural world show evidence of intelligent design, or is the apparent design only illusory?”