

Greater Fool Theory

The Death of Spiritualism

by
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Originally, my opinion blog was going to be called Greater Fool Theory before I changed it to BrettRants on the assumption only a greater fool would take spiritual (or any advice) from me (or any other).

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Atheists believe in evolution, so to better understand Atheism, it may provide some clarity as to what exactly is meant by the term Atheism by deconstructing Atheism's logical evolution.

According to Atheists, life evolved from the muck.

Right from the start, this life interacted with the environment.

However, it was perhaps not for millions or even billions of years before this life gained the ability to develop theories about its environment. To think as it were.

Without a doubt, some of these thoughts were accurate. And some of them were not.

So, we have error in the system.

Time goes by. Humans arrive on the scene. And what constitutes thought has become astoundingly complex.

However, the system is not perfect and there is still error.

One of the errors is a belief in magic and spiritualism and that there is something more out there than what we can see. I shall call this erroneous belief the Spirit Realm.

There are different beliefs about the Spirit Realm; and although the specifics do not matter (for all such specifics are by definition erroneous), it will help in our understanding if it is understood how

completely these erroneous beliefs captured the human mind in the not too distant past. To wit:

All of nature (clouds, lightning, animal herds) were believed to be controlled by Spirits -- gods, if you will.

Some felt that these gods had a king, call him Zeus or Allah or whatever.

And perhaps most importantly, humans had a conduit to this Spiritual Realm by looking inward: by praying, by meditating, by communing with their dreams.

In support of this, I will point out that:

When the Blessed Mother Mary gave Virgin Birth to the Lord Jesus Christ, she was not the first woman to have done so. It was fairly standard practice for unwed mothers to claim Virgin Birth and thereby avoid the stoning that would befall them if they claimed otherwise.

And then when Jesus said he would rise from the grave, the Romans took him seriously and sealed his grave. Because rising from the dead was a possibility. Ghosts and demons and devils were a reality.

So much so, and for so long, that as late as the 17th Century, witches were burned at the stake because someone had had a dream about them in which the witch had done something wrong.

I put it to you that witches were burned based on the thoughts of somebody else -- quite literally. Not for what they had done, but for what another had dreamed, what had transpired in another's head, what another had thought.

Sheer primatism.

Time passes, we enter the Age of Reason, and Descartes splits the Universe into two. From hence forth, there will be the Physical World and the Mental World.

However, even Descartes believed in God. His often quoted, 'I think, therefore I am,' was really just the opening sally in a treatise that can adequately summed up as, 'I think, therefor I am... and so does God.'

You see, for Descartes, thinking is real. The Spiritual World exists and therefore God exists as the master of this Spirit World.

In fact, this is de rigor for the time, as Wittenstien offers more or less the same proof. Read his stuff. Thought is equated with the Spiritual Realm. And since nobody would rationally deny the existence of thought (except perhaps in jest), nobody could rationally deny the existence of the Spiritual Realm for thought and the spirit were the same. And if the Spirit Realm obviously existed, it not really that big of a jump to assume that it has some sort of ruler.

From there (in History), I don't know exactly where things changed. I have a hunch we can look to Freud and psychology. But whatever the moment (and perhaps due to a general dissatisfaction in the Scientific World and lack of evidence for anything one might term as Psychic Research: aka Spiritualism, Seances, ESP, remote viewing, and so forth) the World of Thought got split into two groups: thought (which no rational man will deny) and the Spirit (for which the evidence is amazingly slim to non-existent).

But this lack of proof is hardly a fault of Spiritualism; it's a matter of how it's been defined.

The Material World is what we can measure. If we can perform a direct experiment on something, it basically exists, and has therefore has been grouped in with the Material.

So Thought and Spiritual are by definition, those parts left over (if any) that we cannot measure. And therefore, it is ridiculous to say that the Spiritual does not exist because we cannot measure it. This is part of it's definition.

Thought differs from Spiritual (for the purposes of this discussion) in that Thought is isolated to the individual. No reasonable man (get it) denies thought. Both neuroscience and common sense would tell us that our brain's have a state of being: much as at any given instant a computer's dynamic memory array consists of a series of 1's & 0's, at any given moment a human brain has a state. This state is what I mean by Thought. You have it. I have it.

Thinking is what brains do.

Thought is the intellectual representation of the physical state of the brain. I hope we can all agree on that.

What we may not be able to agree on is a definition for Spiritualism. For my purposes, however, I am going to put forth that Spiritualism entails whatever is capable of being done by Thoughts that is not transmitted through the brain and/or implemented by the body, which is to say that part of the brain, which has no physical counterpart.

Unfortunately, a Thought which only exists in the Spirit World and that does not effect the physical world cannot be substantiated by Science.

Thus, the only aspect of the Spirit World that we may ever (logically) be able to verify is some aspect that effects the Material World.

And so here we have it. When an Atheist is asking for proof of the Spiritual, what they are seeking is a Thought (not necessarily their own) which effects the Physical World in such a way that the Thought does not act through the thinker's own body (or willing accomplices).

Or in other words, the challenge is to effect the Physical World without using any aspect of the Physical World as an intermediary, only Thought -- this is the challenge.

Is it possible?

Even conceptually?

If not, the Spiritual has been defined out of existence (talked to death as it were), and the Atheist argument is void. For if something cannot be disproved or invalidated, then it is not a theory, it is not a hypothesis, it is a belief, held on faith -- no different from a religion.

So this really begs the question, what are we looking for?

What would counter the Atheist's objection?

The answer, of course, is a Miracle.

And by Miracle, of course, we mean the impossible.

Which is to say, as proof of the Spiritual, Scientists (some), Atheists (most), have raised the bar (quite literally) impossibly high. For the Spiritual to exist, evidence must be found of the Impossible, a Miracle, and of course, since this is not possible, it will never be found no matter how far Science progresses.

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There are things are currently possible.

And there are things that are not.

And what the future will hold, no one can say, and no one can know...