

Review: Jerry A. Coyne, *Faith vs Fact: Why Science and Religion Are Incompatible*, Viking, NY, 2015

Pages: 301

The Compatibility of Faith and Atheism

Coyne tries hard to present a philosophical case for Atheist based on Evolutionism, which is all this book is. His so-called ‘facts’ are just papal dogmas that “Evolution is true”. That’s it.

The philosophy itself is painful to read:

1. Science is claimed to be the only source of truth (self-refuting). [pxix]
2. Reality (Realism) is just assumed to be true.
3. God can’t exist because someone had to have created him (the juvenile Atheist’s ‘where did God come from?’. [p159]
4. He’s a multiverse mystic; that this ridiculous fantasy is somehow compatible with the scientific method he claims to be defending. [p163]
5. The laws of nature are not assumed, but then he assumes them!
“The orderliness of nature – the so-called set of **natural laws** – **is not an assumption** but an observation ... **The laws of nature**, then, **are** regularities (**assumptions, if you will**) based on experience. [p210]
6. Science has disproven a real Adam (because he already assumes Evolution is true).

On other issues he’s equally blind in propagating dogma:

- Thinks the HPV quaxxine is safe and effective [p241]
- So-called ‘Climate change’ is real and an existential threat.

The sad fact is Coyne probably believes everything he's written, and is headed for the objective truth of God's existence sooner or later.

Preface (pp. xi-xxii)

Coyne was raised a secular Jew, a hairsbreadth from Atheism, and abandoned any theism at age 17 while listening to the Beatles' Sergeant Pepper album.

"Science is the *only* way to find such truths – if you construe 'science' broadly." [pxix]

I) The Problem (pp. 1-25)

Charles Darwin's 1859 publication of *On the Origin of Species*. The greatest scripture-killer ever penned.

"Man of our allies in the battle against creationism are liberal religious believers who themselves proclaim that evolution doesn't violate their faith ... there is no witness more convincing than a believer who will testify that evolution is consonant with his own religion *and* that creationism is not science." [p7]

"Religious scientist are in some ways like the many smokers who don't get lung cancer." [p14]

The Templeton Foundation promotes accommodationism, and BioLogos has a Clergy Letter Project.

II) What's Incompatible? (pp. 26-96)

"Scientific truth is never absolute, but provisional."

Deus absconditus ("the hidden God").

III) Why Accommodationism Fails (pp. 97-150)

"ID arguments have been refuted by scientists." [p138]

“Errors that occur when DNA replicates ... fuel evolution.” [p146]

“Why an omnipotent and loving God who directed evolution would lead it into so many dead ends ... The cruelty of natural selection, which involves endless wastage and pain, also demands explanation. Wouldn’t a loving and all-powerful God simply have produced all existing species de novo, as described in Genesis?” [p147]

“If God gets the credit for the adaptive mutations that led to humans, why is he exculpated for the maladaptive ones, like mutations that cause cancers, genetic diseases, and deformed children?” [p148]

Alvin Plantinga: “Satan and his minions ... may have been permitted to play a role in the evolution of life on earth.” [p149]

IV) Faith Strikes Back (pp. 151-224)

“The orderliness of nature – the so-called set of natural laws – is not an assumption but an observation ... The laws of nature, then, are regularities (**assumptions, if you will**) based on experience. [p210]

V) Why Does It Matter? (pp. 225-241)

Acknowledgements (pp. 242-)

Jerry’s friends: Dan Barker; Peter Boghossian; Richard Dawkins; Daniel Dennett; Anthony Grayling; Steve Pinker; Michael Shermer.