

## Significant Quotes on Science & Religion

### Rabbi Michael Lotker

1. “To know an answer to the question, ‘What is the meaning of human life? *means* to be religious.” Albert Einstein<sup>1</sup>
2. “The idea of life having a purpose stands and falls with the religious system.” Sigmund Freud<sup>2</sup>
3. “To believe in God means to understand the question about the meaning of life. To believe in God means to see that the facts of the world are not the end of the matter. To believe in God means to see that life has a meaning.” Ludwig Wittgenstein<sup>3</sup>
4. “Science investigates, religion interprets... Religion and science are two hemispheres of human thought.” Martin Luther King, Jr.<sup>4</sup>
5. “Science takes things apart to see how they work. Religion puts them together to see what they mean.” Jonathan Sacks<sup>5</sup>
6. “God lives where we let Him in.” Rabbi Menahem Mendel of Kotzk<sup>6</sup>
7. “There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintain moral life without the aid of religion.” Will and Ariel Durant<sup>7</sup>
8. “Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion... Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.” George Washington’s farewell address.<sup>8</sup>
9. “To claim the world as creation is not to denounce evolution and debunk science. To the contrary, it is to join in covenant with science in acknowledging creation’s integrity, as well as its giftedness and worth. To see the world as creation is to re-commit ourselves to its care, not as the fittest, most powerful creatures on the animal planet but as a species held uniquely responsible for creation’s flourishing.” William P. Brown<sup>9</sup>
10. “For if science is about the world that is and religion is about the world that ought to be, then religion needs science because *we cannot apply God’s will to the world if we do not understand the world.*” Jonathan Sacks (italics in original)<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Cited in *The Great Partnership*, J. Sacks, Hodder & Stoughton, 2011, pg. 19.

<sup>2</sup> ibid

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, pg. 39

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, pg. 78

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, pg. 144

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, pg. 146

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, pg. 209

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, pg. 214

11. "There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being evolved." Charles Darwin's last sentence of *The Origin of Species*<sup>11</sup>
12. "Among all my patients in the second half of life... there has not been one whose problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life... and none of them had really been healed who did not regain his religious outlook." Carl Jung<sup>12</sup>
13. "King Frederick the Great once asked his physician, Zimmerman of Brugg-in-Aargau, 'Zimmermann, can you name me a single proof of the existence of God?' The physician replied, 'Your majesty, the Jews.'"<sup>13</sup>
14. "But science can only be created by those who are thoroughly imbued with the aspiration toward truth and understanding. This source of feeling, however springs from the sphere of religion. To this there also belongs the faith in the possibility that the regulations valid for the world of existence are rational, that is, comprehensible to reason. I cannot conceive of a genuine scientist without that profound faith. The situation may be expressed by an image: *science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.*" Albert Einstein (italics mine)<sup>14</sup>
15. "The most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible" Albert Einstein, expressing his amazement that the laws of physics, which our minds are somehow attuned to understand, apply not just here on Earth but also in the remotest galaxy.<sup>15</sup>
16. "Life arising through random chemical reactions was 'as likely as the assemblage of a 747 by a tornado whirling through a junkyard.'" Sir Fred Hoyle<sup>16</sup>
17. "Randomly replication the DNA of the simplest known life is about as likely as drawing the ace of spades (randomly from a deck of cards) 119,000 in a row." R. Piccioni<sup>17</sup>
18. "Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, and delicately balance to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence of an absurdly improbable accident, the observations of modern science seem to

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid, pg. 217

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, pg. 267

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, pg. 275

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, pg. 297

<sup>15</sup> Cited in *Just Six Numbers: the Deep Forces That Shape the Universe*, M. Rees, Basic Books, 2000, pg. 10.

<sup>16</sup> Cited in *Can Life Be Merely An Accident*, Robert L. Piccioni, 2010, pg. 8

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, pg. 58

suggest an underlying, one might say, supernatural, plan.” Nobel prize winning physicist Arno Penzias.<sup>18</sup>

19. “The odds of our anthropic universe arising amidst the total phase-space volume of possible universes for a creation event is so exceedingly, exceedingly, exceedingly remote that its notation in regular exponential form is one part in 10 to the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 123<sup>rd</sup>. This number is so large that if we were to write it out in ordinary notation (with every zero being, say, ten point type), it would fill up a large portion of the universe! Robert Spitzer<sup>19</sup>
20. “So vast, without any question, is the Divine Handiwork of the Almighty Creator! Copernicus<sup>20</sup>
21. “Steven Hawking says that if the rate of expansion one second after the Big Bang had been smaller by even one part in a hundred thousand million million ( $10^{-17}$  or 1/100,000,000,000,000,000), the universe would have re-collapsed before life could have formed. On the other hand, had it been greater than one part in a million, the universe would have expanded too rapidly for stars and planets to form.<sup>21</sup>
22. Astrophysicist Robert Jastrow ends his book, *God and the Astronomers* with this striking passage: “At this moment it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of creation. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”<sup>22</sup>
23. “The more I examine the universe and the details of its architecture, the more evidence I find that the universe in some sense must have known we were coming.” Physicist Freeman Dyson<sup>23</sup>
24. “The only path to knowing God is through the study of science – and for that reason the Bible opens with a description of creation.” Maimonides, Guide for the Perplexed (1190)<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Cited in *New Proofs for the Existence of God*, Robert J. Spitzer, Erdmans, 2010, pg. 13

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, pg. 59

<sup>20</sup> Cited in *God’s Universe*, Owen Gingerich, Harvard Univ. Press, 2006, pg. 9

<sup>21</sup> Cited in *When Science Meets Religion*, Ian G. Barbour, HarperSanFrancisco, 2000, pg. 57

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, pg. 41

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, pg. 58

<sup>24</sup> Cited in *The Science of God*, G. Schroeder, 1997