

Naturalism vs. Christian Theism

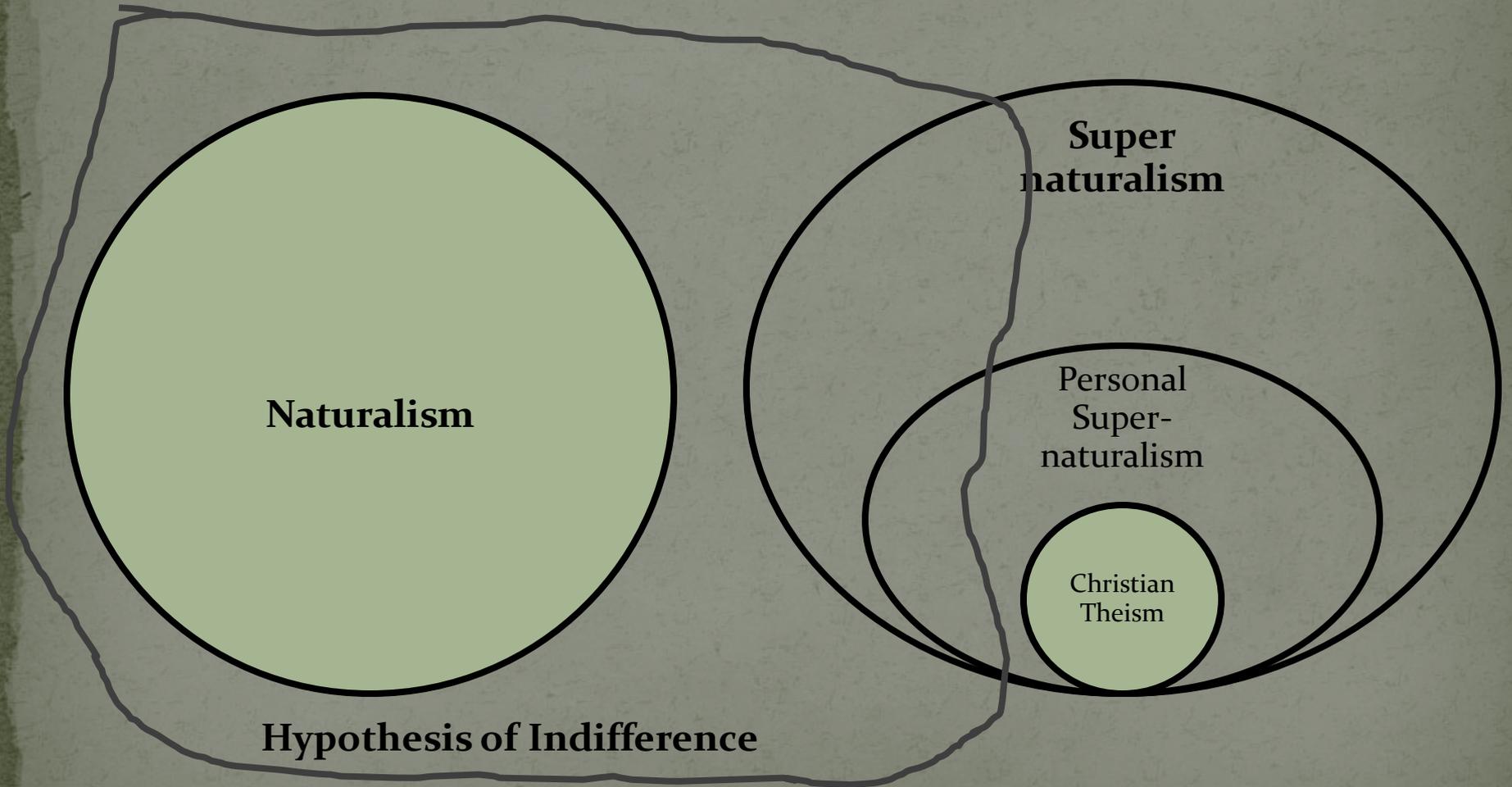
Which Way Does the Evidence Point?

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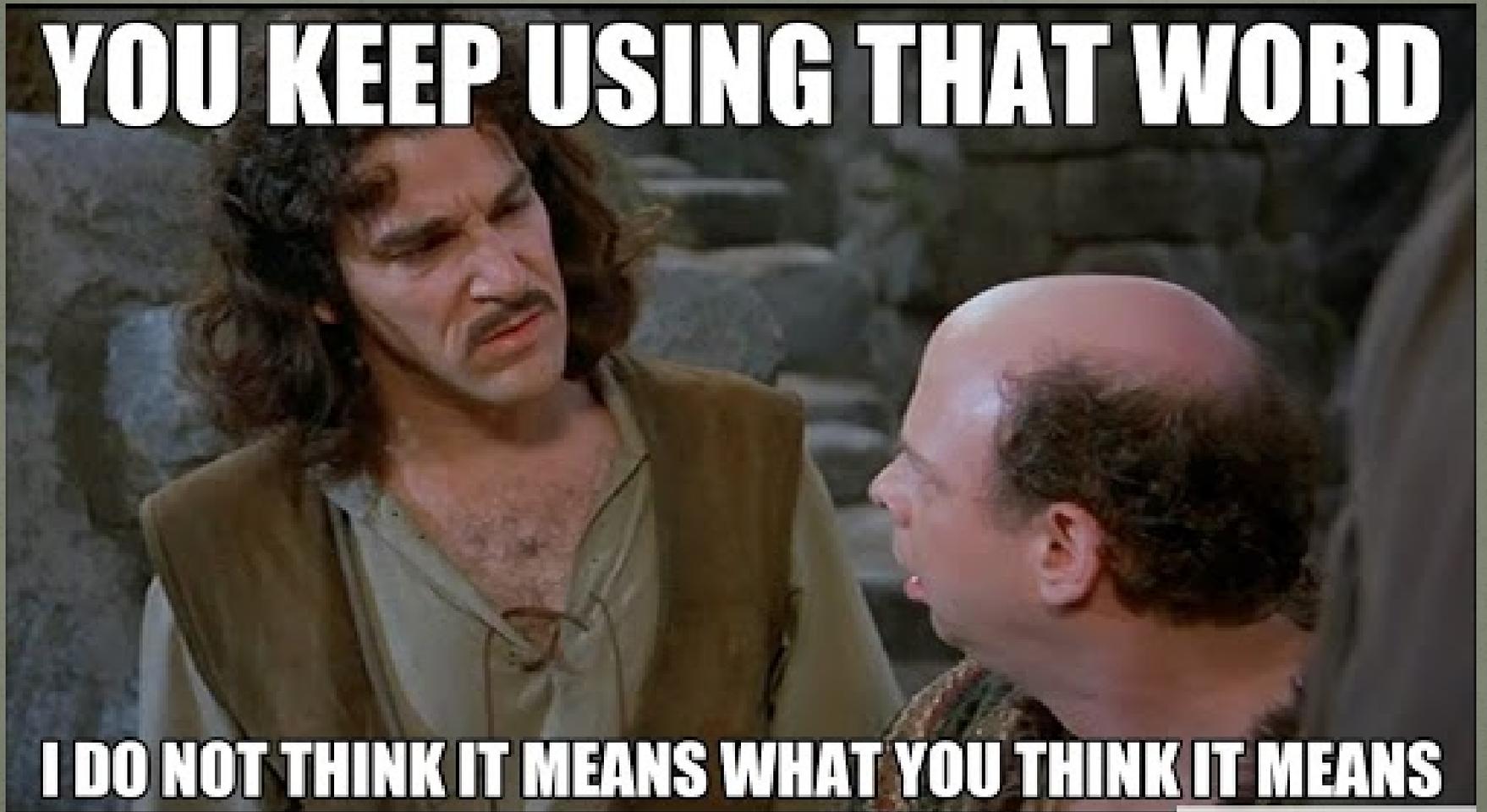
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1. Naturalism is Simpler



Naturalism & Hypothesis of Indifference

YOU KEEP USING THAT WORD



I DO NOT THINK IT MEANS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS

The Hypothesis of Indifference



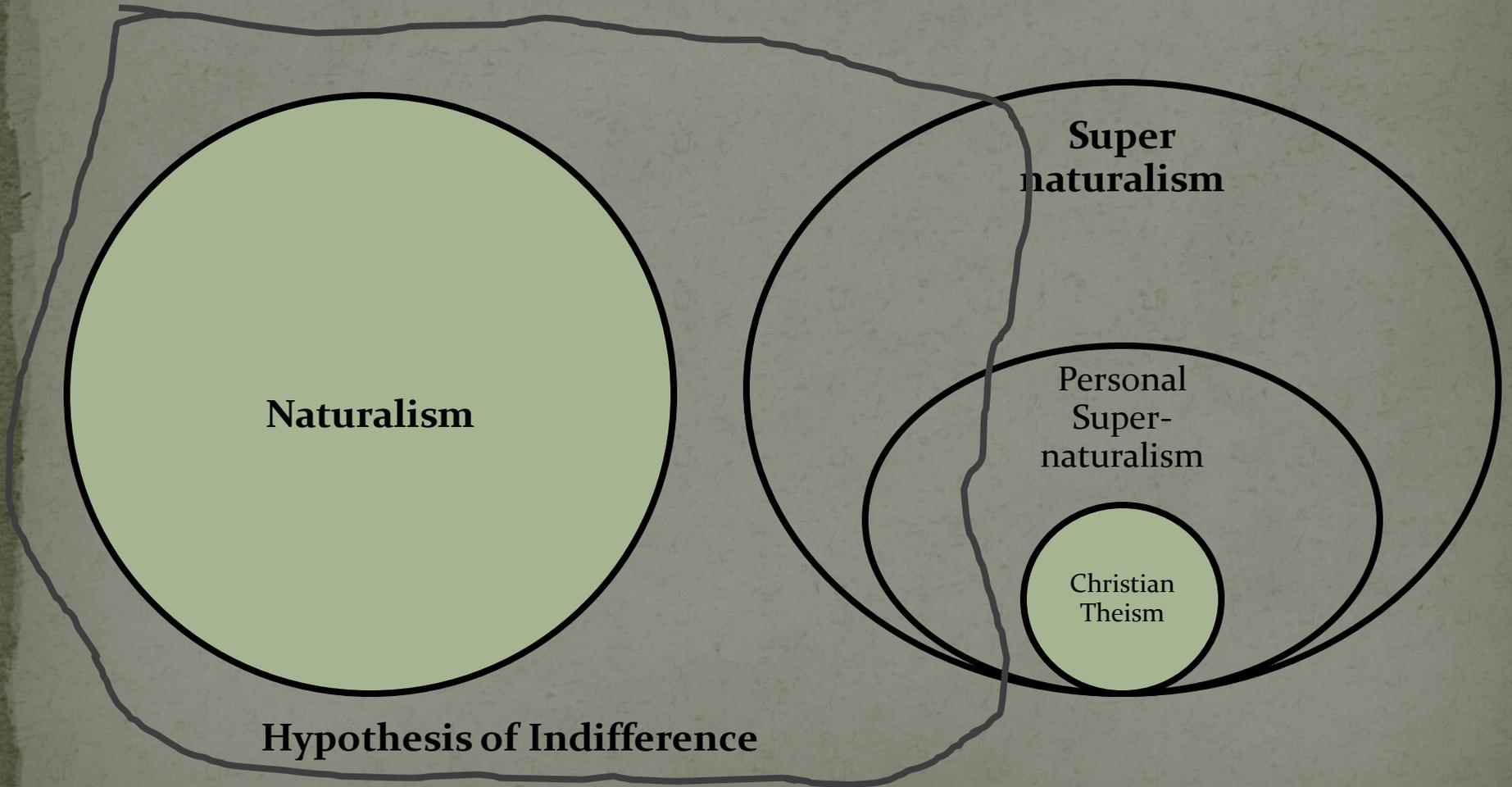
Paul Draper,
Purdue University

The Hypothesis of Indifference (HI) is the view that “neither the nature nor the condition of sentient beings on earth results from benevolent or malevolent actions performed by nonhuman persons.”

“Specified Naturalism” Is a Straw Man

Thesis	Relationship
1 - The universe may or may not be factually necessary.	Not Needed!
2 - No maximally evil supernatural person or persons exist.	Entailed by N
3 - No maximally good supernatural person or persons exist.	Entailed by N
4 - The universe doesn't exist for a purpose.	Entailed by N
5 - The condition of conscious beings on Earth (animals) is not the result of maximally good or maximally evil persons.	Entailed by N (and also by 2 & 3)
6 - The condition of self-conscious beings (humans) is not the result of maximally good or maximally evil persons.	Entailed by N (and also by 2 & 3)

1. Naturalism is Simpler



BGV Theorem



- Equally qualified authorities such as Cal Tech's Sean Carroll believe the BGV theorem does **not** show our universe had an absolute beginning

Anti-Creation Argument

- (1) Physical reality was either made out of God, some eternal stuff distinct from God, or it wasn't "made."
- (2) But physical reality was not made out of God or some eternal stuff distinct from God.
- (3) Therefore, physical reality wasn't "made." [From (1) and (2)]
- (4) If physical reality wasn't "made," then physical reality is uncaused.
- (5) Therefore, physical reality is uncaused. [From (4) and (5)]

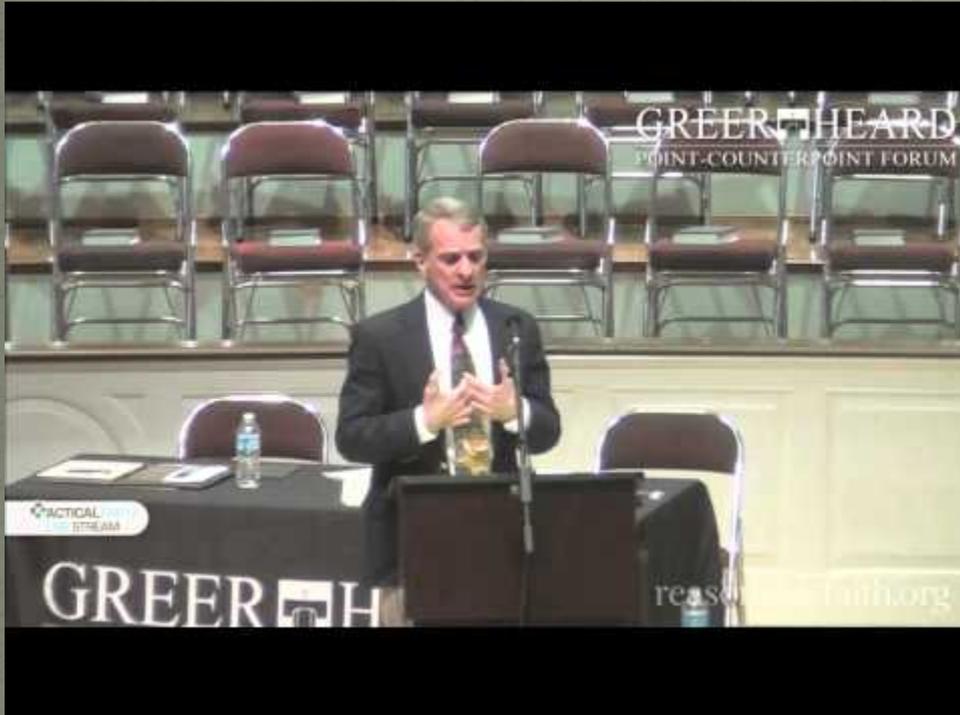
Quantum Indeterminacy

- The correct interpretation of Quantum Mechanics is currently undetermined.

Interpretation	Author(s)	Deterministic?	Wavefunction real?	Unique history?	Hidden variables?	Collapsing wavefunctions?	Observer role?	Local?	Counterfactual definiteness?	Universal wavefunction exists?
Ensemble interpretation	Max Born, 1926	Agnostic	No	Yes	Agnostic	No	No	No	No	No
Copenhagen interpretation	Niels Bohr, Werner Heisenberg, 1927	No	No ¹	Yes	No	Yes ²	Causal	No	No	No
de Broglie–Bohm theory	Louis de Broglie, 1927, David Bohm, 1952	Yes	Yes ³	Yes ⁴	Yes	No	No	No ¹⁷	Yes	Yes
von Neumann interpretation	John von Neumann, 1932, John Archibald Wheeler, Eugene Wigner	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Causal	No	No	Yes
Quantum logic	Garrett Birkhoff, 1936	Agnostic	Agnostic	Yes ⁵	No	No	Interpretational ⁶	Agnostic	No	No
Many-worlds interpretation	Hugh Everett, 1957	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Time-symmetric theories	Satosi Watanabe, 1955	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Stochastic interpretation	Edward Nelson, 1966	No	No	Yes	Yes ¹⁶	No	No	No	Only for position ¹⁶	No
Many-minds interpretation	H. Dieter Zeh, 1970	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Interpretational ⁷	Yes	No	Yes
Consistent histories	Robert B. Griffiths, 1984	Agnostic ⁸	Agnostic ⁸	No	No	No	Interpretational ⁶	Yes	No	No
Objective collapse theories	Ghirardi–Rimini–Weber, 1986, Penrose interpretation, 1989	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Transactional interpretation	John G. Cramer, 1986	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ⁹	No	No ¹⁴	Yes	No
Relational interpretation	Carlo Rovelli, 1994	Agnostic	No	Agnostic ¹⁰	No	Yes ¹¹	Intrinsic ¹²	Yes	No	No

Source: Wikipedia, “Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics”

Quantum Indeterminacy



William Lane Craig

“Well, there are at least ten different physical interpretations of the equations of quantum mechanics, and they're all empirically equivalent, they're mathematically consistent, and **no one knows which, if any, of them is the correct physical interpretation.**”

Naturalistic Theism

(i) The “Metaphysically Necessary Laws” (MNL)

Thesis: the view that the laws of nature in the *actual* world are the laws of nature in any *possible* world; and

(ii) The “Rarely Intervenes” Thesis: the view that most physical events are not the result of God’s direct intervention.

Cosmology Scorecard

Topic	N's Prediction	T's Prediction	Observation
Physical Matter	Matter Required	Matter Not Required	Matter
Origin of Universe	Spacetime exist for all of time	Spacetime not exist for all of time	Spacetime exist for all of known time
Origin of Universe	Physical reality wasn't made	Physical reality was made	Physical reality wasn't made
Something vs. Nothing	Universe factually necessary	Universe not factually necessary	Universe factually necessary
Life-Permitting?	?	?	Life-Permitting
Friendly vs. Hostile	Hostile Universe	Friendly Universe	Hostile Universe
Discoverability	?	?	Discoverability
Intelligibility	True naturalistic explanations	True supernatural explanations	Most correct explanations N

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Biology Scorecard

Topic	N's Prediction	T's Prediction	Observation
Biology	Evolution (Common Ancestry)	Special Creation	Evolution (Common Ancestry)
Pain and Pleasure	Biological Role	Moral Role	Biological Role
Flourishing and Languishing	Mostly Languish	Mostly Flourish	Mostly Languish

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Triumph and Tragedy Scorecard

Topic	N's Prediction	T's Prediction	Observation
Triumph and Tragedy	More Horrific Tragedies	More Glorious Triumph	More Horrific Tragedies

Brother and sister found dead on same day in separate tragedies

Mar 14, 2013 07:16 | By David Higgs

As their mother struggled to comprehend her loss, she was hit by the death of her husband.



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A grief-stricken mother was hit with the news that her son and daughter had both been found dead in separate tragedies within hours of each other.

And as Hilary Dennis was still struggling to come to terms with the news her husband also passed away.

One Question Site Survey
IT TAKES ONLY SECONDS TO ANSWER

How strong would you agree with the following statement: Staples has more than just office supplies.

SELECT ONE ANSWER

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

VOTE TO SEE RESULTS

POWERED BY VIZU

Recommended in News

God's Comforting Presence?



Neuroscience Scorecard

Topic	N's Prediction	T's Prediction	Observation
Consciousness	Self-Aware Beings Optional	Self-Aware Beings Required	Consciousness
Consciousness	Mind-Brain Dependence	Mind-Brain Independence	Mind-Brain Dependence
Distribution of Consciousness	Universe Not Teeming with Moral Agents	More Moral Agents & More Impressive Moral Agents	Universe Not Teeming with Moral Agents, Humans Unimpressive
Freedom	?	?	?
Freedom	More limitations on freedom	Less limitations on freedom	Variety and frequency of conditions that severely limit our freedom

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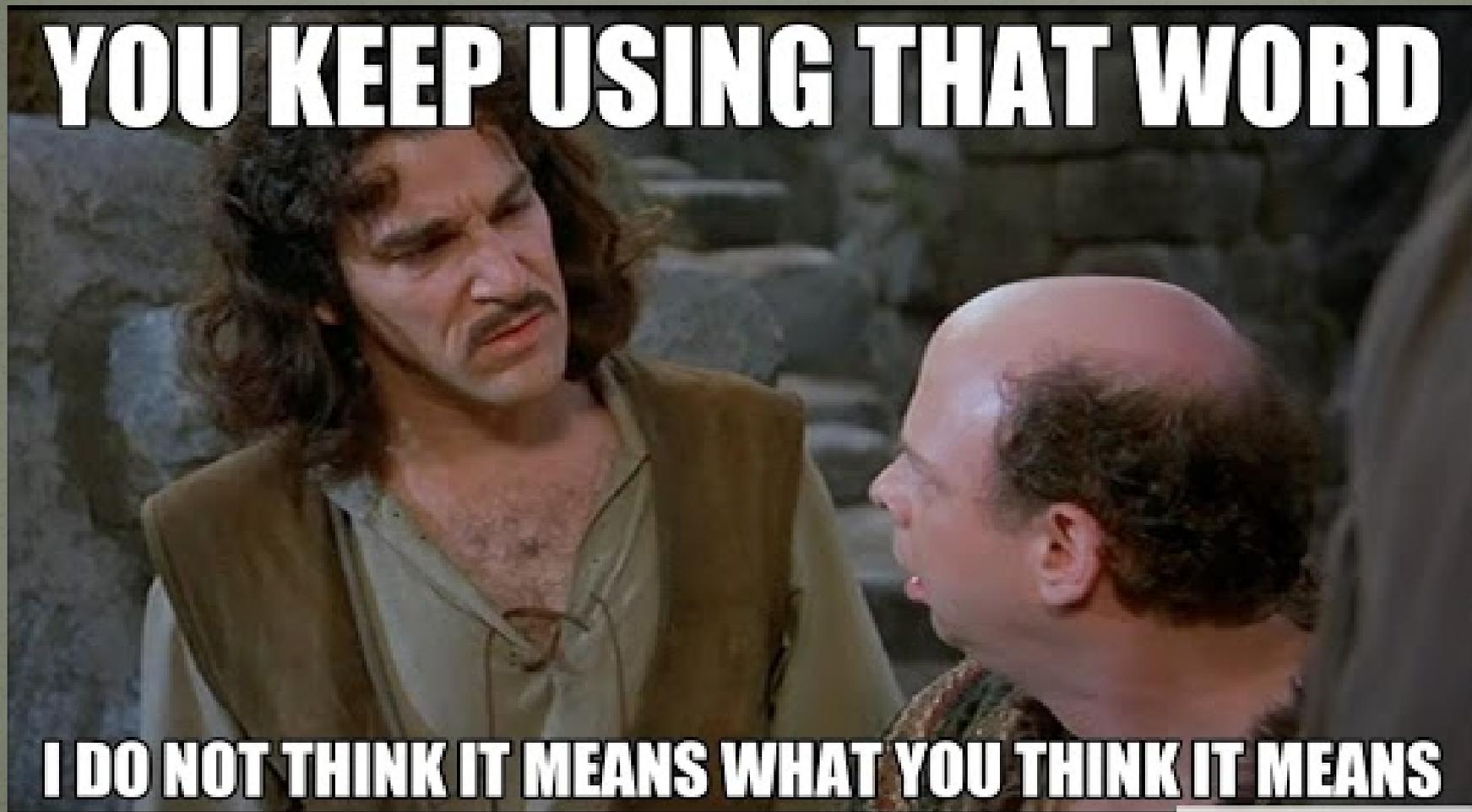
Ethics & Metaethics Scorecard

Topic	N's Prediction	T's Prediction	Observation
Moral Epistemology	Moral Perception	Moral Perception	Moral Perception
Moral Epistemology	Disagreement	Agreement	Disagreement
Moral Flourishing	Moral Flourishing	Moral Flourishing	Moral Flourishing

Nonresistant Nonbelief?

YOU KEEP USING THAT WORD

I DO NOT THINK IT MEANS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS



Hiddenness Scorecard

Topic	N's Prediction	T's Prediction	Observation
Divine Hiddenness	Nonresistant Nonbelief	No Nonresistant Nonbelief	Nonresistant Nonbelief
Ethical Hiddenness	Ethical Disagreement	Ethical Agreement	Ethical Disagreement
Scientific Hiddenness	True naturalistic explanations	True supernatural explanations	So much is intelligible w/o supernatural
Suffering Hiddenness	Tragedy victims rarely comforted	Tragedy victims often comforted	Tragedy victims rarely comforted

Hiddenness Scorecard

Topic	N's Prediction	T's Prediction	Observation
Divine Hiddenness	Nonresistant Nonbelief	No Nonresistant Nonbelief	Nonresistant Nonbelief
Divine Hiddenness	Former Believers	No Former Believers	Former Believers
Ethical Hiddenness	Ethical Disagreement	Ethical Agreement	Ethical Disagreement
Scientific Hiddenness	True naturalistic explanations	True supernatural explanations	So much is intelligible w/o supernatural
Suffering Hiddenness	Tragedy victims rarely comforted	Tragedy victims often comforted	Tragedy victims rarely comforted

Christian Theism Scorecard

Topic	Anti-R's Prediction	R's Prediction	Observation
Resurrection	No evidence of corruptible body	Evidence of corruptible body	No evidence of corruptible body