



Shoeburyness, Essex

Reality.

Whenever I walk to Blackpool I see a most peculiar sight that stirs up emotions that tie in with my faith. It only happens at Blackpool and has occurred when I walked from Atherton to Blackpool, from Blackpool to Fleetwood and back and from Lancaster to Blackpool. This strange sight only occurs at night. When I walked from Atherton to Blackpool, I saw it somewhere between Lytham St. Anne's and Blackpool. When I walked from Blackpool to Fleetwood and back, it occurred somewhere around Bispham, and when I walked from Lancaster to Blackpool, it occurred between Stalmine and Hambleton and especially when I crossed the Wyre bridge. If I say that I saw strange lights in the sky at these times, then you might think that I am mad. Have you guess what it is yet? Of course you have, it's Blackpool tower. For miles around the Fylde peninsular, the tower acts like a beacon and especially for me, it was a guiding light to get me to Blackpool. In my faith, Jesus is the guiding light, as the Bible tells us, His words are a light to my feet, guiding me on the straight and narrow and leading me to the destination. Think about that the next time you go to Blackpool.

Now what would you think if having walked to Blackpool tower, that I was to tell you that Blackpool tower doesn't exist, it is not real? How far do you think I would get, in trying to convince everyone that the tower doesn't exist? How long would it take someone to prove that it does? What would you think of me, of going to all the trouble of trying to convince you that I have actually walked it to Blackpool tower, and then deny that the tower exists? some kind of crack-pot probably.

Strange as it sounds, there are people (quite rational and educated people) who tell us that they believe that nothing is real. Once I had an argument with someone on this exact subject, and let me tell you, there are many others. I don't like arguing with people, especially about the Christian faith. You can't force anyone into God's Kingdom, God didn't force me, He invited me. But it isn't easy to talk to some people, especially when they seem to be not listening to what you are trying to say. We are told to always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about our faith, but we need to do it in a way that shows our love for that person, the same way that God loves them. This person said "Nothing is real!" So pointing to a door I said "Why don't you walk through that door, don't open it, walk through it." He apparently never tried it. Can you picture it, one man arguing with another man, who he believes doesn't exist. This man had a family. I could just imagine him going home to his family and telling them that from now on they don't exist, then treating them as though they don't exist and see how far this would get him. This is not a new phenomenon, the Bridgewater Treatise states that anyone who claims that nothing is real, and yet lives their lives like everyone else is not being honest, and it is difficult to take that person seriously. I have never met anyone who actually truly believes that nothing is real even though they claim it, because their lives contradict their words. People claim this because they do not want acknowledge the fact that there is evidence of design in nature, and that this evidence points to a Intelligent Creator. They use terms like "it only APPEARS to be designed." What does that mean? A motor car only appears to be designed, but you wouldn't say that it came about by chance. They are very quick to accept any evidence that is claimed to undermine Creation, but when the evidence clearly points to the existence of a Creator, they claim that the evidence isn't real, that nature isn't real. Maybe they will say that there is something wrong with our eyes and other senses, just to avoid admitting what is blatantly obvious.

It's the same with the existence of life elsewhere in the universe. The Drake equation is a mathematical formula for determining the probability of life elsewhere. Basically you fill in the variables, for example how many suns, how many planets, how many planets with suitable conditions for life and so on, and this gives you the number of possible planets that could harbor life. In another more simple version. "Because there are so many planets and space is so vast, there must be life elsewhere in the universe". But this simple brain exercise does nothing to prove the existence of life elsewhere. Life suddenly doesn't pop up into existence just by following this mental arithmetic. I'm not saying that life doesn't exist elsewhere, I simply don't know. All that I can say is, that if there is life elsewhere, then where did that come from? Also, depending on what this life is like, what does that tell us about natural selection? Questions and more questions. My point is, why do people go to all this trouble to argue for the existence of life elsewhere using this mental exercise, and yet deny it when the evidence points to the existence of God? We could produce a simple equation like the Drake equation which goes as follows:-

N = no of organisms that appear to be designed

$N / N \times 100 = B$

B = percentage of likely-hood that God exists

Of course we don't need a mathematical formula to prove God's existence. It is clearly commonsense that nature shows all the hallmarks of being designed. Some people will do anything to avoid admitting it. Evolutionist Richard Lewontin tells us that scientists have an a priori commitment to materialism and materialistic explanations even though sometimes they are absurd because "We can not allow a divine foot in the door."

Prayer:- Heavenly Father, we pray that you will help us to be patient with those who will not listen to us and not to get frustrated if people will not accept what we say. Help us to keep in mind that through our weakness, you have the power to work miracles, that no one is a lost cause with you and that every little work we do, no matter how small or worthless it seems to us is like a small seed that can grow into a huge plant and bear fruit. Amen.

By Philip Catherall.