



Aberdeen

Thoughts.

Someone once asked me, "What do you think about when you go on these long walks?" Well, usually I'm thinking about getting to my destination in time to get a train back home, or if I'm lost, it's about getting back to the right path. Sometimes I'm thinking that it might be time to stop gallivanting around Britain, find a wife and settle down like normal people. Well, you do sometimes don't you? Quite often I listen to my mp3 player, although it may surprise some people to learn that I don't just listen to Jean Michel Jarre. There are times when I can just sit and think or even pray, like when I'm camping or when I'm waiting at a train station. Some stations are very busy, while other, out of the way stations can be deserted. I have been to some stations where the only sound is the sound of nature which is infrequently interrupted by the automatic announcer over the speaker, telling me not to leave any unattended luggage or that the next train has been delayed, or worse still, cancelled, and I have another hour to wait.

When I do have a quiet moment I tend to think about my faith. The Christian faith encompasses every aspect of our lives. As someone has remarked, we all have a God-shaped void which only He can fill. It troubles me that people try to find other things to fill that void which only God can fill. I'm sure that some people have genuine concerns about the Christian faith, but I suspect that for most of us it really is just about sin, or more particularly, our own sin. But that shouldn't keep us away from church, on the contrary, that should actually make us want to go even more. I can't pick up the Bible and read it, without being convicted of my guilt and inadequacy and my need of Jesus, and it's the same story of all of us. The difference between a believer and an unbeliever is that a believer knows that they are a sinner. God wants us to worship Him, confess to Him, thank Him, and ask of Him, that is, have a relationship with Him.

Like I said earlier, some people do have genuine concerns about the Christian faith. In this age with so many different beliefs, people are obviously going to ask why they should accept Christianity. Some people use this as an excuse however, that is, they believe that the best way is to sit on the fence and accept agnosticism. Let me tell you, the fence does not exist. I overheard someone once saying that all the religions are basically saying the same thing, that is, they are different ways of understanding God. Picture an elephant in a room where all the people are wearing blind-folds and are touching different parts of the animal. One person touches a leg and says that the elephant is like a tree, another touches the trunk and says that the elephant is like a rope, and so on. This, they say is like the way different religions understand God. No one has the true answer as to what God, or the elephant really is like. It's a nice analogy, however, the person saying it didn't believe in God, so to him, the elephant didn't exist at all. He was using it to undermine the truth claims of Christianity. Jesus claimed some pretty amazing things, in fact, the Bible makes some amazing claims all throughout it's pages. They are either true or not, there is no middle ground, there is no fence to sit on. God either exists or He doesn't. If He doesn't, then we have been wasting our time, but if He does, then we have some serious thinking to do. Someone once said to me "I'm not saying that God doesn't exist, but lets live as though he doesn't." WHAT! If God exists, and I believe that He does, then how on earth can you live as though he doesn't?

Nobody can be forced into God's kingdom and I'm not saying that I can prove the Christian faith to be true. We must weigh the evidence, for and against carefully. I have heard on numerous occasions that "There is NO evidence for the Christian faith." WHAT! some of these people are "supposedly" scientists who have claimed this. No one can say that there is no evidence, the evidence may not convince everybody, but you can not just wish the evidence out of existence, because it suits you. It's like being convicted of a crime without being given the opportunity of a defense. I wouldn't even go so far as to say that "There is NO evidence for evolution", there is, I just don't believe that it explains our existence. Yes, I know that some Christians believe in evolution, in fact I would say that if evolution is true then it also points to a Creator, since evolution has led up to man (humans) and that signifies direction and purpose behind evolution. Even evolutionists can't avoid making up "Just-so" stories when they try to explain how certain characteristics evolved. That is why many atheistic evolutionists are trying to avoid the terms "direction" and "purpose" behind nature and claiming that man is not the pinnacle of Creation and that we are still evolving. The problem is that the evidence shows that evolution has led up to us, regardless of whether we are still evolving or not. My own position is that although I do believe in natural selection, variation, adaptation and mutation, I do not believe that they are sufficient to explain the origin and diversity of life on this planet. The mechanism of natural selection does not sufficiently explain how and why the structure, development and behavior of individual organisms has come about. In fact on quite a few occasions I have heard reference to Lamarkian mechanisms being invoked to explain certain features because Darwinian mechanisms are insufficient. The problem of other selection pressures which are acting against natural selection is, to me, another insurmountable problem. Natural selection does not touch on the origin of the universe, for this we have to invoke a different theory. I know that people will accuse me of Creationism, but to me, everyone who believes in God as Creator is essentially a Creationist, in the sense that they all believe that this universe, earth, and all life did not come about by chance, accident or little green men but by the Word of God, no matter what mechanism God used or the time it took.

Let me end by giving you something to think about. The other day I opened the back of my computer and do you know what I found? It was just wires and components. Did you know that my computer doesn't even know that it is a computer? I read once that the brain of the earthworm is more complex than the most powerful computer, that is the way it is wired up. Now no one in their right mind would deny that the computer has been intelligently designed, so what does this tell us about the brain of an earthworm?

Prayer:- Heavenly Father, we pray, help us to respect other people's views, help us also to correct erroneous views with love and sincerity and help us to be ready also to accept when we too might be wrong, in humility. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

By Philip Catherall

