

J. W A R N E R
W A L L A C E

Evidence in the Room

Dead Guy
Laying Face Down
Pool of Blood
Bullet Hole
Gun
Suicide Note
Multiple Entry Wounds
Foreign Fingerprints
Bloody Footprints

Explanatory Possibilities:

- 1. Natural Death?*
- 2. Accidental Death?*
- 3. Suicide?*
- 4. Homicide?*

A Universe With a Beginning
A Universe That Appears to Be Designed
Life Emerged from Non-Life
Biological Organisms Display Attributes of Design
Non-material Consciousness Emerged from Unconscious Matter
Humans Are "Free Agents" in a "Cause and Effect" World
Transcendent, Objective Moral Truths Exist
The Persistent Presence of Evil and Injustice

Explanatory Possibilities:

1. Unguided Natural Forces "Inside the Room" Acted on One Another
2. A Supernatural Source "Outside the Room" Designed and Created



Transcendent, Objective Moral Truths Exist



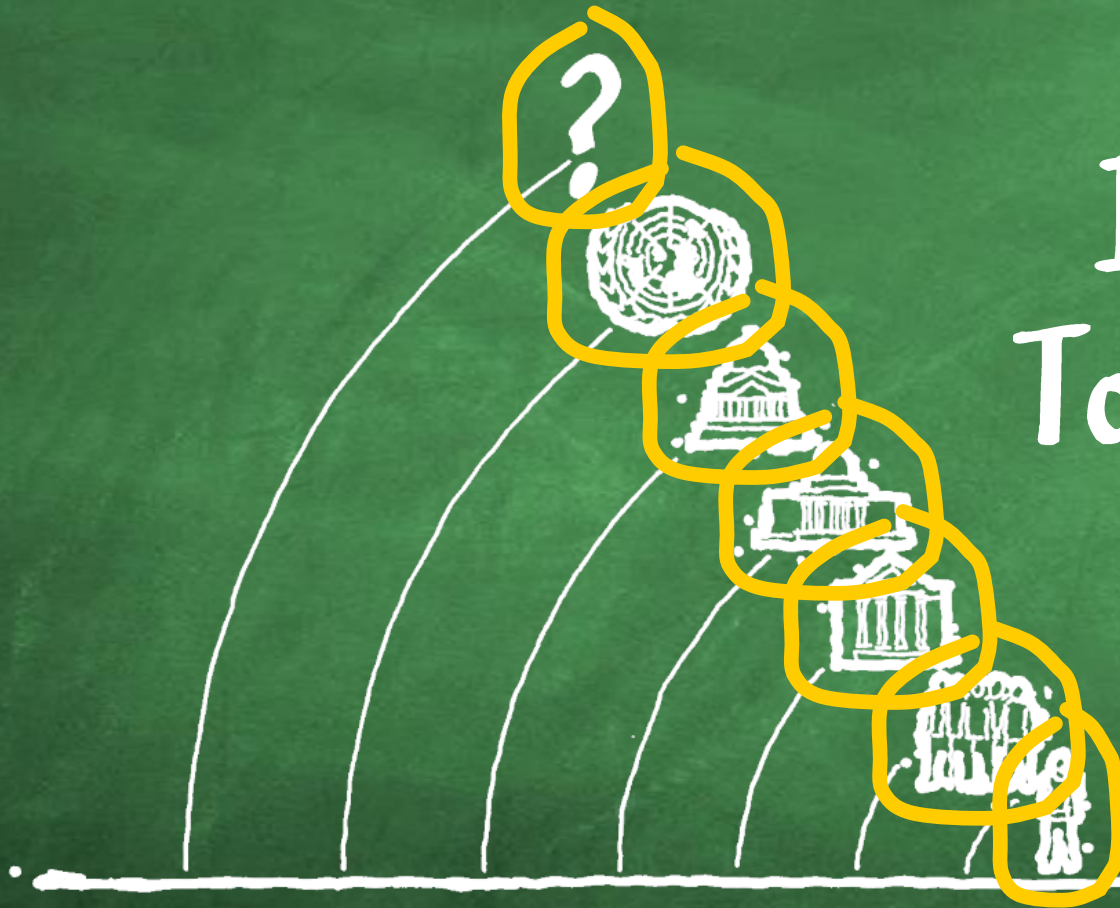


? How-High Does the Moral Hierarchy Extend?



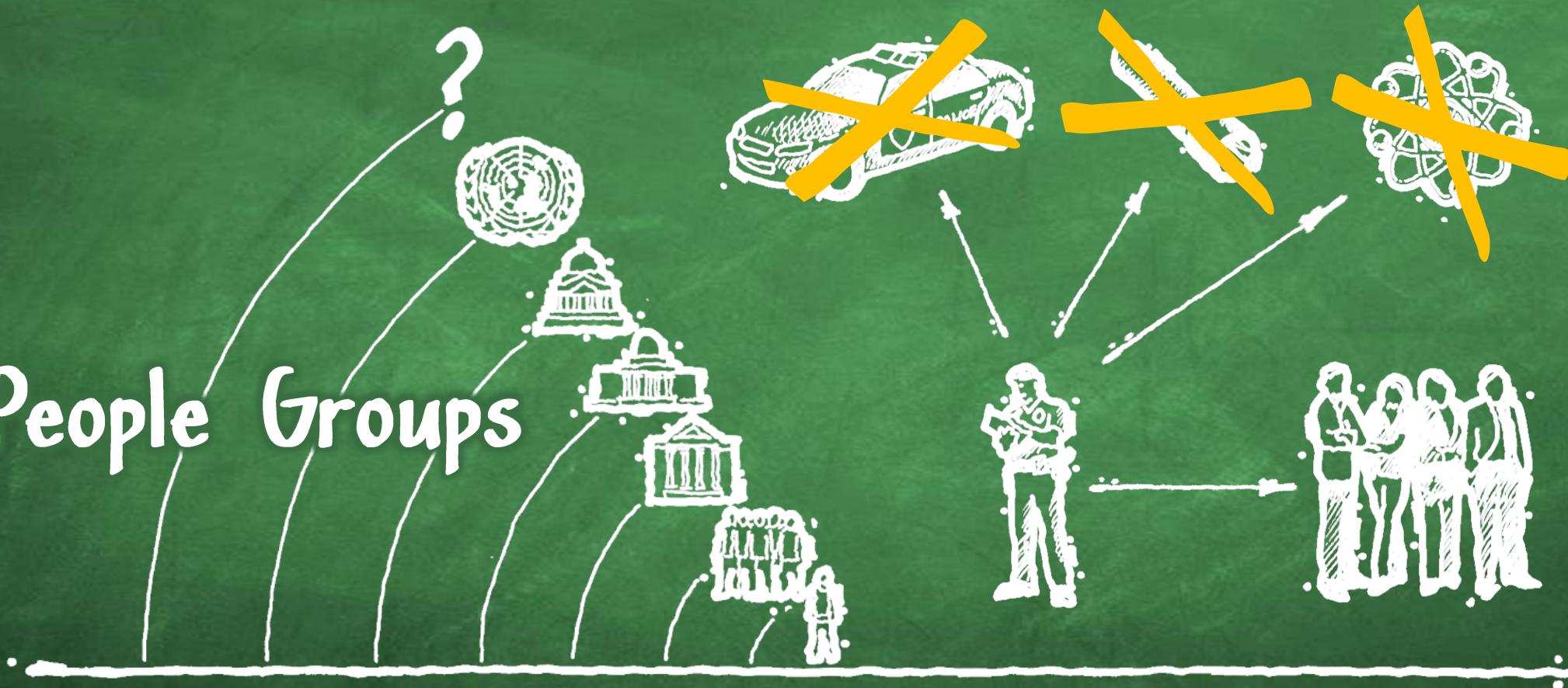
The Moral / Legal Hierarchy

It's Not OK to
Torture People for
the Fun of It

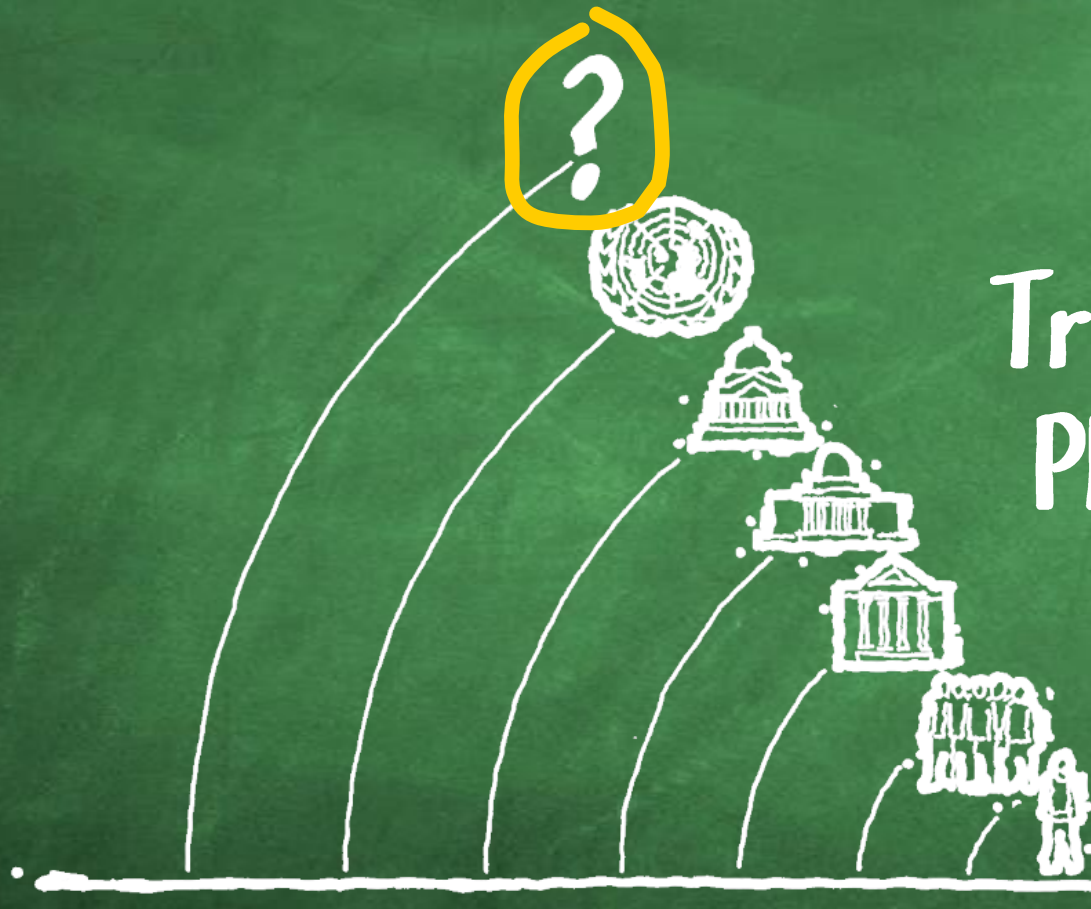


The Moral / Legal Hierarchy

People Groups

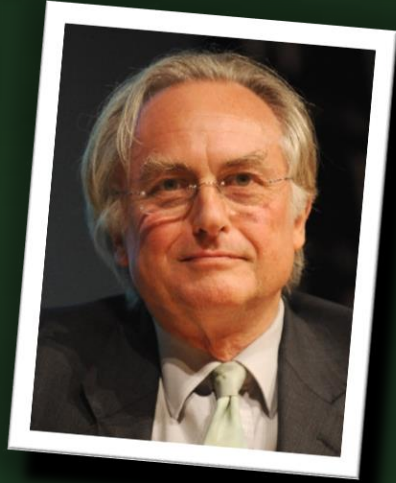


The Moral / Legal Hierarchy



Who is the
Transcendent, Objective
PERSON to Whom We
Are Obligated?

The Moral / Legal Hierarchy



Richard Dawkins

Evolutionary Biologist and Author

“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”



Do Moral Truths Come From Individuals?



Do Moral Truths Come From Groups?



Are Moral Truths An Illusion?

Ignores Cross-Cultural Norms and
Marginalizes Moral Reformers



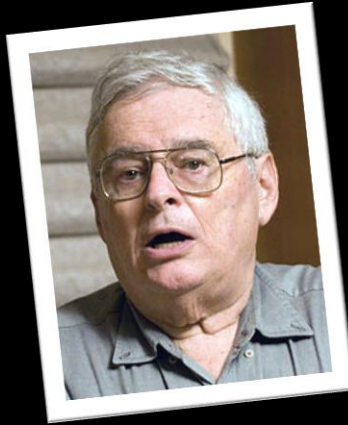
Equalizes Every Action and
Claim As Equally Moral

Ignores the Evidence of
Our Common Experience

Can We Stay “In the Room”?



Can We Stay “In the Room”?



Jerry Fodor

Philosopher and
Cognitive Scientist

“Science is about facts, not norms; it might tell us how we are, but it couldn’t tell us what is *wrong* with how we are. There couldn’t be a science of the human condition.”

Can We Stay “In the Room”?





A Personal Source of Moral
Truth and Obligation

Can We Stay “In the Room”?

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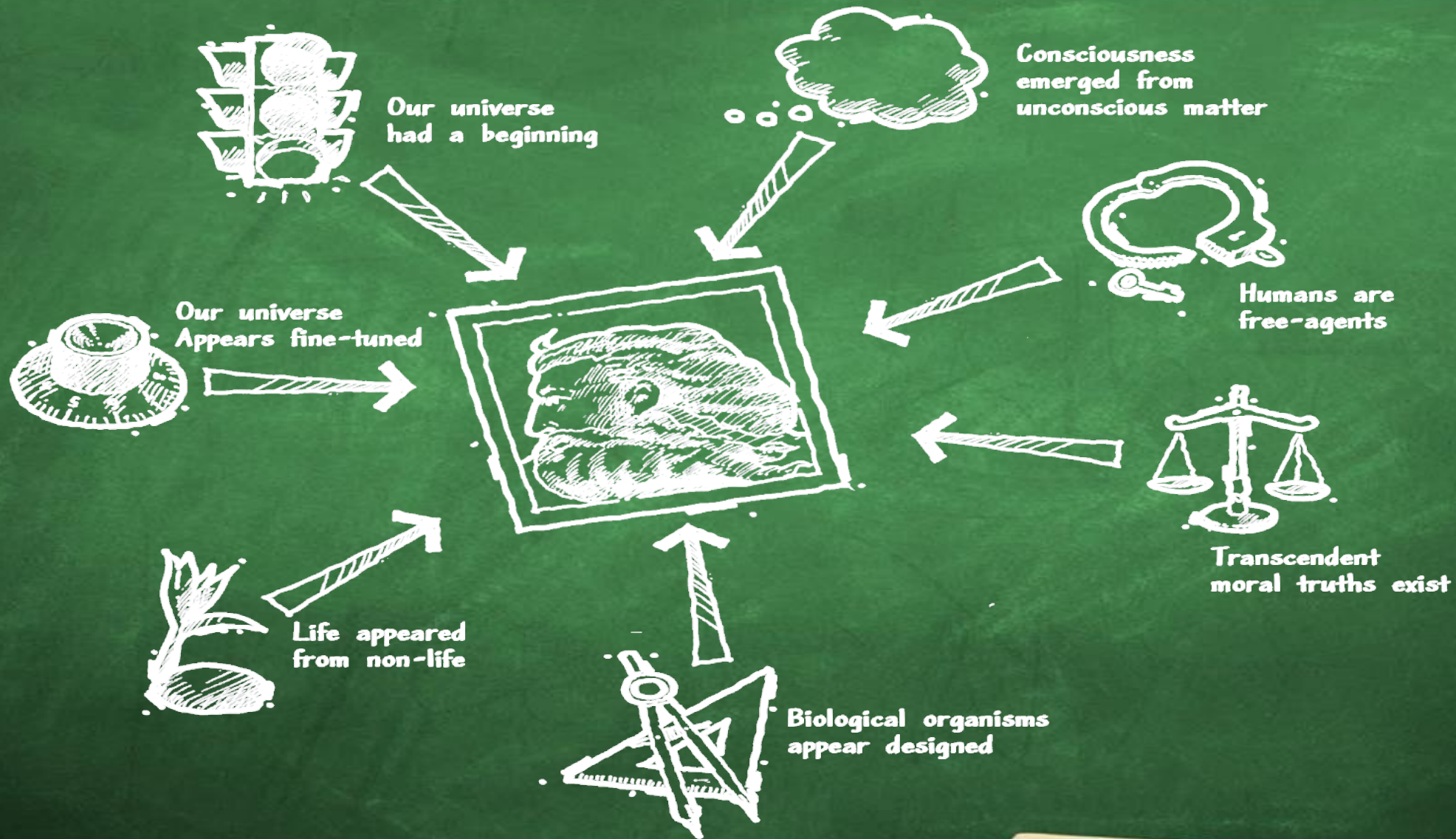
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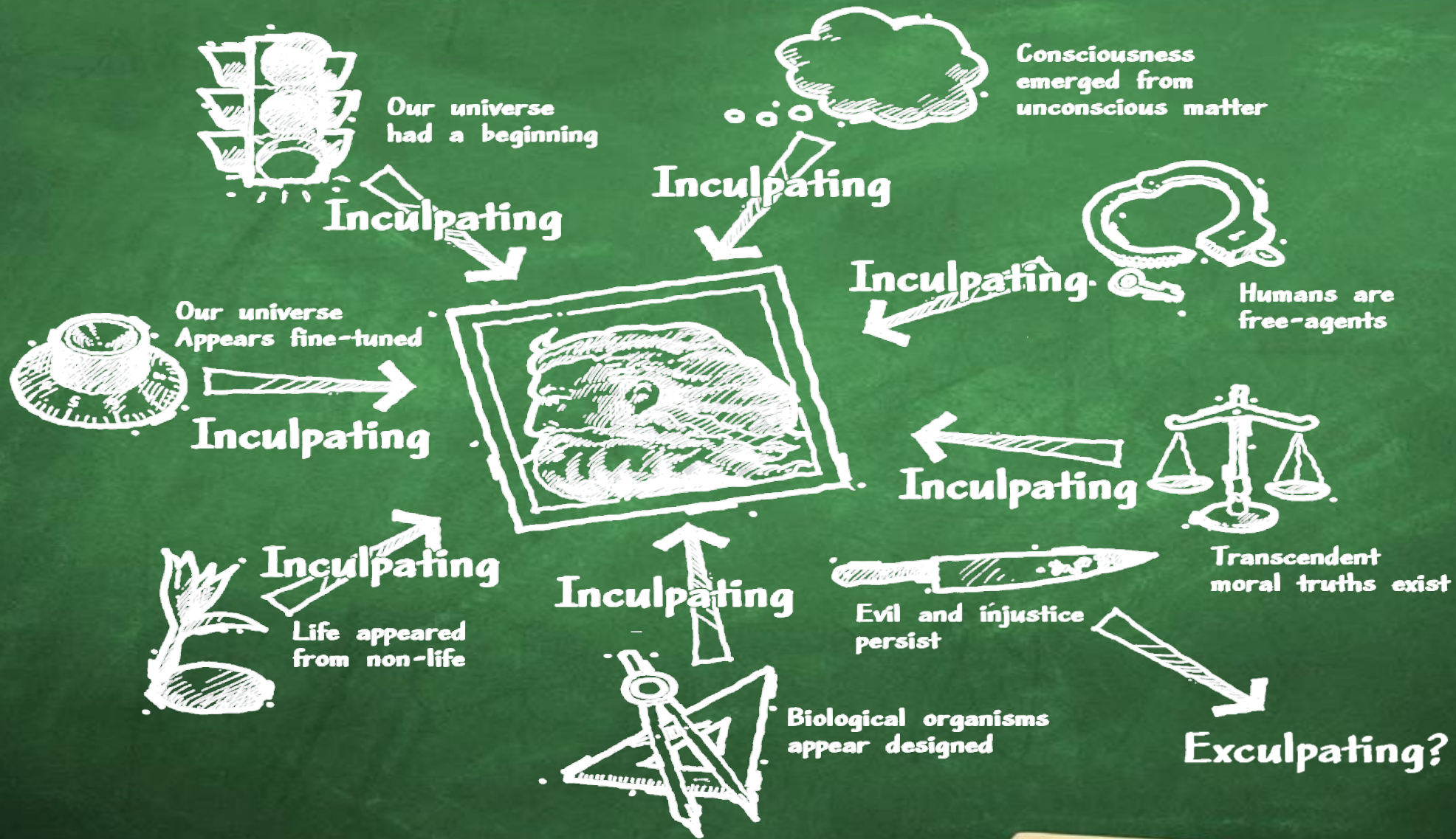


The Persistent Presence of Evil and Injustice





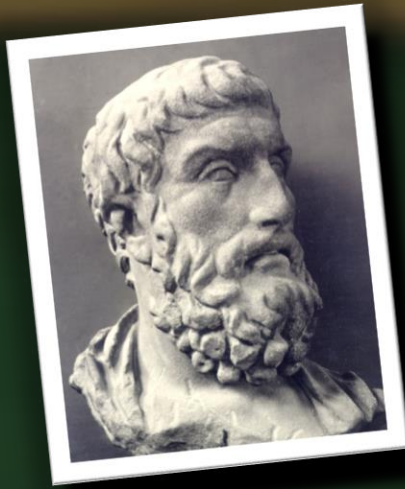






Evil and injustice
persist





Epicurus

Ancient Greek Philosopher
(341–270 BC)

“Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?”



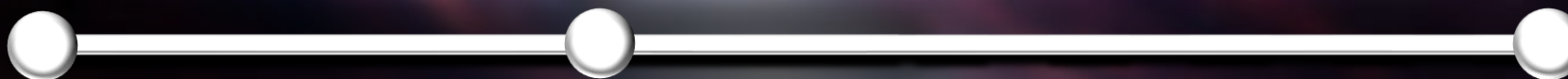


Accurate
View of
Eternity





90 years



40

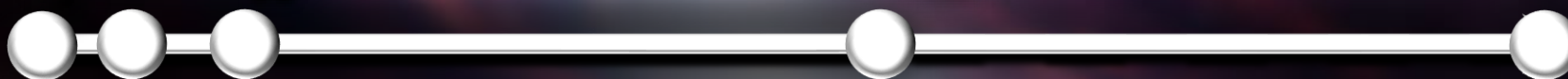
50



EVIL



LOST



EVIL

LIFE



EVIL

ETERNAL
LIFE





Proper Reverence
for Free Agency

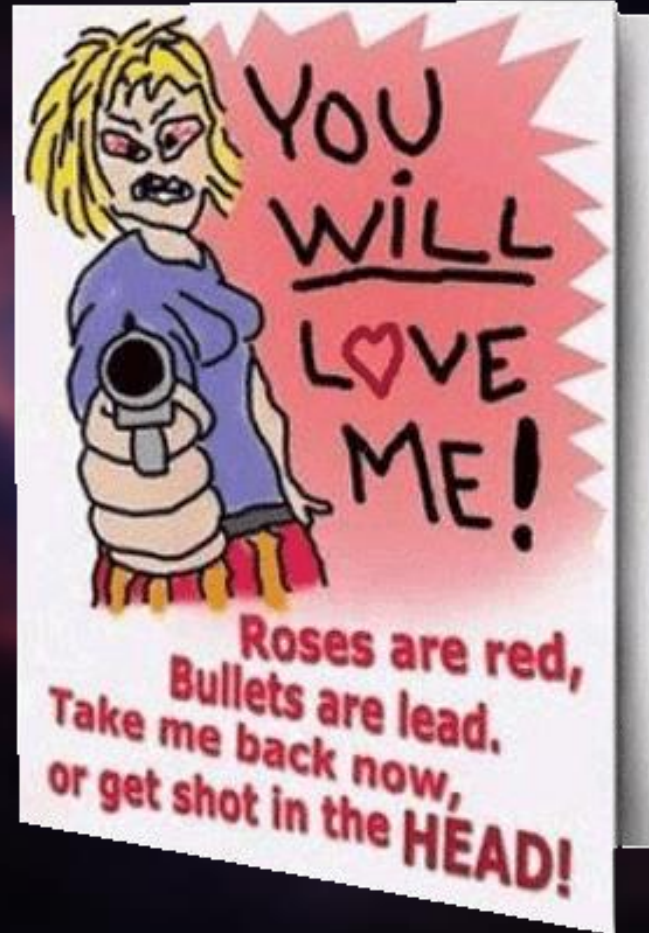


A World In Which Love Is Possible?



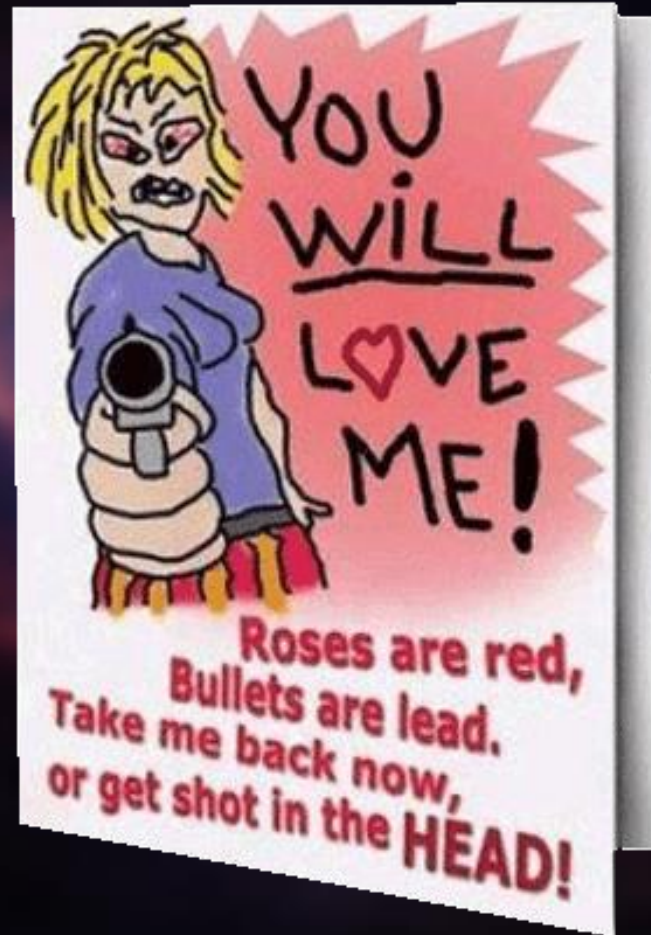
A World In Which Love Is Impossible?

A World In Which Love Is Possible?



Requires Free Agency

A World In Which Love Is Possible?



Requires the Freedom to Hate

A World In Which Love Is Possible?



Is A Dangerous World







Appropriate
Definition of
Love



"Love"

"Kindness"

"Gentleness"

"Adoration"

"Affection"

"Tough Love"



C. S. Lewis

British Novelist, Poet,
and Academic

“We want, in fact, not so much a Father in heaven as a grandfather in heaven—a senile benevolence who, as they say, ‘liked to see young people enjoying themselves,’ and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, ‘a good time was had by all.’”



Temporal Life

Eternal Life



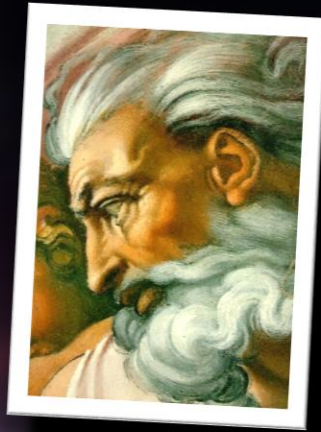
Earthly
Parents



Earthly Life



Post-Earthly Life



Earthly *and* Post-Earthly Parent



Earthly Life

Post-Earthly Life

True Love Aims at Something Lasting



Earthly Life

Post-Earthly Life





Role in
Character
Development



To Enjoy a World with

Courage

Compassion

Forgiveness

Self-Sacrifice

Charity

We Must Enjoy our World with

Danger

Confession

Forgiveness

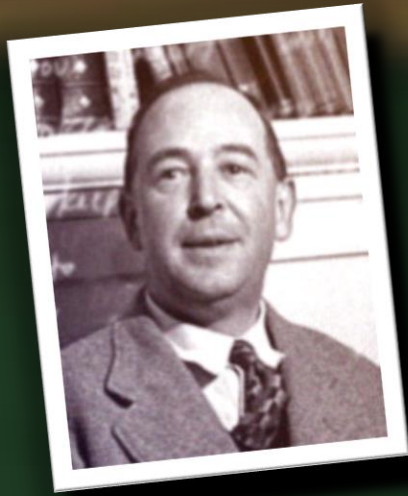
Self-sacrifice

Penitence

That's Why I Never Pray for:



Patience



C. S. Lewis

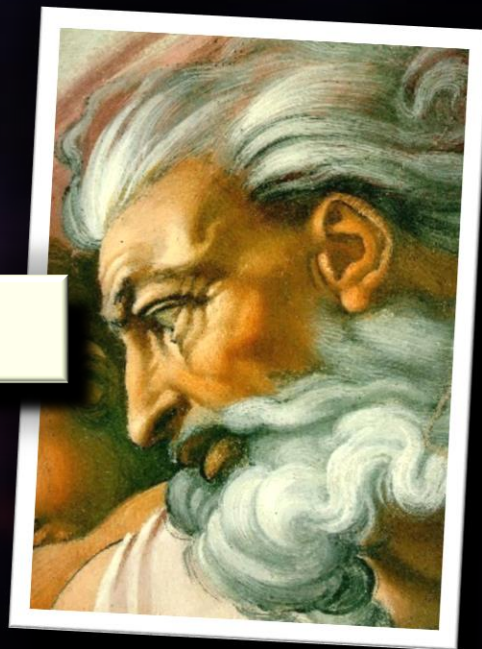
British Novelist, Poet,
and Academic

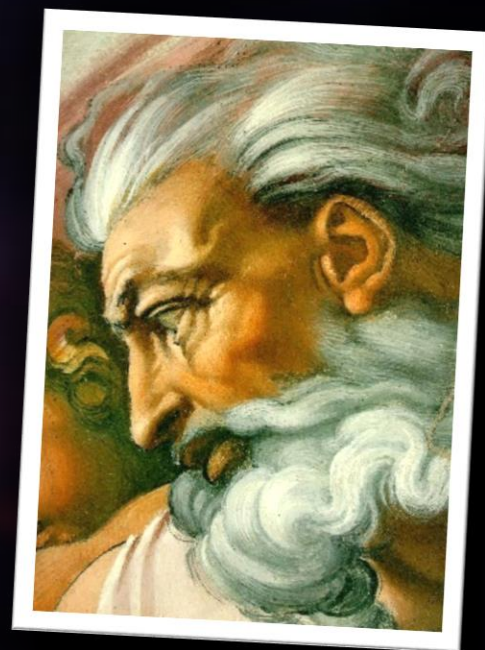
“To ask that God’s love should be content with us as we are is to ask that God should cease to be God: because he is what he is, his love must, in the nature of things, be impeded and repelled by certain stains in our present character, and because he already loves us he must labor to make us lovable.”





Power to
Draw Us







C. S. Lewis

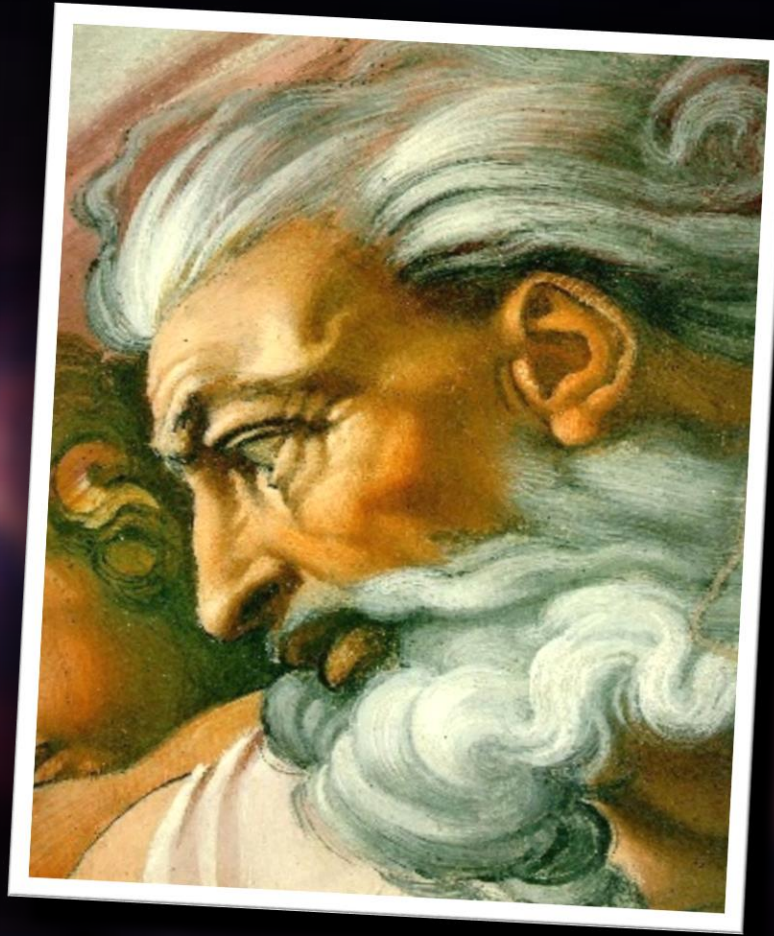
British Novelist, Poet,
and Academic

“Let me implore the reader to try to believe, if only for the moment, that God, who made these deserving people, may really be right when He thinks that their modest prosperity and the happiness of their children are not enough to make them blessed: that all this must fall from them in the end...”





Existence as
a Consequence



A Loving God Is A Just God
Three Forms of Justice



Retributive Justice
Punished for the Past



Utilitarian Justice
Punished for Future Goal



Restorative Justice
Punished to Pay Back



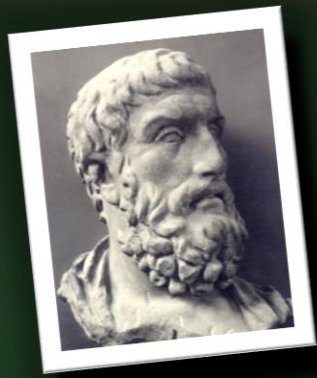
Loving Parents
Administer All Three





Our Limited
Understanding

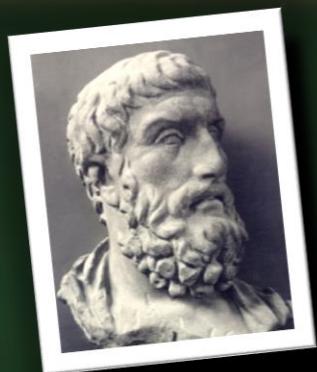




Epicurus

Ancient Greek Philosopher
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“Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?
Then he is not omnipotent.
Is he able, but not willing?
Then he is malevolent...”



Epicurus

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God Is All-Powerful

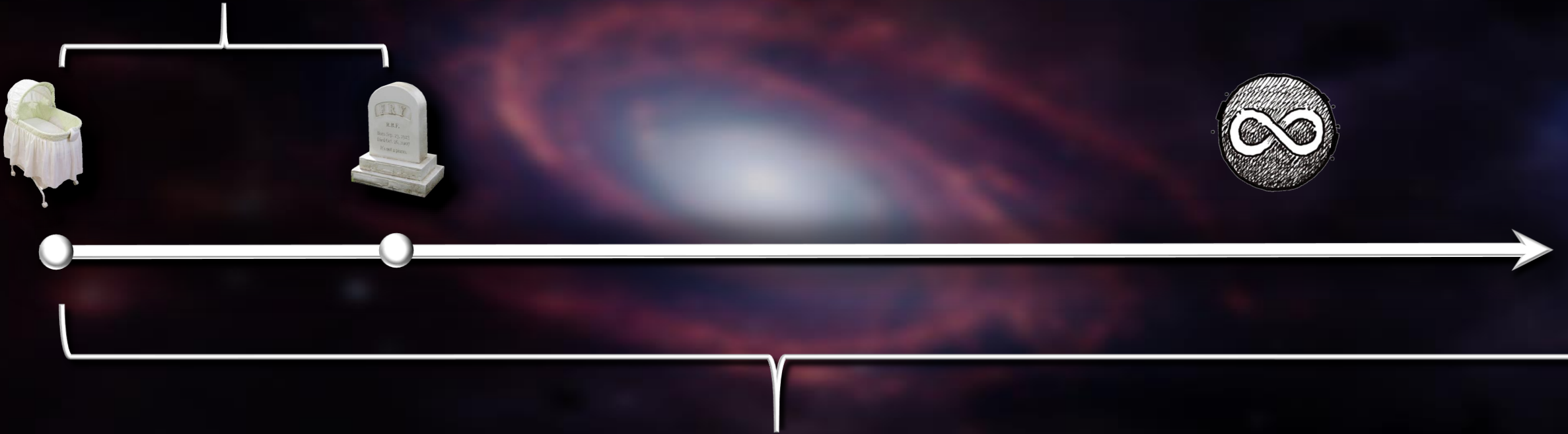
Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?

God Is All-Loving

Is he able, but not willing?

God Is All-Knowing

Stuff We Know About



God Is All-Knowing



Jacques-Marie- Louis Monsabré

French Dominican Priest

“If God would concede me His omnipotence for 24 hours, you would see how many changes I would make in the world.

But if He gave me His wisdom too, I would leave things as they are.”





EVIL?



C. S. Lewis

British Novelist, Poet,
and Academic

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?”

God's Existence Can Be Reconciled
with the Existence of Evil



Without God As the Standard of
“Good”, True Evil Doesn't Exist

Can We Stay “In the Room”?



Without God As the Standard of
“Good”, True Evil Doesn’t Exist

Can We Stay “In the Room”?



C. S. Lewis

British Novelist, Poet,
and Academic

“Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too - for the argument depended on saying that the world was *really* unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies.”

Can We Stay “In the Room”?





The Standard for Good by
Which We Define Evil

Can We Stay “In the Room”?



www.ColdCaseChristianity.com/resources

