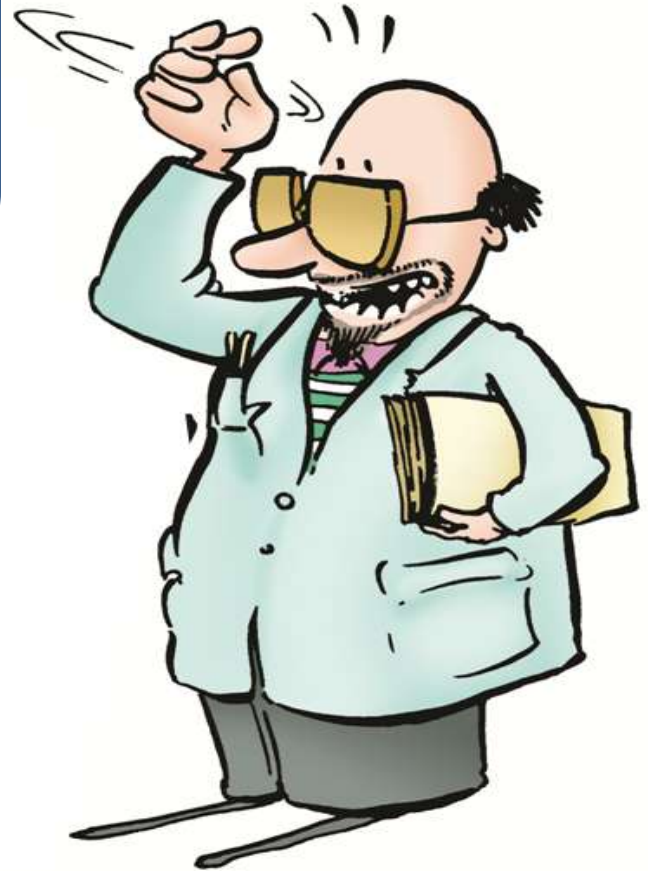


Big Question:
How do science and religion fit
together – if at all?

The mysteries of being human

Evolution seems to explain so much ... It explains why all the species here today are here – they're the 'survivors'. But as yet I don't know why humans are the only species that evolved language to help them survive.

There are many mysteries that science has not yet solved. Scientists like Professor Mark Pagel live and work with these mysteries every day!



Some people think that the mysteries in science point to the existence of a god

I don't think science will ever solve this question – as this would leave nothing for God!



But most scientists who are religious argue a different way ...

Scientists who are religious say that sometimes, a scientific answer is just the type of answer you want –

but sometimes, they argue, it's not the **TYPE OF** answer you're looking for

How would you describe this music?

Well it begins with a sound with a frequency of 261.6 Hz and then ...



You don't have to accept a religious perspective – but it is useful to know that you can be passionate about science – whether or not you begin with a religious viewpoint

Galileo: Science is a great way to find out about the Universe God made ...

Galileo – and many scientists since his day – have argued that God made a universe that is open to scientific investigation.

He said, science is the way to discover how God's creation works.



Why some people think you can have both science AND religion

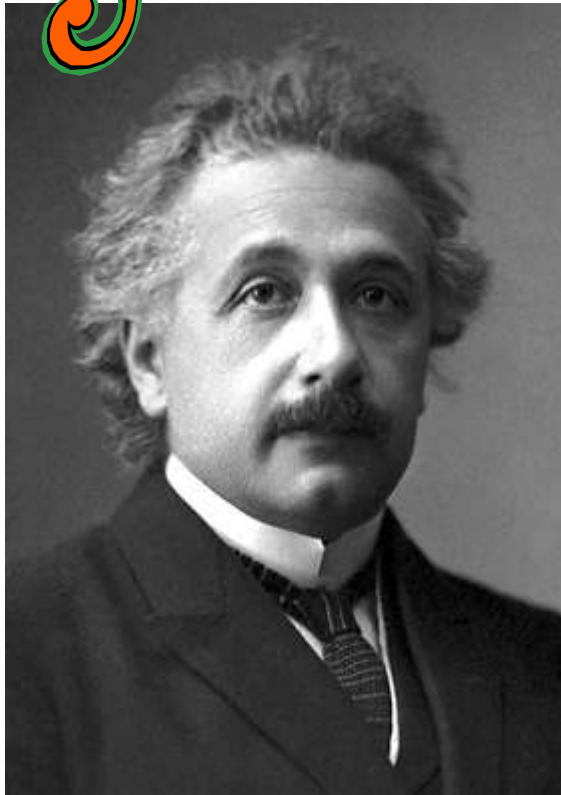
If you ask, “Why is the kettle getting hot?” a scientific answer is – “Because the element is heating the water”.

But another TYPE of answer is “Because I want a cup of tea!”

Scientists who believe in God sometimes use this analogy to show why they believe in BOTH science and religion. They say science explains why the kettle gets hot and religion explains for them why bother to have a kettle at all!



Albert Einstein said ...



“It would be possible to describe everything scientifically, but it would make no sense; it would be without meaning, as if you described a Beethoven symphony as a variation of wave pressure.”



The idea is that science and religion are about different types of questions

“Science is about how nature works.”

“That’s fine by me – religion is about the purpose of your life and ultimate questions such as why the Universe exists at all. Religion is also about morals and how to live.”



The type of questions we address using science



- Scientific questions and ideas are generated by scientists as they look at life, the universe and everything – and wonder how it works.
- If you block your ears, the sounds around you get quieter – how would a scientist explain why this happens?

The Humanities

Disciplines (subjects), such as history, philosophy and theology explore some of the questions that science cannot address.

Often, these are trickier questions to answer conclusively.

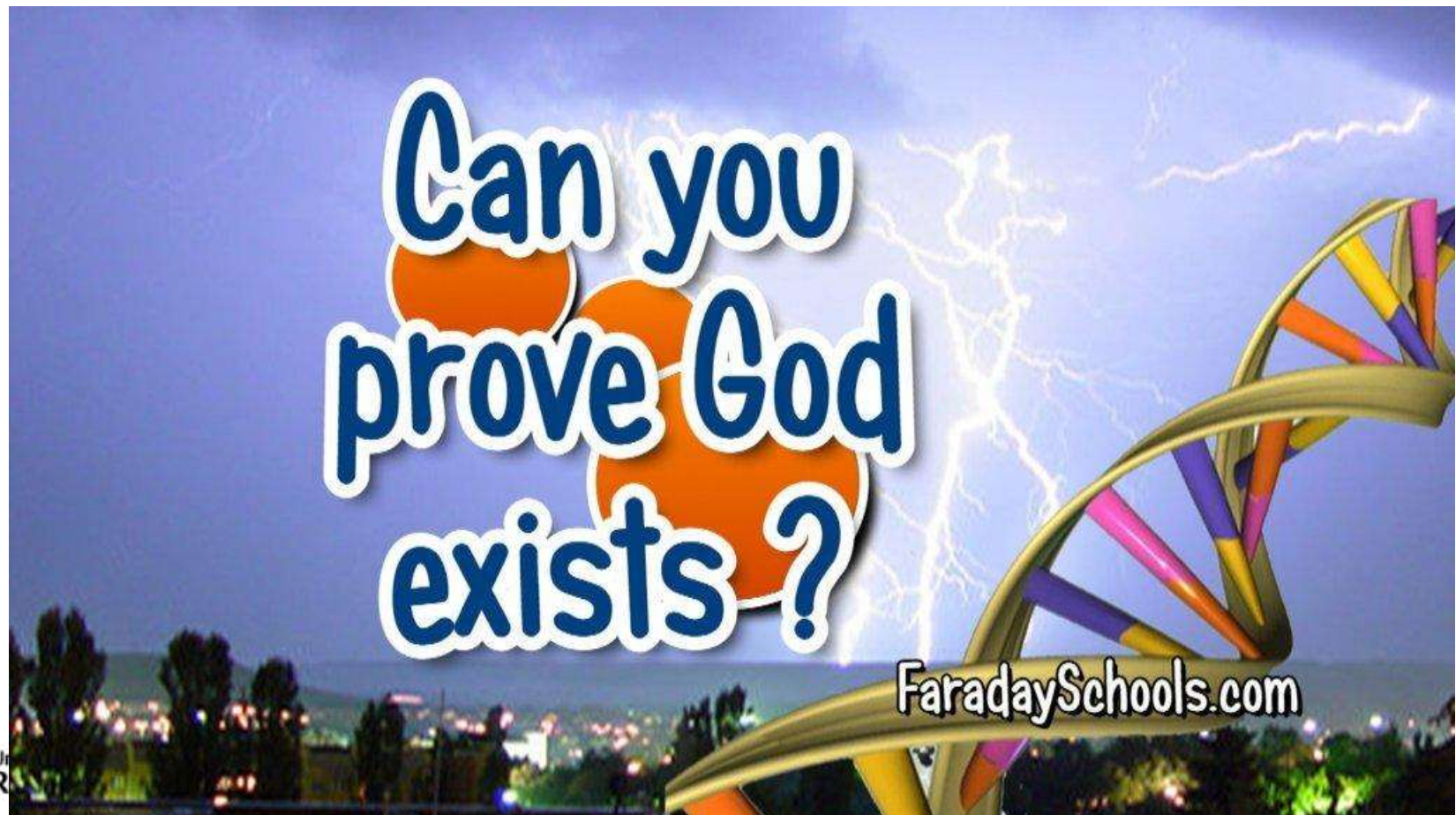
The questions theology addresses are often the trickiest of all!



Blaise Pascal Pascal was a brilliant mathematician – you’ve probably heard of him? Pascal believed in God and he wondered what kind of argument other people would find persuasive. He came up with a wager (a kind of bet) which was his challenge to non-believers: He said it makes a lot of sense to believe in God. Why? Because if you believe in God and this turned out to be the right answer – you will be rewarded. But if you choose not to believe in God – and God does exist – the consequences might be dire!

Why do people accept a religious explanation – at all?

- Scientists like Professor Sir Colin Humphreys say you cannot use scientific methods to answer religious questions such as whether God exists – but there are other reasons (in his view) to say that God is real.



But what about the differences between the scientific version and some religious versions of how human life came to be?

I'm sure we disagree about something?



What do the Creation stories claim?

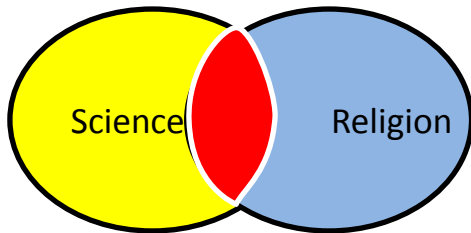


The leaders of many well established religions describe their creation stories in this way. They say the messages in the stories are timeless but some of the metaphors are best understood if you do some research and find out what people believed when the stories were written.

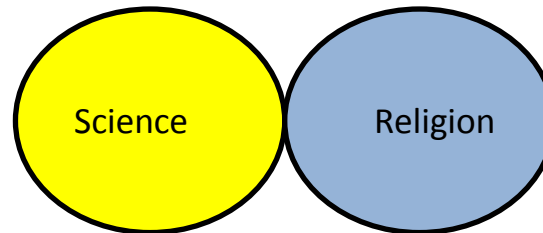
The messages in the Creation story believed by Christians, Jews and Muslims are that God is the creator of everything, that the Earth which God created is good and that God created humans as a species that is in his image and can know about Him.

To conclude:

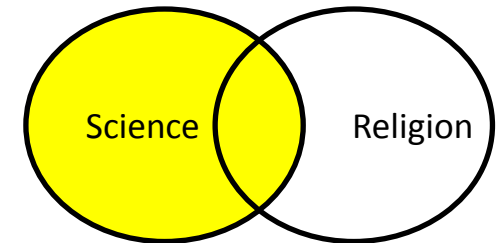
People see the relationship between science and religion in different ways.



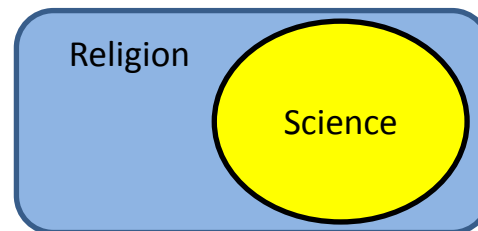
Here science and religion overlap in the claims they make and there is the potential for conflict.



Someone holding this view sees science and religion as addressing totally different types of questions – there cannot be conflict between them.



Some atheists hold a view called scientism which says that religion is not a valid way to find out truth



Galileo and many modern religious scientists say that God made a world that is open to scientific investigation. Science is the best way to find out about God's works. Scripture is the best way to find out about God's nature