

## THERE IS NO GOD?



There is no God. All of the wonders around us are accidental. No almighty hand made the billions of stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them on their steady course. The earth spins by itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. It gave itself night and day and tilted itself so that we get seasons. It stays the perfect distance from the sun, so that we don't fry or freeze to death.

Why does snow sit on mountaintops waiting for the warm spring sun to melt it at just the right time for the young crops on the fields below to receive water to grow? Also, how does each tree know when it's time to burst into leaf in the spring and when to drop the leaves in the autumn? These built-in clocks of nature are all timely accidents.

Who taught the bees how to form themselves into highly structured societies and how to communicate with each other where food is? How did the bees and the trees begin to cooperate with each other, so that one produces honey and the other bears fruit, both for the benefit of people? Did beautiful flowers invent themselves just so that we can admire and enjoy them?

How about the sugar thermostat in the pancreas? It maintains a level of sugar in the blood sufficient for energy. Without it, all of us would fall into a coma and die. The human heart will beat for 70 or 80 years without stopping. How does it get sufficient rest between beats? A kidney will filter poison from the blood and leave good things alone. How does it know one from the other?

Who gave the human tongue the flexibility to form words and the brain the ability to understand them, but denied all this to other creatures? Who showed a womb how to take the love of two persons and to keep splitting a tiny ovum until, in time, a baby would have the proper number of fingers, toes, eyes and ears, all in the right places, and come into the world when it is strong enough to sustain life?

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### Discuss the questions:

What is the writer's purpose in this article?

What are some of the wonders of nature mentioned in the article?

What other amazing things in nature can you think of?

How do you think that they originated?

Do you believe in God or in some other power over your life?

Does religion or having faith in God make one's life easier?

Do you think it is good for people to believe in God?

If there is a power in control of our lives, do you think one can or should resist it? Why?

### Vocabulary

**accidental** (a) [æksi'dentl] — happening by chance or accident and not deliberately intended .....

**almighty** (a) [o:l'maiti] — all-powerful .....

**burst into leaf** (phr) [bɜ:st intu li:f] — to suddenly open with leaves .....

**coma** (n) [kəʊmə] — state of deep unconsciousness .....

**deny** (v) [di'nai] — to refuse to give .....

**drop** (v) [drɒp] — to let fall .....

**kidney** (n) [kidni] — organ that removes waste matter from the blood and sends it out of the body in urine .....

**ovum** (n) [əʊvəm] — woman's reproductive cell which is fertilized by a man's sperm to produce a child .....

**purpose** (n) [pə:pəs] — reason for something .....

**resist** (v) [ri'zist] — to stop or prevent; to fight or oppose .....

**spin** (v) [spin] — to turn quickly around a central point .....

**split** (v) [split] — to divide into two or more parts .....

**steady** (a) [stedɪ] — without interruptions and not likely to change quickly .....

**sufficient** (a) [sə'fiʃnt] — enough or adequate .....

**sustain** (v) [səs'tein] — to continue or maintain .....

**tilt** (v) [tilt] — to move into a position with one side higher than the other .....

**womb** (n) [wu:m] — part inside a woman's body where a baby grows before it is born .....

## WHAT ARE YOUR BELIEFS?

**Do you think there are any supernatural powers or energies in the universe?**

I think that there have to be unseen spiritual powers to explain such things as clairvoyance / ESP / ...). Many strange phenomena, such as ... can't be explained in physical terms only.  
Some people have a (power to heal / special inner energy / ...). Some have been able to (see into the future / perform miracles / ...).

**Do you believe in a higher power or being that is governing the universe?**

I believe that there is (a supreme God who is in control of all things / a higher power / ...).  
I believe in (a higher power, but 'god' is not a good name for it / God who made the universe but left it / ...).  
I feel there are (good and evil forces competing with each other in the universe / intelligent beings from outer space trying to contact humans / ...).



I believe that (no supernatural beings or forces exist / people are the complete masters of their lives and destinies / ...).

**Do you believe in life after death or life before birth?**

I feel that (life ends at death and there is nothing more / we had no other life before we were born / ...).  
I believe in (heaven, hell or purgatory, depending on our life on this earth / a resurrection back to life on earth / ...).



I believe that (one can receive eternal life / mankind will live with God on a new earth under new conditions / ...).  
I believe in (reincarnation, that is, going from one type of life on this earth to another / an eternal existence of the soul after the death of the body / ...).

**Do you feel that religion has a practical use in today's world? Why?**

I think that each person has to believe in something such as (a higher power / fate / nature and reality / ...).  
I believe that a relationship with God is (still relevant today / not only possible but needful in our stressful world / only something imaginary / ...).  
I feel that (there's not much use for religion in our scientific world / people need divine help to solve their problems / ...).  
Religion has (often set a bad example / not made much difference / had a positive effect on society / ...).

**force** (n) [fɔ:s] — power, energy or influence  
**purgatory** (n) [pə'gætəri] — place where Catholics believe the spirits of dead people are sent to suffer for their sins before going to heaven

**resurrection** (n) [rezə'rekʃn] — rising from the dead

**superstition** (n) [sju:pə'stʃn] — belief in things that are not real or possible

**Talk together about the following:**

Are our lives and destinies directed by the stars as the astrologers say?  
Do you believe in horoscopes? Have horoscope predictions ever been fulfilled in your life?  
Do you believe in talismans? Have you got an object that you feel has brought you luck or protected you?  
Do you think that some days are unlucky, for example, Friday 13th?  
Why do some people believe that seeing a chimney-sweep or finding a four leaf clover brings them luck?  
What other superstitions do people believe?  
Why are people superstitious in today's modern world?



### Vocabulary

**clover** (n) [klaʊvə] — small plant with pink or white ball-shaped flowers  
**destiny** (n) [des'tɪni] — everything that happens to a person during their life, including what will happen in the future  
**direct** (v) [dɪ'rekt] — to control or guide  
**prediction** (n) [prɪ'dɪkʃn] — saying ahead of time what will happen



### RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS AROUND THE WORLD

**Christianity**  
Jesus Christ  
Holy Bible  
grace  
salvation  
Trinity  
Holy Spirit  
Satan  
baptism

**Hinduism**  
Brahma  
Vishnu / Krishna  
Shiva  
Vedas  
reincarnation  
karma

**Shinto**  
kami  
nature worship

**Taoism**  
Tao  
yin  
yang

**Buddhism**  
Buddha  
dharma  
sangha  
nirvana

**Judaism**  
Yahweh  
Talmud  
Torah  
Sabbath  
bar mitzvah

**Confucianism**  
Confucius  
Analects

**Islam**  
Allah  
Muhammad  
Koran  
Mecca  
Ramadan