



What is Good in Naturalism?

<https://fermisocietyofphilosophy.wordpress.com/>

philosophysociety@fnal.gov

<https://www.meetup.com/Fermi-Society-of-Philosophy>

burov@fnal.gov

What is Naturalism?

1. “The term “naturalism” has no very precise meaning in contemporary philosophy.” (SEP, “Naturalism”)
2. Ontological Naturalism: “The view that there is no supernatural; nature encompasses everything and everything can be studied scientifically. Philosophy and science are studying the same things.” (Jim Hylton)
3. My definition of the (ontological) Naturalism = Materialism:

The primary substance is almost nothing: primary matter, which changes according to a mindless, reasonless, lifeless necessity and chance.

Mindless necessity somehow transforms into mindful: mathematically elegant and anthropic laws.

Life somehow emerges from matter fully because of laws and chance.

Mind (thinking, conscious, reasoning substance) somehow emerges from life fully because of laws and chance.

There is no mind and no life except emergent ones.

So, there is no supreme mind(s), no immaterial spirits, no God.

Naturalism can be described as a worldview with a sequence of groundless emergence of something out of something lower, due to chance; so its cosmogenesis can be called *chaosogenesis*.

Theism is an opposition to Naturalism

Theism is the opposite of Naturalism.

Naturalistic cosmogenesis is a sequence of emergences of something out of something smaller, poorer, simpler, lower. It is a groundless emergence of more and more clever, sophisticated levels of Being. The groundlessness means that PSR is violated.

Theistic cosmogenesis is opposite; based on a grounded descent of the richest, through emanation, birth, creation or fabrication:

The theistic primary substance, the ground of everything existent is the richest essence: the eternal totality of All Good, which is Supreme God. The world comes out as a result of Its descent, through one or many steps.

Matter, life and thinking beings are created by the Creator God, which is either an aspect of Supreme God or a Secondary God. The Creator is responsible for everything in the universe, except what relates to our free will.

The Creator relates to us (and maybe other thinking beings) as our loving father, helping us grow in more similarity to Him. Pain and suffering are necessary for our growth in this world and beyond. The purpose of our life is to increase communion with Him. Thus, theistic Being is a loop.

Why it is unreasonable to assume the primacy of matter:

<https://pythagoreanuniverse.com/>

<https://fermisocietyofphilosophy.wordpress.com/>

Why Naturalism Is Unreasonable at Each Point

1. Nature is contingent and very sophisticated, so it cannot explain itself. To take it as self-explaining is absurd. A higher level, a reason for the very sophisticated natural world is required, which is the ultimate Ground or sufficient reason or Terminus of everything. The Terminus can only be the totality of goodness, or the Good per se (Being, One, Substance, Natura Naturans, Absolute, God). This classical line of thought repeats again and again, since it cannot be reasonably avoided.
2. The laws of nature are mathematically elegant, based on simple principles of symmetry and invariance, universal, exact, pedagogical, astonishing and anthropic, all of which is required for them to be dramatically discoverable. It is absurd to assume this as self-explanatory or an accident.
3. Living beings are so sophisticated, diverse and beautiful, that it is absurd to assume it happened by chance, even if the universe were infinite. “Darwinism is a triumph of ideology over common sense” (T. Nagel)
4. The scale of human thought is truly cosmic (45 orders of magnitude with up to 12 orders of accuracy). It is ridiculous to explain that by chance and banality of “fittest survive”.
5. A belief that ability to think is due to a chance and physical laws is incompatible with trust in reason, at least beyond basic needs of life. Naturalism undermines itself, like Epimenides paradox of the liar.

Why Naturalism Is Fundamentally Evil

Naturalism leads to nihilism or moral relativism, since nature never tells what is obligatory and meaningful. Science does not possess an obligatory power.

Of course, it does not mean that each Naturalist is nihilist. Some of naturalists are really noble people. However, they are such not due but contrary to their Naturalist views.

Moral life requires the ability to sacrifice natural interests of myself, my family, my friends and relatives for justice, for the sake of strangers. Moral relativism discourages that.

As a result, nihilism, if dominated, leads to Hobbesian war of all against all, war of clans, or a cruel tyranny; nothing else is possible. People of nihilistic societies do not trust each other, such societies are doomed to the Hobbesian swamp.

Naturalistic–mechanistic Marxism, Social–Darwinist Nazism, nihilistic Russia are examples. As the trend of a religious decline continues in the Western countries, more such examples are to be expected.

It does not mean, that religion domination necessarily leads to prosperity, of course. Any religion may degrade to hypocrisy; its absolutization may lead to tyranny and religious wars.

However, this means only that theistic religions may lead to social disasters. Certainly, not all religious traditions are equally good. Each religion needs to be improved, and some do.

On the contrary, Naturalism leads to the disasters by its very essence.

Why Naturalism Is Fundamentally Depressive: Art

There are a lot of beautiful effects and ideas in Natural sciences.

By no means they should be assigned to Naturalism, however. Among Founding Fathers of Physics, from Plato to, say, Heisenberg, there were no naturalists at all.

Great religions always were and still are sources of powerful artistic inspirations.

Impressive temples, great music, paintings, sculpture, poetry, prose, philosophy and theology are all fruits of religious inspirations.

Naturalism is not new; it was known at least from the classical Antiquity. Where are great naturalistic architecture, music,..., philosophy,... etc? There are none; they never exist.

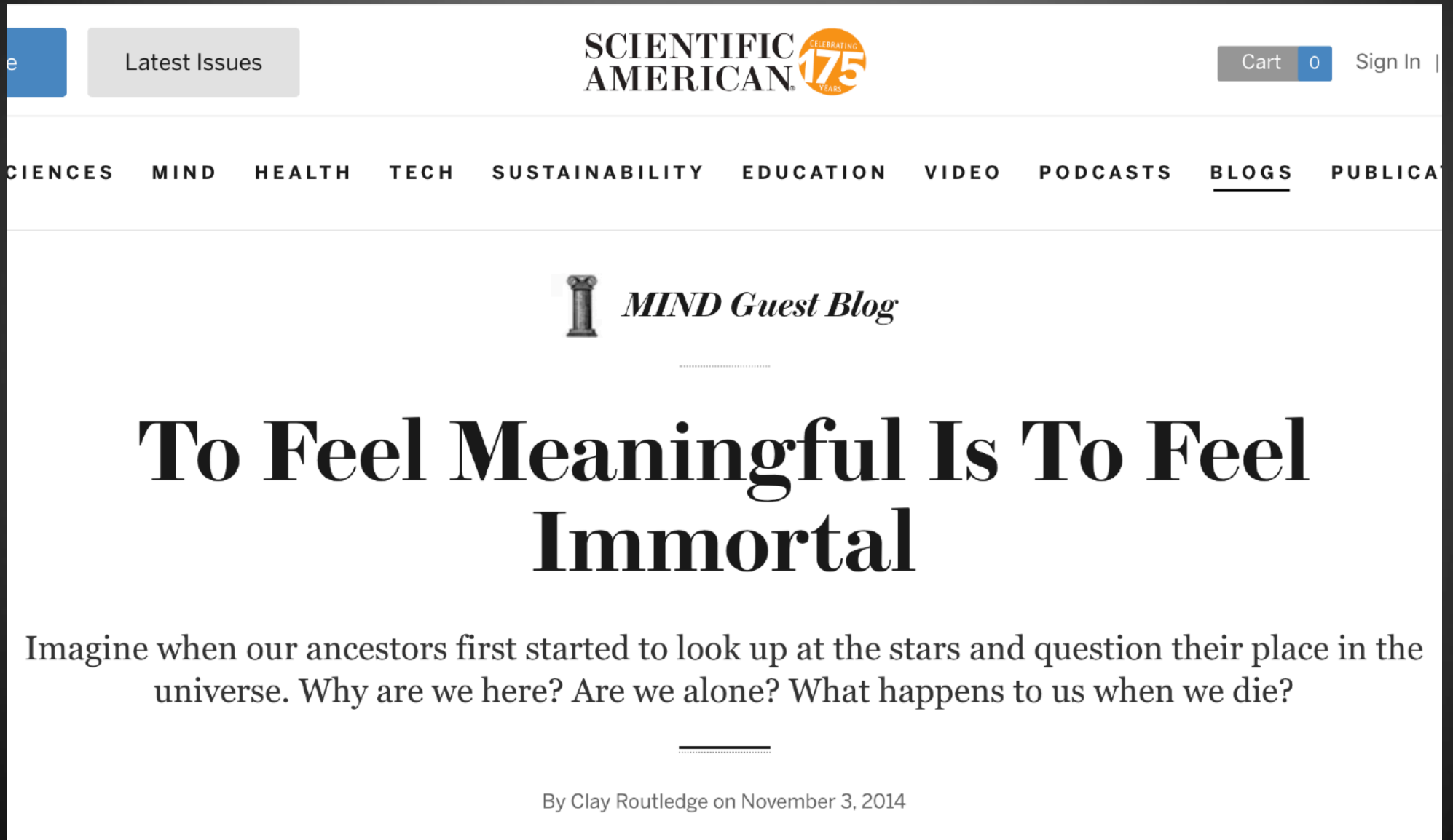
No surprise: the teaching itself is anti-inspirational, it is depressive. It reduces all the great, sacred, inspirational to the lowest thinkable essence: mindless, meaningless, senseless, poor and abysmal.

What could be worse and more repulsive than this alleged origin of everything, proclaimed by Naturalism?

What sort of inspiration could grow from such a root, where the Spirit itself is fundamentally humiliated?

Why Naturalism Is Fundamentally Depressive: Life

Recent studies of Naturalism' numerous depressive psychological effects can be found in



The image is a screenshot of a web page from Scientific American. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text 'e' on the left, 'Latest Issues' in a grey button, the 'SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN' logo with a 'CELEBRATING 175 YEARS' badge, a 'Cart 0' button, and a 'Sign In |' link. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with the following items: 'SCIENCES', 'MIND', 'HEALTH', 'TECH', 'SUSTAINABILITY', 'EDUCATION', 'VIDEO', 'PODCASTS', 'BLOGS' (which is underlined), and 'PUBLICA'. The main content area features a 'MIND Guest Blog' header with a small icon of a classical column. The title of the article is 'To Feel Meaningful Is To Feel Immortal' in a large, bold, black serif font. Below the title is a short introductory paragraph: 'Imagine when our ancestors first started to look up at the stars and question their place in the universe. Why are we here? Are we alone? What happens to us when we die?'. At the bottom of the page, the author information reads 'By Clay Routledge on November 3, 2014'.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

Cart 0 Sign In |

SCIENCES MIND HEALTH TECH SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION VIDEO PODCASTS BLOGS PUBLICA

I *MIND Guest Blog*

To Feel Meaningful Is To Feel Immortal

Imagine when our ancestors first started to look up at the stars and question their place in the universe. Why are we here? Are we alone? What happens to us when we die?

By Clay Routledge on November 3, 2014

To be continued