

I Wonder

Scott
September 10, 2016

Some of the football players are choosing to sit, through the U.S. National Anthem, and say that they are taking a stand against injustice; it is quite an example of little effort that they are presenting. They start the football game by sitting. During the game, they are standing around doing nothing far longer than the actual play time. Should others who face injustice follow the examples of these football players? Should firemen sit before entering burning homes? Maybe nurses and doctors can sit or stand around when DUI, rape and shooting victims are brought to Emergency Rooms; doctors, nurses, janitors and all people of children's cancer wards could sit, too. Maybe police sit, when confronted by the daily scenes of (active) shootings, child molestations, rape, murder, domestic violence and a myriad of other injustices. It is these players of a (football) game that should learn from those who give their best, in the face of injustice. Yes, there is injustice but sitting and standing will not help anyone. Maybe, if you held your breath, while sitting, something better might come of it?

I Wonder

Scott
February 11, 2016

I have seen a text making the rounds on e-mail and Facebook. The author questions the meaning of "let's make America Great again". The author suggests various times, from history, that might be considered. When women and minorities couldn't vote? Burning witches? Slavery? Colonial rule? The author proposed other times, in the history of the United States.

I offer my response, for a "time."

Maybe it was before our earnings went to government waste. Maybe it was when individuals appreciated what they had and worked for what they wanted, instead of jealousy/resentment for what others have. Maybe it was when lawyers sought truth, instead of winning the court case. Maybe it was before a business (employment opportunities) failed because of poor customer service, instead of government regulations. Maybe it was when politicians were respected and trusted, instead of assumed, even blatant, liars. Maybe it was when people acknowledged and accepted imperfections in themselves and others, instead of requiring perfection of others (and society). Maybe it was when individuals were responsible for their actions, instead of blaming everyone from their childhood and neighborhood (society). Maybe it was when diseases (small pox, malaria, etc.) were addressed, tyrants (Hitler, etc.) were stopped, rape and murder were unacceptable or humans walked on the moon. Maybe it was when large segments of society began to achieve and appreciate its advancement, instead of the harsh societies of the past (Rome, Vikings, Mongols, etc.; some present societies, too). Maybe it was when every life was precious and personal contact was cherished, instead of the fantasy of movies and "apps". Maybe it was when the individual strove for truth and improvement, instead of wallowing in injustice and mistakes.

I Wonder

Scott
April 7, 2014

Evolution is supposedly based upon survival of the fittest. I presume that this is based upon the needs of food, shelter and protection from predators/others. However, some aspects of reality do not seem to fit this definition.

In the scheme of survival of the fittest, where do the Purcell's, Mozart's and Haydn's of the world fit? I don't think that their works were for "soothing the savage beast."

How did Jules Verne write such fantastic works and with such accuracy to the modern experience?

Albert Einstein postulated the theory of relativity, among many concepts. His work was theoretical, extra-worldly and incredibly mathematical. How does any of his work apply to day-to-day survival?

I Wonder

Scott
April 7, 2014

In the beginning, the earth was without form, per Holy Scripture. The big-bang says the earth was a molten blob; all of the stars, planets and other stuff in space came from something smaller than an atom but haven't explained how or why it began spewing forth all of the matter. Until God brought forth light, darkness covered the land; big-bang says that the sun didn't exist for eons. God gathered the waters, so that dry land appeared. In the big-bang narrative, volcanoes, ice ages and floods worked the surface of earth to produce dry land. Holy Scripture and the big-bang claim are quite similar. How can this be, since science says that no life existed?

Now, science espouses the big-bang narrative; big-bang has evolved for about 200 years. However, the Holy Scripture was written nearly 5,000 years ago. Science depicts the people of 5,000 years ago as uneducated and barely out of the stone-age. How could these "ignorant" people have accurately written of events that they could not have known? Writing, paper and education were not common and were limited to the rulers (a.k.a wealthy). Why would rulers allow writing about God, who is far more powerful than they? If God were a hoax, why would a ruler waste so much treasure?

I Wonder

Scott
January 18, 2013

In 2010, knife wielding attackers killed at least 15 children and 2 adults, in Chinese elementary schools. Adam Lanza shot and killed 28 children and teachers, at an elementary school. Timothy McVeigh killed

168 with a bomb made of fertilizer. Four airplanes were used by a few people on 9-11 to kill 2,752. In 2010, drunk drivers killed 10,228, an average of 28 per day. While some individuals want guns banned because they don't see their need, individuals can also be found who have no need for aircraft, fertilizer, alcohol or cars. Maybe these items should be banned, also. It is acknowledged that guns, knives, alcohol, cars and planes are readily available. However, few acknowledge that the vast majority are legally owned, operated safely and imbibed responsibly. Laws (words on paper) provide guidance for the conduct of a society and only regulate responsible people; laws are wholly ignored by the individuals who commit crimes. Only addressing the attitude of criminals will resolve crimes.

I Wonder

Scott

November 2, 2012

Does the President and his cabinet sleep well, these days? Does the Benghazi reality show haunt them? Unlike the Hollywood versions, four of the "contestants" were murdered and returned in caskets, never to star in another episode. Have the gang murders of Chicago numbed the truth? Are the supposed budget cuts of Washington a reason to deny even an attempt to rescue the people in harm's way? Do they realize that the almighty wisdom in Washington is nothing compared to the experience of those who are doing the work? I wonder.

I Wonder

Scott

October 1, 2012

Some Thoughts on Freedom

When the oldest living alumnus of a great Eastern University returned to attend homecoming he was asked to address the student body. The ninety-six-year-old benefactor was guided to the lectern and the audience settled in to hear a long speech. They were surprised, however, when he made a single sentence speech. He said, "I want to thank this school for setting me free without setting me adrift", and he sat down. What a tribute to set someone free without setting them adrift.

One of the most meaningful efforts in which we can engage ourselves is becoming free and setting others free.

So many people are bound by so much: ignorance, pain, fear, guilt, hate, greed, lust, and the list goes on. You can look into the eyes of some people and see chains on their souls, and others are bound by chains we cannot see.

Giving and receiving freedom is basic to love. Without freedom, we often end up owning people and loving things.

I hope that it can be said of the Church of the Wayfarer that we 'set people free without setting them adrift'!

I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday.

*Prayerfully, Pastor Norm
Church of the Wayfarer
Carmel, CA*

Dear Rev. Mowery:

It is apparent that you are filled with the Holy Spirit, thus well!

Your message arrived at a moment when I'm open to God's Word and leadership. I always intend to be open but...

'Freedom but not adrift' is similar to the adage, "up the creek without a paddle." Your words, also, reminded me of Peter and the others in the boat; they were sailing against the wind and waves. They were in "prison." Peter was correct in his decision to get out and walk!

I know that I need to walk and not rely on the boat. Contrary to the world's instructions, it is not my will or power. Maybe, I have not been listening or blessed with the call. Someday.

God Is.

I Wonder

Scott
September 21, 2012

An advertisement by President Clinton and approved by President Obama states that Obama wants to rebuild America "from the ground up." All citizens of this nation have been building America for over 200 years; it is not for Obama or Congress to throw away, destroy or start over for it belongs to the citizens. Contrary to Obama's comment, "You didn't do that", actually, we did that and more. With our taxes, government contracts are made with private sector companies to do all of the work, though politicians take the credit. We, the people, designed and built schools, universities, businesses, homes and roads. Further, we paid for all of them. Even our Constitution, which the President, Congress and courts are supposed to uphold, was envisioned and written by citizens of the land. This nation is not perfect but it is getting better. The nation is being built by "we, the people," not the whim of a President or Congress.

I Wonder

Scott
September 5, 2012

It's been claimed that entrepreneurs are successful only because of government programs, not their effort. Then, to what government programs should the unemployed, the poor or the homeless attribute their success? In reality, auto companies have been successful when the roads were dirt and rutted; their continued success is based upon their product, not a bailout or regulation. People have lived in thriving communities, before water and sewer systems, paved roads, trash collection or regulated construction on specified lots. Even before school systems and universities, education has been valued. The study and practice of medicine predates hospitals and medical insurance. Long before laws, legal documents, lawyers and courts, people were guided by integrity, courtesy and responsibility. The life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of an individual are unique to each person; success cannot be compared, judged or regulated. Our government of the people, by the people and for the people was begun by the people. We the people seek a common good but not a regulated conformity.

I Wonder

Scott
March 9, 2012

The "contraception" discussion has changed from religious freedom to who is responsible; it is not about availability. Birth control is the choice and responsibility of the individual/couple, not an employer or government (e.g. China). Even in the name of "women's health", relinquishing any aspect of the individual's choice (even the finances) to the government will result in government takeover and regulation of the choice. With women's health as the criteria, realize that the individual's weight and diet will be government regulated. Either the individual retains choice and full responsibility or the government will usurp all control. In a simpler perspective, would you want the writer's of the State/Federal tax codes or "Fast and Furious" to manage any aspect of your birth control and health?

I Wonder

Scott
February 14, 2012

The CEO of Disneyland is considered worthy of \$31M per year. For sure, he makes critical decisions but so does every employee. Each employee addresses the customer, so a poor decision immediately reflects on and affects the entire business. Then, there was the \$3.5M for a 30-second advertisement during the Superbowl. The \$3.5M would have been better spent on hiring 70 people for a year; this equates to \$50K (wages, insurance, taxes, etc) per year. Next, the County is considering eliminating the credit limit for the desal project. Can't management work within a budget? This comes after the County layoffs and pay cuts for employees. It seems to me that a cost cutting business plan is to keep manufacturing in the U.S. and send management to China.

I Wonder

Scott
October 10, 2011

At a recent dance, friends taught me an Argentine Tango sequence, which they had recently learned. Later, as I drifted off to sleep, I was working through the sequence and knew that I was missing something important.

In the wee hours of the morning, my thoughts were of the dance evening, as I awoke. The first thought was that I had been dancing with God's image. What a wonderful revelation and Peace. Not only had my evening been spent dancing with God's image but that I, too, am God's image.

As I lay contemplating whom I had danced with, another thought came forth. A couple of years ago, another dear friend and Argentine Tango dance instructor correctly said that Tango is not about the steps or rhythm but the frame, my chest (i.e. lead and follow). I realized that I was focusing on the dance steps, instead of my lead. Thus, I contemplated the lead that would result in the motion and steps of the sequence. I don't have the sequence yet but I am a lot closer than I was.

I wonder how close I came to a greater truth than the Tango sequence. In my life, am I focusing on the steps, instead of God's lead and my follow that naturally results in the steps?

As I awoke from my slumber in the early hours of the following night, my thoughts were focused on friendship, commitment and giving of one's life. The people who initially filled my thoughts were those who care for the elderly and the residents of convalescent/retirement homes. These few individuals commit their lives to those who are unable to care for themselves and are sometimes resentful of this gift. Then, a second group of people came to mind: those who commit to marriage. In Holy matrimony, individuals commit their life to another.

God Is.

I Wonder

Scott
September 27, 2011

Yes, this country has flaws but we have greater hope and opportunities. Freedom of speech is the wonderful start. We are a collection of people who try to do what is right. Am I, an individual, more perfect than the collection? To get a better understanding of our flaws, we could each live under the rules of a different collection. As for me, I try to be open to the reality of my flaws, so that I can better the whole.

I Wonder

Scott
August 29, 2011

God Is not the means to an end.

God Is the means and the end.

When realized, this truth challenges the individual.

When accepted, this truth changes the individual.

I Wonder

Scott
August 12, 2011

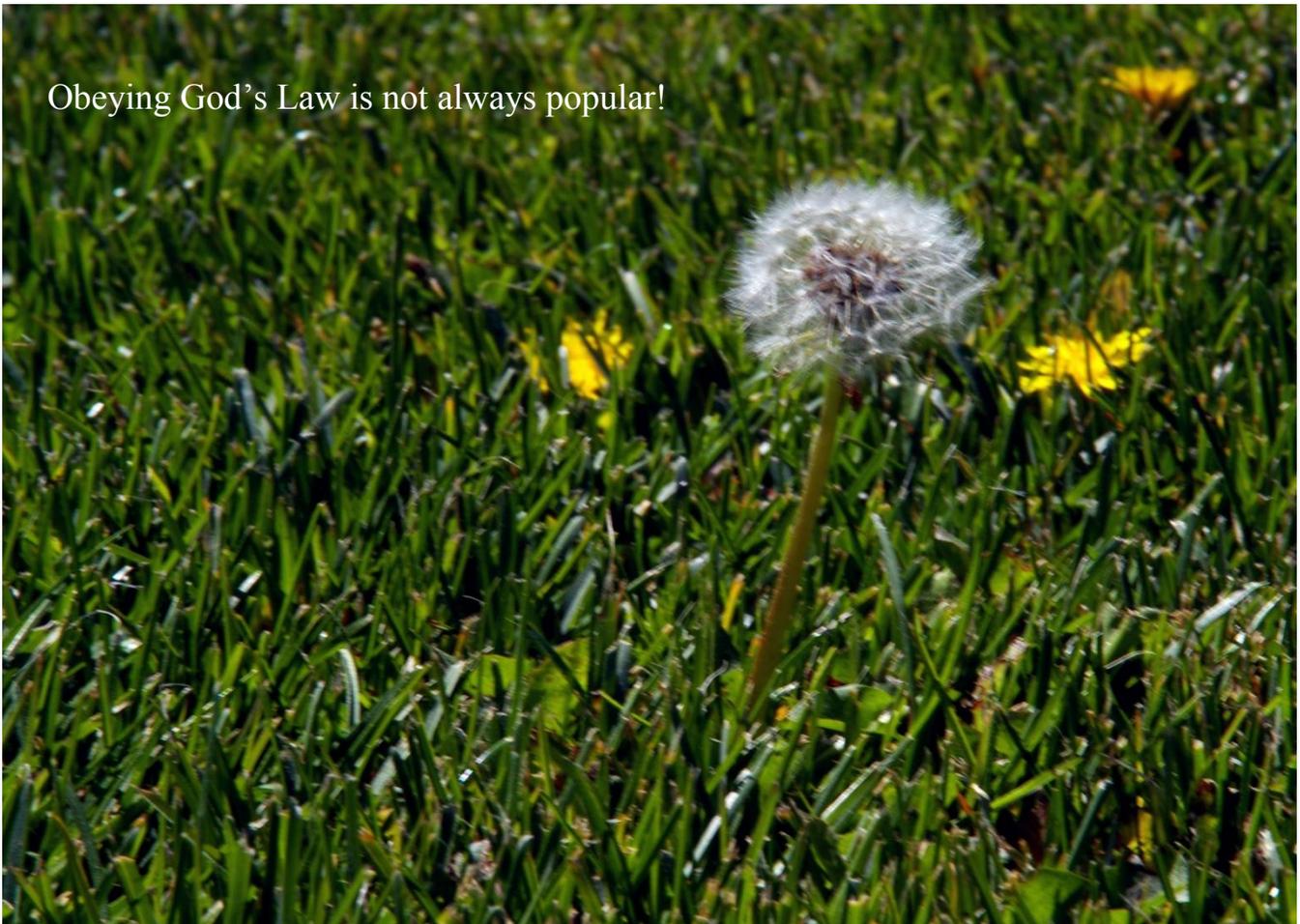
Is beauty really in the eye of the beholder? I think not.

Beauty Is. It is not the making or the intent of the beholder. As for the beholder, the eyes of the heart are opened, for at least a moment. Thankfully, the beauty of that moment is held for eternity.

I Wonder

Scott
July 13, 2011

Obeying God's Law is not always popular!



A statement, in a recent sermon, suggested that the Torah's law regarding heterosexual versus homosexual relationships was based upon the need to have a large and growing populace. It was further suggested that this populace was needed for military reasons. However, God routinely led the people of Israel against larger forces, so I don't think that the human Israeli army is a valid basis to interpret the Torah. God was and is the army of Israel and the people, through faith, serve. Because God is Love and Just, it is unreasonable to interpret the Torah based upon the "large and growing populace" notion.

While considering the sermon, the meeting of Jesus and the adulteress came to mind.

Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again." (John 8: 10, 11)

Also, Jesus said,

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished." (Matthew 5:17)

Thus, Jesus loved the adulteress and did not condemn her, for he came for her salvation. However, he did not change the law to free her from sin and he did tell her not to sin again.

In the "modern and civilized world", "You shall not commit adultery" (Seventh Commandment) is routinely disregarded. Prostitution, cohabitation, one-night-stand and affairs are dismissed as acceptable, even normal, behavior. Even the church blinds its eyes to the sins of the "faithful and believers." As Jesus, we are to forgive and to love sinners. As Jesus, we are not to alter the law and we are to support cessation of sin.

Being the Son of God, Jesus holds great authority, yet he does not alter the law. Many times, God punished, even sent into exile, His beloved chosen people because they broke His law.

People praise God for being loving and just. Then, they claim to rewrite the just and loving laws of God.

I Wonder

Scott
June 30, 2011

I often feel overwhelmed and at the mercy of whatever whim the world throws my way. Much of my mental/emotional effort is to seek God; I realize that control is not in my hands, so I seek the only One Who Is. Yes, I seek God but, sometimes, I feel so lost, alone, unacceptable and, simply, not good enough for anyone. I am good enough for God, I know, but getting slapped around by the world distracts my already impaired vision.

I Wonder

Scott
June 18, 2011

Don't look for beauty. See it.

I Wonder

Scott
June 2, 2011

A few years ago, my friend told me to stop asking because I ask too much. Since hearing this, I've been prompted to think.

If I don't ask, then how can anyone else understand what I seek? Am I not also offering what I ask?

In asking, am I imposing my will and attitude? Or, is the simple act of asking expressing my hope and offer?

My asking reveals vulnerability. It reveals my perception of the difference between who/what I am and who/what I want to be.

I realize that some requests are selfish but many are born of my sincere desire to be better. Many requests are my admission that I am not nor cannot become the greater person within, without sharing the journey of growth.

Others are not required to say yes to what I ask. My asking must not be seen as a command performance for anyone. I, in asking, seek freedom, not slavery.

I Wonder

Scott
March 17, 2011

Yesterday is past, so reach beyond it.

Today is here, in the imperfection of best.

Tomorrow is hope.

I Wonder

Scott
March 17, 2011

Take everything to God in Prayer. Even those who have Phd's do studies and research but Prayer is with the One who Knows. Prayer takes us to the One whose Will is to be done through us.

I Wonder

Scott
February 16, 2011

Faith, as a mustard seed, can move mountains but I haven't moved the mole hill of my attitude.

I Wonder

Scott
February 1, 2011

Recently, a job interview introduced me to a person, who became my boss for a short time. During the interview, he mentioned that he was competitive. Regardless of the task, he stated that he would not just excel but would be better than everyone else. Upon my being selected for the position, he became my boss.

From my brief experience as his employee, it was evident that nothing I did was adequate. He found fault, in all of my work and the time/effort, which I put into it. Structural concerns were dismissed in deference to his concept/design. Any attempts to explain structural facts or my intention/perspective were swiftly silenced with "no excuses" or "this is what I want."

Contrary to his opinion, I've provided quality work for decades and in a variety of products.

Needless to say, my employment did not last long because, clearly, he considered me to be incompetent or incapable. It seems that his competitive attitude was expressed as my being inferior. Yes, I recognize that he has a bright mind and a lot of experience but he is not all knowing.

My mind and experience will not be discarded.

I Wonder

Scott
Letter to the Editor
Monterey Herald Newspaper
November 29, 2010

Until ten years ago, decades of air travel had been an adventure; millions of people considered flying to be an extension of the pleasure of the trip. Nine years ago, a small group of people boarded a few planes for the purpose of murder. Because of the few, boarding a plane is now a terrible ordeal for millions. Even the TSA director testified to the blatant intrusiveness of the new security measures. Things that only you and your doctor viewed and discuss are now inspected by strangers. The enhanced pat-downs, which would be sexual harassment in a business or molestation of children, are considered security screening. Has “innocent until proven guilty” (by jury of peers) been replaced with “presumed guilty until deemed innocent” (by TSA)? Will these procedures be as ineffective as those against the mayhem by drunk drivers or gangs? The duress and forfeiture of freedom under the new security measures do not provide safety from harm. Remember, “We the People” are the government (not TSA, Congress and/or the President) and “We the People” are responsible for the freedom and safety of all people.

I Wonder

Scott
September 14, 2010

My frustration is not about Republicans, Democrats, gangs or any other group of people. It is not based upon left or right wing ideology. Heritage, race or religion is not considered.

Specific individuals frustrate me. Individuals, who are false government leaders, spend my money (taxes) without regard. Each year, these individuals borrow, though they cannot repay the loan from the previous year. Each year, they create a budget that is a lie; instead of an income based budget, they pretend that the solution is to borrow and increase taxes, until the workers can't afford to work. These individuals are followers, not “leaders”, of the 50 year history of this financial debacle. They follow the notion that spending is glory and responsibility is a joke.

The false leaders enact laws to address problems. In lip service, they promote the laws but, by deed, even lawsuit, they deny the law. They are a sham and a travesty.

False leaders openly claim that a “closed” file means that it is “pending!”

Why is integrity so far from the hearts of these individuals?

I Wonder

Scott
August 27, 2010

Recently, I've seen a few programs about the Mayan civilization. Their society had large pyramids and knowledge. With significant accuracy, they determined the cycles of many stars, in the great galaxy. I understand the study of the moon and the sun, relative to their home (i.e. the Earth) but what prompted such determination to plot distant planets and other nighttime wonders. They were addressing this two thousand years ago.

Based upon the unique alignment of planets, in our solar system, and their calendar, they determined an end of time. Thus, the Mayan calendar shows nothing beyond this date. What, of Earth, would compel someone to date the end of “life” and pronounce it 2,000 years in advance?

End of time writings abound in the New Testament, though the date is specifically omitted. Similar to the Old Testament, the writings are both graphic and interpretive. How could and why would a human write of an end time?

I Wonder

Scott
August 27, 2010

In the Mayan, Roman and the Hebrew societies, communication with spirits and gods was accepted. This communication was not routine but was readily accepted. In contrast to the majority of the world, the knowledge and the accomplishments of these societies were and are great. For two thousand years, their works have endured. For some, the society continues to flourish.

Some say that talking to God is praying but, if God talks to someone, the person is crazy.

What do you want to accomplish during your Earthly life? Are you crazy?

I Wonder

Scott
August 26, 2010

Evolution is the adaptation to one's environment. For survival of a species, the species changes to accommodate changes in the land, temperature, food, adversaries and other reasons.

I had the pleasure of watching Victor Borge and a couple of other great pianists. The incredible talent of these people caused me to wonder. Since evolution is adaptation to one's environment, where did this ability to play the piano come? I do not consider this 10 finger and two foot talent to be an asset for hunting, gathering or farming.

Further consideration brought me to include those with brilliant minds, such as Albert Einstein and the geniuses of high end math (e.g. Fourier Analysis, Integration and Differential Equations). OK, you probably guessed that my Mechanical Engineering background taints my thoughts, though I wish I understood these relatively basic concepts. However, you should include those whom you consider to have brilliant minds. Let's return to my thought path.

What aspect(s) of our hunting/gathering/farming history would have induced the development of these kinds of brilliance? Learning animal behavior, the seasons and soil analysis are one thing but is radically different from the solar system/atom splitting concepts of the Relativity Theory and Fourier Analysis.

If our past caused us to develop the talents of pianists and the mental power of magnificent math, then our environment is far more than our five Earthly senses (sight, smell, touch, taste and sound).

I Wonder

Scott
August 25 2010

Survival of the fittest. The strong kill the weak. However, is this primary to evolution?

Consider a mother bear. She feeds and protects her cubs, because they are weak and vulnerable.

Canadian Geese are very protective of their goslings. As most birds, geese care for and protect their eggs; after hatching, the parents feed and protect their offspring, until the offspring are able to care for themselves.

These actions are contrary to the normal response of survival of the fittest.

Does the mother bear look towards the future and hope that her cubs will be the strong? Do geese and other birds see the chicks as the next generation and continuation of the species? Do they comprehend the significance of future strength or life beyond/after themselves?

Throughout the animal kingdom, the “survival of the fittest” mentality is secondary to the care and protection of their young.

Evolutionists claim that the “survival of the fittest” premise is the law of all time, though the animal kingdom lives beyond this for their offspring. Since humans are supposedly capable of independent thought and reasoning, isn't it reasonable to seek what is beyond survival and beyond the reality of the next generation?

I Wonder

Scott
August 25, 2010

The theory of evolution includes the premise of “survival of the fittest.” In the animal kingdom, this premise is accomplished on an individual basis. It is reasonable that humans have lived this way; some still think they can.

An “evolutionary” step would be from individual to group survival of the fittest. Examples are a pride of lions, an elephant herd or a meerkat family. Nations, unions, corporations and the mafia are large scale examples of this.

The “survival of the fittest” premise is based upon self supremacy. It requires domination, not just control, of one's environment. Superiority must be maintained over all physical (touch, smell, hear, see, etc.) aspects that affects life.

I wonder where the premise of a supreme being came from. Where, in the evolution of “survival of the fittest”, would anyone come up with the idea that there is a superior being that is in charge of everything? Instead of conquering, why would the superior entity be benevolent?

