

RUSSIA SEMINAR TALKS, SEEKERS TRACK
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LECTURE 1: DOES GOD EXIST?

INTRODUCTION

The most important question one can consider is whether or not there is a God. We think there is strong empirical evidence from science pointing to the existence of such a being.

CAUSATION:

One of our earliest experiences in life is cause and effect. A baby playing with its toes and with toys in a playpen is getting direct, hands-on experience with this.

The existence of causes – of which none is known to be 100% efficient in energy transfer – implies the existence of a cause or causes of infinite energy at an infinite time in the past. This is consistent with an infinite, eternal First Cause, but not with an infinite, eternal universe.

COSMOLOGY:

Even in ancient times, people must have thought of stars as fires in the sky, and wondered, "Who lit these fires and who provided the firewood?"

In the 1700s came Olber's paradox (Why is the sky so dark when in an infinite, eternal universe it ought to be bright?) – an early indication that the universe has not always existed. Next came the evidence from nuclear physics that stars are running down. And about the same time, the evidence from astronomy that the universe is flying apart.

This expansion of the universe, coupled with the discovery of the cosmic background radio-radiation in the 1960s, and the fact that gravity dominates all other known forces in high density situations, imply that the universe began in a "big bang" at a finite time in the past. This naturally implies that the universe has a Beginner, a Creator.

DESIGN:

It has become apparent in this century (and particularly in the past 20 years) that one could not have a functional universe (lasting a long time, able to support life) unless the values of a large number of physical constants are very carefully adjusted to one another. Some examples are the nearly perfect balance between cosmic expansion and gravity, between positive and