
Wise Man From The West.

A Wise Man came in from a neighboring State recently--a Wise Man who confessed proudly that he is an atheist, broad-minded and friendly even to narrow Catholics. But he was troubled.

Why do seemingly intelligent Catholics keep insisting upon the existence of an old-fashioned God? No one, to his knowledge at least, has ever seen God or heard God talk. Why then insist that He exists? Isn't this business of a God a Santa Claus story told to make ignorant people think they must be good?

Did the Wise Man have a watch? Yes, yes, he did. Would he take a good look at the works of his watch? Would he agree that his watch is made up of many different springs and sprockets and parts put together in such a way that they keep time?

Yes, of course.

As he looked at the intricate arrangement of the parts, could he help but think that an intelligent being had designed the watch?

A moment's hesitation. He couldn't. Certainly that watch had been made by the manipulations, direct or indirect, of some skillful man!

Ah ha! Did he know too that the human body is a machine much more intricate than a watch? Did he know that the heart works and the lungs pump and the stomach functions in order to keep life in a human being? He knew.

As he thought of the intricate and orderly arrangement of the parts of the human body, could he help but conclude that some intelligent being had so fashioned it; did it not speak of a designer much more intelligent than that of a watch?

Many moments of hesitation. It certainly did!

And who could be that Intelligent Designer? A human father or mother? No, no, neither of them even knows what the machinery of the human body is all about.

Ah, he caught himself, you're using that old-fashioned argument from order! There is disorder as well as order to be observed! You can't argue from order!

No? If you saw a spring tangled up in the machinery of the watch, would you be any more inclined to revise your initial conclusion that the watch had been made by an intelligent maker? No, he wouldn't.

So-o-o-o-o! The Wise Man needed time and more thought. He would go home to the West and come back another day.

This Wise Man is not a fictitious person. He actually came in from the West. He actually prided himself that he had proceeded intelligently to atheism. He would just get a peep at what those superstitious Catholics could say. He had proceeded most intelligently and scientifically, but he could not set down on a slip of paper the simplest, traditional argument that proves the existence of God. St. Thomas he had heard about. But St. Thomas nullifies his process by mixing revelation with reason, a professor had said!

You will meet many such wise men, from West and East, and North and South. Are you ready for them?

PRAYERS: Ill, uncle of Jack McGurl (Alum.); mother of Phil (Eorr.) and Bill (Wal.) Bayer; Sister Gorard, C.S.C. Six special intentions. One thanksgiving.