



## Because Why?

by Dale Fincher

[www.soulation.org](http://www.soulation.org)

A bottle of chewable vitamin C tablets sits on my kitchen table. The label reads, "Do not swallow whole." I imagine having a young child at the table asking the typical question, "Why?" Then my imagined response, "Because if you swallow those large pills without chewing them, they could choke you." "But why?" "Because the throat can handle only certain size foods before you choke." "But why?" At this point, I'm on the verge of mystery. I have two ways to answer the little questioner: 1) that clear, classic response, "Just because," or 2) the question stopper, "God made it that way."

Peter Atkins, a chemist at Oxford, believes like many in the university today that children are socially conditioned to believe in God. But are children socially conditioned to ask "Why?" Children love questions, and they really love the "why" question. Why is 'why' intriguing? Humans, including Peter Atkins, seem to have an innate desire, even at a young age, to make sense of the world.

Aristotle talked about this in terms of "final causes." This was his "telos" where we get our word "teleology," one of the classic arguments for God's existence. If you have the telos of a thing, you have its purpose—its ultimate reason for existing. "Why" is asking about purposes.

Darwinian evolution cannot account for our question, "Why?" This is an often-overlooked point. Darwinian evolution does not believe in telos. There is no final cause. There is no purpose. The word "chance" is used, but used with the contradictory attribute of a purposing or intention. "Two hundred million years ago, chance changed a biological animal into another" as if the word "chance" was a clear way to explain things. It's tantamount to saying, "Just because."

Darwinian evolution not only struggles with explaining ultimate purpose, but also daily purpose. Our daily lives are fraught with purposes as we fill out grocery lists, pick up the kids at school, and conduct business meetings. We intend to turn on our computer, to prune our trees, to drive to work. Does it seem like chance that you happen to be on time for most of your appointments? The Universe had

never seen such intentions and purposings among creatures before the human person came to be.

What a difficulty to the evolutionist to explain why a creature suddenly evolves that asks questions of purpose about itself. The Universe has looked in the mirror and asked, "Why?" It is filled with creatures that do even mundane things with a purpose.

I once raised the following question to a group, "Why is the grass green?" A student near the front blurted out, "Chlorophyll." I responded, "You've told me how grass is green. I want to know why grass is green and not any other color." The Universe suddenly feels occupied by a bigger Person with bigger purposes.

Either purpose is the most bizarre of all conceptual evolutionary mistakes, or it is an indication that there is an Author to the Universe that can answer our questions. In today's culture, the "why" question on the popular airwaves has raised more despair than ever. Is there an answer? Are we allowed to speak of it?

Evelyn Underhill said, "The meaning of our life is bound up with the meaning of the universe." Let us be bold. The question that we raise gives indication

there is an answer beyond "just because." God said, I have made all things and by Me all things consist. Let Him guide you to His ultimate purposes beyond the "why" and into the "Who."

---

© 2005 Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. All Rights Reserved. Permission granted by RZIM where originally published. [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org)