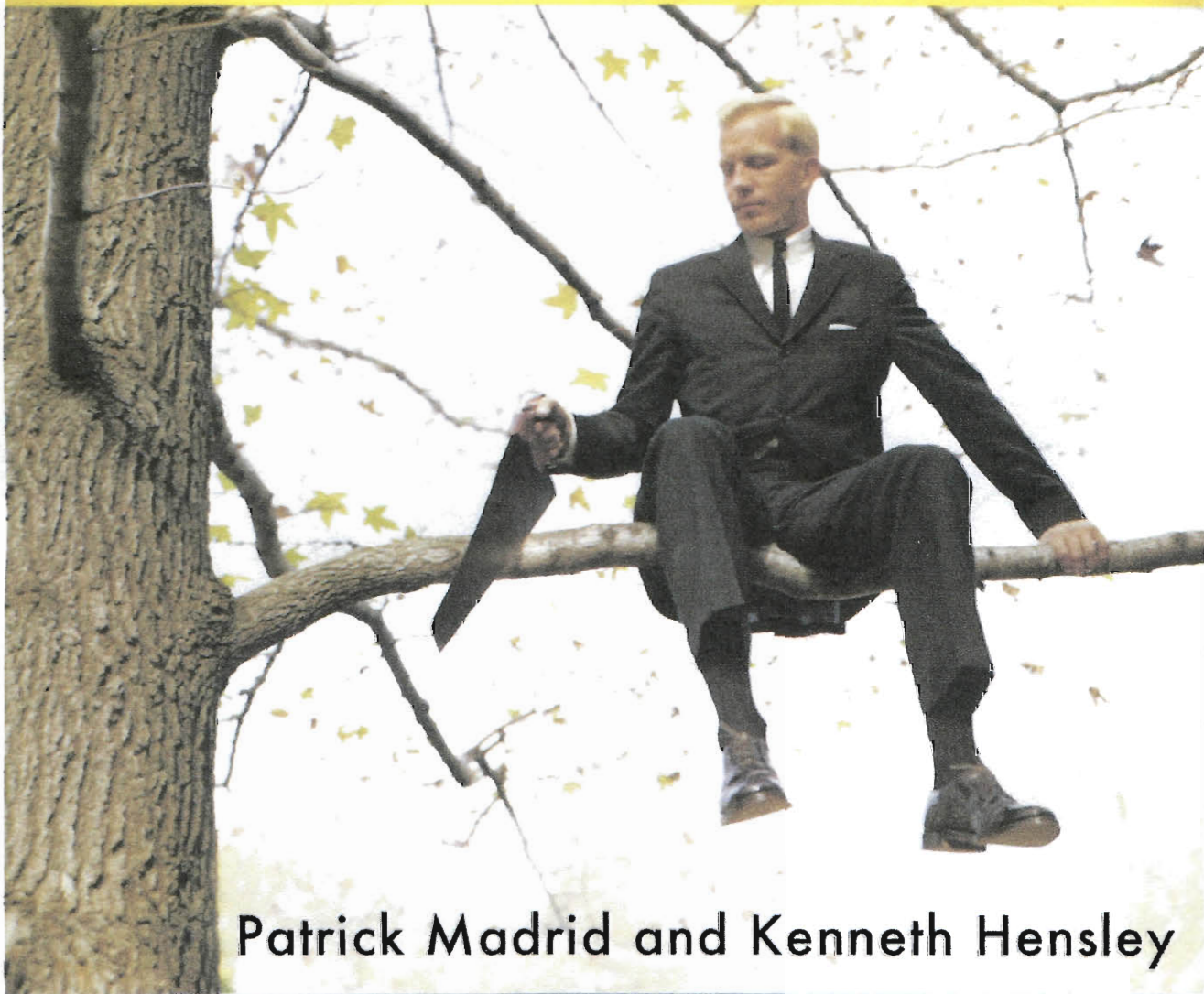


the Godless delusion

A Catholic Challenge to
Modern Atheism



Patrick Madrid and Kenneth Hensley

“A Full-Scale Frontal Assault on the New Atheists’ Stronghold...”

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Patrick Madrid is the author of many books on Catholic themes. He is the director of the Envoy Institute of Belmont Abbey College and hosts the Thursday edition of EWTN Radio’s “Open Line” broadcast (3-5 ET).

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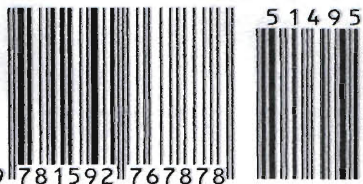
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Even when atheists are willing to admit that they may never be able to explain human consciousness on a scientific basis, many of those suffering from the Godless delusion nonetheless rest secure in their blind faith and dream of a day to come when science will explain it.

About all a Christian can say to that is, "Dream on."

A breathtaking example of atheism's blind faith can be seen in Ben Stein's eye-opening interview with Richard Dawkins in his movie *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*.¹⁶

STEIN: "Well, who did create the heavens and the earth?"

DAWKINS: "Why do you use the word 'who'? You see, you immediately beg the question by using the word 'who.'"

STEIN: "Well, then how did it get created?"

DAWKINS: "Well, by a very slow process."

STEIN: "Well, how did it start?"

DAWKINS: "Nobody knows how it got started. We know the kind of event that it must have been. We know the sort of event that must have happened for the origin of life."

STEIN: "And what was that?"

DAWKINS: "It was the origin of the first self-replicating molecule."

STEIN: "Right, and how did that happen?"

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DAWKINS: "I told you, we don't know."

STEIN: "So you have no idea how it started?"

DAWKINS: "No. Nor does anybody."

STEIN: "What do you think is the possibility that Intelligent Design might turn out to be the answer to some issues in genetics or in Darwinian evolution?"

DAWKINS: "Well, it could come about in the following way. It could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved, probably by some kind of Darwinian means, probably to a very, very high level of technology, and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet. Um, now that is a possibility, and an intriguing possibility. And I suppose it's possible that you might find evidence for that if you look at the details of biochemistry, molecular biology, you might find a signature of some sort of designer."

So Richard Dawkins here presents an "aliens from outer space must have done it" explanation for all this.

(Come on, Dr. Dawkins. Space aliens? *Seriously?*)

The atheist says, "Because naturalism is true, there must, therefore, be a scientific explanation for the existence of human consciousness."

The Christian responds, "Isn't it *possible* that the inability of naturalism to account for human consciousness is evidence that naturalism is *not* true? That there's more to this universe than particles in motion? What if the *truth* is that God's existence, and our creation in God's image,

is what accounts for human consciousness? Wouldn't you want to know the truth, if that was in fact the truth?"

"It cannot be the truth."

"Why not?"

"Because I am a scientist, and as a scientist I believe only what can be observed and measured by the use of the scientific method. To use the scientific method, I have to assume that the natural world is all that exists and that there is a natural explanation for everything, including human consciousness. If I open the door to even the possibility of God's existence as the explanation for consciousness, then I am no longer a scientist but a theologian. Non-natural explanations cannot be allowed."

"But again," the Christian asks, "what if the truth is that there is no natural explanation for human consciousness because God exists, and He created us with self-awareness and consciousness? What if the tweaking of matter can never explain human consciousness? In this case, wouldn't your insistence on natural explanations be leading you *away from* the truth? It begins to sound as if you aren't so much interested in finding the truth as you are in finding natural explanations for everything."

"That's because naturalism is true."

It could be that at some earlier time, somewhere in the universe, a civilization evolved, probably by some kind of Darwinian means, probably to a very, very high level of technology, and designed a form of life that they seeded onto perhaps this planet.

— Richard Dawkins

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