

How to know and share the truth about the Bible?

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thinkingcap®

1 Peter 3:15

- 1 Peter 3:15 *but in your hearts **honor Christ the Lord** as holy, always being prepared to make a **defense** <apologia> to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with **gentleness and respect**, (ESV)*
- <apologia> This Greek word from which we get our English word “Apologetic”

Is the Christian faith blind?

- Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (NIV)*
- Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (ESV)*
- The unbeliever is the one that has blind faith.
- He believes in fairy tales.
 - He believes that a frog did turn into a prince.
 - He believes that fish became philosophers.

Pre-suppositional Apologetics

- Pre-suppositions – *The basic beliefs and assumptions that we all bring to bear before we examine or rationalize about anything.*
- Apologetics – *Giving a reasoned defense of a position often religious.*

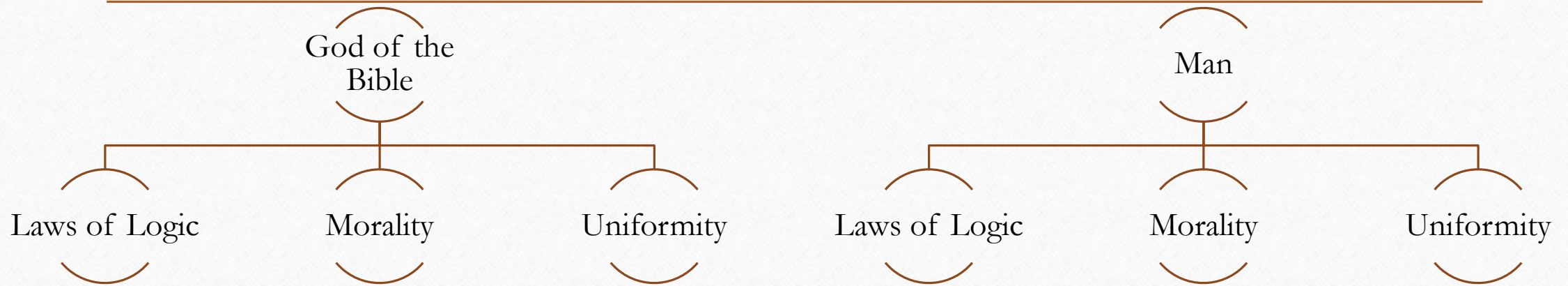
World Views



Our worldview controls the way we view the evidence.

Graphic from: The Ultimate Proof of Creation – Dr Jason Lisle

Ultimate Authority



Virtuously Circular vs. Viciously Circular

Ultimate Authority Example

- *Metre des Archives* – Paris, France
- All meter sticks need to appeal to the authority of *Metre des Archives* as the justification for the fact they are in fact a meter in length.
- A meter stick that appeals to itself as the justification for the fact that it is indeed meter in length would be viciously circular.
- *Metre des Archives* can appeal to itself as it is the actual standard of what is a meter. This is virtuously circular.



It's not about the evidence

- We all have the same evidence.
- We all interpret the evidence with our World View.
- The question really is which World View makes the human experience intelligible?

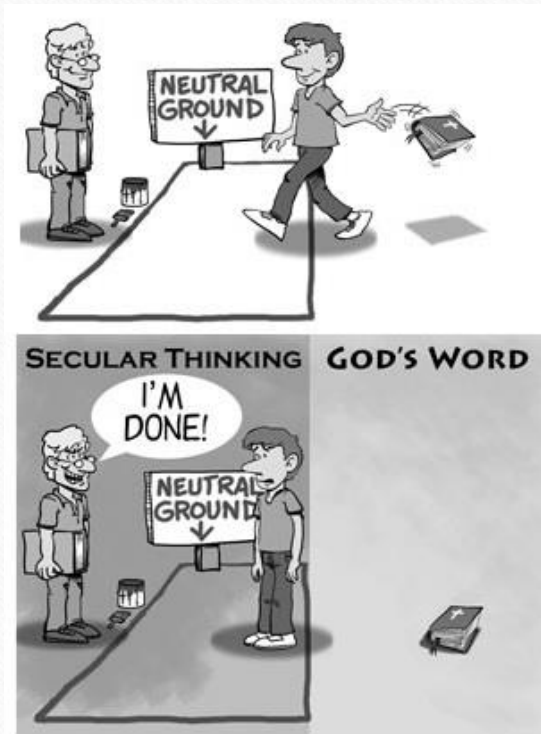


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Rescuing Device

- A method employed to rescue a person's presupposed world view from evidence that would seem to be contrary to it.
 - Why are there still comets in the solar system if comets typically do not last more than 10,000 years?
 - *There is an ort cloud.*
 - Why is there still c14 found in dinosaur bones and in diamonds?
 - *There must be some contamination.*
 - How did random molecules organize themselves into an irreducibly complex, self-replicating organism (the first life)?
 - *Aliens did it.* (Richard Dawkins in the documentary Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed)
 - How can the earth be 6,000 years old if we can see galaxies millions of light years away?
 - *The White Hole Cosmology Theory (Dr. Russell Humphreys) or the Anisotropic Synchrony Convention (Dr. Jason Lisle) are possible solutions.*

The pretended neutrality fallacy



Graphic from: The Ultimate Proof of Creation – Dr Jason Lisle

There is no neutral ground

- Matthew 12:30 **Whoever is not with me is against me**, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. (ESV)
- Romans 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is **hostile to God**, for it **does not submit to God's law**; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**. (ESV)
- To be neutral to our creator is a sin.
- The unbeliever is not neutral.
- You should not pretend to be neutral either.

The Judge and Jury

- Accepting the pretended neutrality claim and attempting to convince the unbeliever of the probable existence of God is making the unbeliever the Judge and Jury over the God who created him.
- Deuteronomy 6:16a *You **shall not put** the Lord your God **to the test*** (ESV)
- Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God **is plain to them**, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So **they are without excuse**.* (ESV)
- God has given us wonderful evidence and we could very likely acquit God in a trial but even if we win the unbeliever is still Judge and Jury over the God who created him.
- Man's problem with God is not intellectual but moral.

The Fool

- Psalms 14:1a *The **fool** says in his heart, “There is no God.” (ESV)*
- Proverbs 26:4 ***Answer not a fool according to his folly**, lest you be like him yourself. 5 **Answer a fool according to his folly**, lest he be wise in his own eyes. (ESV)*
- Romans 1:22 *Claiming to be wise, they became **fools** (ESV)*
- 1 Corinthians 1:20 *Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?** (ESV)*
- Remember that if it were not for the Grace of God that we would be fools like the unbeliever. (1 Cor 4:7 *What do you have that you did not receive?* (ESV))

Suppression vs Profession



Knowledge

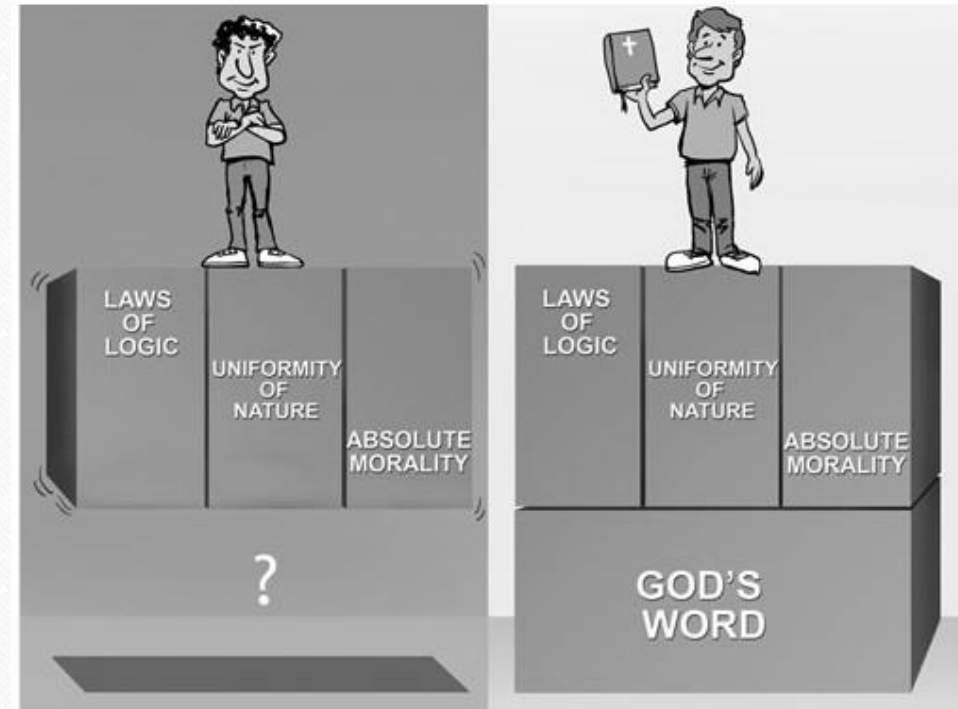
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- *Knowledge is a justified true belief* – Plato
 - *Epistemology* is the branch of philosophy concerned with the nature and scope of knowledge and is also referred to as "theory of knowledge".
 - The Christian has a revelational epistemology that makes sense of the world.
 - The unbeliever has a self-contradicting epistemology that leads to absurdities.
 - The Biblical Christian world view is the only world view that can account for and justify knowledge.
 - The Biblical Christian world view is the only world view that makes knowledge possible.
 - Colossians 2:2b *Christ, 3 in whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.* (ESV)
 - Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is **the beginning of knowledge**; fools despise wisdom and instruction.* (ESV)
 - John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**.* (ESV)

Laws of Logic

- The laws of logic are....
 - Immaterial – Not made of matter
 - Unchanging
 - Universal – Apply everywhere
- The Christian World View is the only one that can justify the existence of immaterial, unchanging, and universal abstract entities like the Laws of Logic.
- The unbeliever will keep on using the Laws of Logic to argue against the Christian World View but in doing so he is borrowing from the Christian World View to argue against it.

Biblical Christian World View

- The Biblical Christian World View is the only world view that provides a foundation and justification for our basic pre-suppositions (Logic, Uniformity, and Morality).
- For someone to argue against the Christian World View they have to borrow pre-suppositions from the Christian World View to argue against it.



Graphic from: The Ultimate Proof of Creation – Dr Jason Lisle

Examples

- The unbeliever arguing against the Christian World View is like a man who is arguing against the existence of air but in order to make his argument he has to use air for breathing and for transmitting his arguments.
- The unbeliever arguing against the Christian World View is like a man arguing against the existence of words but in doing so he must use words to make his argument.

Law of Non-contradiction

- The Law of Non-contradiction states that something cannot be both true and not true at the same time when dealing with the same context.

Logical Fallacies

- A logical fallacy is defined as flaw in the structure of a deductive argument which renders the argument invalid.

Logical Fallacies

- Circular Reasoning
- Begging the question
- Affirming the consequent
- Self-refuting statements

Logical Fallacy: Circular Reasoning

- A logical fallacy in which the conclusion is a stated premise.
 - My reasoning is valid because it has always worked for me in the past.
 - The Bible is true because 2 Timothy 3:16 says the Bible is inspired by God.
 - We date the geological rock layers with the index fossils that we find in the layers and we date the fossils by the rock layer they are found in.
 - I don't have a World View because I come to the evidence completely neutral and let it lead me to rational conclusions.

Logical Fallacy: Begging the question

- A logical fallacy in which the premise of an argument presupposes the truth of its conclusion; in other words, the argument takes for granted what it is supposed to prove. A form of circular reasoning.
 - I expect the laws of science to be the same in the future (uniformity) because they have always been that way in the past.
 - Creationism is not science because it is a supernatural explanation of origins. Evolution is science because it is a naturalistic explanation of origins.
 - The belief in God is Universal, after all everyone does believe in God.
 - *I think therefore I am.* – René Descartes
 - There is no need for objective morality, after all we believe in human rights.
 - Survival of the fittest

Logical Fallacy: Affirming the consequent

- A formal logical fallacy confusing the directionality of if-then propositions.
 - If it is raining then the lawn is wet.
 - ‘if it is raining’ (Antecedent)
 - ‘lawn is wet’ (Consequent)
 - It is raining therefore the lawn is wet. (Affirming the Antecedent) **(Correct)**
 - It is not raining therefore the lawn is not wet. (Denying the Antecedent) **(Wrong)**
 - The lawn is not wet therefore it is not raining. (Denying the Consequent) **(Correct)**
 - The lawn is wet therefore it is raining. (Affirming the Consequent) **(Wrong)**

Logical Fallacy Test

- If there was a common ancestor then DNA would be similar between living organisms.
- DNA is similar between living organisms therefore there is a common ancestor. (Correct or Wrong?)
- If there was a common designer then DNA would be similar between living organisms.

Logical Fallacy: Self-refuting statement

- A claim or statement that does not meet its own conditions. A statement that contradicts itself.
 - All truth must be empirically confirmed with science.
 - There is no absolute truth.
 - We cannot be certain about anything.
 - I live in a world of I don't know.
 - You should not judge.
 - Your not being tolerant, I believe in tolerance.
 - You are close minded, I am open minded.
 - All truth is relative.
 - What is true for you is not true for me.

Challenging the inconsistency

- Are contradictions acceptable in your World View?
- Are circular arguments acceptable in your World View?
- How do you know your reasoning is valid?
- Could you be wrong about everything that you claim to know?
- Where do Universals like the Laws of Logic come from?

Challenging the inconsistency

- The Bible is false because it is full of contradictions?
 - *Are contradictions always false in your World View? How do you justify the existence of a universal law like the law of non-contradiction? How do you know your reasoning is valid?*
- You believe the Bible is the Word of God because the Bible says it is the Word of God. Isn't that circular?
 - *You are correct that is circular. That is not why I believe the Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is true because if you don't start with the God of the Bible you can't know anything at all. (Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. (ESV)) Are circular arguments acceptable in your World View? Is it always wrong to use them? Where do you get a universal unchanging Law of Logic? Could you be wrong about everything you claim to know?*

Uniformity of Nature

- The principle that the laws of nature will be the same in the future as they have been in the past.
- Problem of Induction - David Hume (Naturalistic Philosopher 18th Century) challenged philosophers to come up with a justification for the Uniformity of Nature and stated that if the justification for the Uniformity Principle was that it has just always been that way in the past the answer would be Begging the Question.
- There has been no naturalistic answer to Hume's challenge nor can there be. The only answer to the question is the God of the Bible.

Uniformity of Nature Justified

- Genesis 8:22 *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, **shall not cease.*** (ESV)
- Jeremiah 33:20-21 *“Thus says the Lord: If you can break **my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night**, so that day and night will not come at their appointed time, 21 then also my covenant with David my servant may be broken, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with the Levitical priests my ministers.* (ESV)
- Jeremiah 33:25-26 *Thus says the Lord: If I have not established **my covenant with day and night and the fixed order of heaven and earth**, 26 then I will reject the offspring of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his offspring to rule over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them.”* (ESV)
- Numbers 23:19 *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. **Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*** (ESV)

Challenging the inconsistency

- Explain to me scientifically how God got all those animals on the Ark?
 - *You are asking me to explain scientifically how God did something but you can't even justify our ability to do science itself without God. How can we even do science without assuming uniformity and how do you justify uniformity?*
- Creationism is stupid because we know that the universe is much older than 6,000 years due to the scientifically proven speed of light.
 - *I would say that denying Biblical creation is foolish because you can't do science without assuming uniformity which is only justified by the God of the Bible. How can we do science without assuming uniformity and how do you justify uniformity?*
- It's scientifically impossible for a dead man to come back to life. The Bible claims that dead men like Jesus came back to life therefore the Bible is false.
 - *Acts 26:8 "Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?" (ESV) You can't even do science without assuming that the God of the Bible upholds and sustains the Laws of Nature so why would it be incredible if the same God raised Jesus from the dead. Raising a dead man to life is elementary compared to creating the Universe. How do you justify the Laws of Nature without God?*

Objective Moral Law

- Morality is either objective or subjective.
 - Objective – Morality comes from a source outside of humanity.
 - Subjective – Morality is determined by humans.
 - Objective Morality can only be grounded in the God of the Bible.
 - Objective Moral Laws require an Objective Law giver.
- Whenever the unbeliever says anything is good or bad, right or wrong he is borrowing from the Christian World View.
- Morality according to the unbelievers World View is just a personal preference. It's like I prefer peanut butter ice cream over chocolate ice cream.

Challenging the inconsistency

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- If the unbeliever says he does believe in objective moral values....
 - Ask him where they come from?
 - If the unbeliever says he doesn't believe in morality at all....
 - Steal his car.
 - If the unbeliever says that morality is subjective....
 - Steal his car. You can say your subjective morality says it is good to steal cars.
 - Ask him, "if morality is subjective and is not objective or absolute can he think of a situation where child rape and murder would be good?"
 - If the unbeliever says that morality is determined by society....
 - Ask him, "Was Hitler's society correct in their genocide of the Jews since the German society approved of the behavior?"
 - Ask him, "Were social reformers (Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr.) morally wrong since they apposed the societal norms?"
 - Ask him, "If you believe that morality is determined by society and your neighbor says that morality is determined by what is best for himself, who is right you or him?"

The Problem of Evil

- If God is good then why is there evil?
 - The Bible gives the reason for evil, because God is good he created humans in His image with the ability to choose. Man chose to follow himself rather than God who is good, this is called sin. Evil exists because man sinned. Evil is allowed to exist temporarily because God is merciful. (Genesis 3, Romans 5)
 - God has good reasons for the evil that He permits and decrees to happen. He decrees and permits evil to demonstrate His justice and mercy (Acts 2:23, Acts 4:28 and Rom 9:22-23).
 - The problem of evil is actually the unbelievers problem not the Christians. If we are just star dust then there should be no such thing as evil or good. When one star collides into another and annihilates it we don't call that action morally evil.
 - Should God judge evil immediately?

How do chemical reactions produce truth or morality?

Good/Right



Bad/Wrong



The Proof that God Exists

- The proof that God exists is.....
 - without Him you could not prove anything.
 - without God we could not know anything at all.
 - the impossibility of the contrary.

Are you a good person?

- 99% of the time when an unbeliever is asked if they are a good person they will declare their own goodness, after all they are not as bad as that other guy.
- With this question don't challenge their inconstancy in saying they are a good person. Let them borrow from the Christian World View because we are going to go into a line of questioning that appeals to the conscience that God has given them.
- Romans 2:14 *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of **the law is written on their hearts**, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them* (ESV)
- Romans 3:20b *since through the law comes knowledge of sin.* (ESV)

Have you kept the 10 Commandments?

- 9th Commandment – How many lies have you told in your life?
- 8th Commandment – Have you ever taken anything that was not yours, irrespective of its value? (illegal music, a pen, paper from the office, etc.)
- 7th Commandment – Have you ever looked with lust? (Matt 5:28)
- 10th Commandment – Have you ever coveted another's possessions?
- 5th Commandment – Have you always honored your father and mother?
- 3rd Commandment – Have you ever taken God's name in vain?
- 1st Commandment – Have you always kept God first before all things?

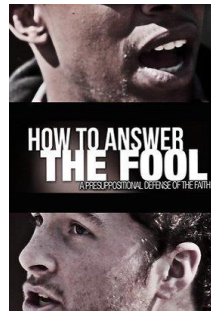
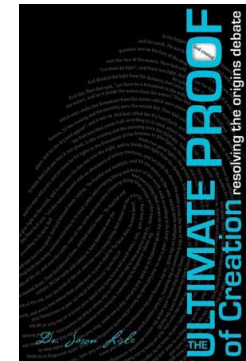
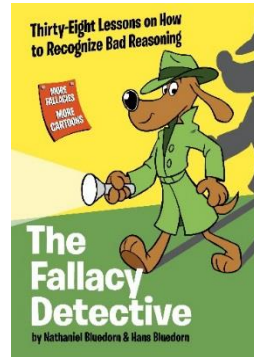
Judgment (Bad News)

- If God judged you by his law, would he find you innocent or guilty?
- If He finds you guilty will He need to send you to Heaven or Hell?
 - Revelation 21:8 *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*” (ESV)
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9 *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.* (ESV)

The Gospel (Good News)

- 2000 years ago the Judge (Jesus Christ) entered Creation to die a penal substitutionary death for those who repent and trust in Jesus Christ.
- We must repent (turn away from) our sin and put our faith and trust into Christ's finished work on the cross for our own salvation and not our own goodness.

Resources



Resources

- *The Bible*
- *The Fallacy Detective* - Nathaniel Bluedorn and Hans Bluedorn
- *The Ultimate Proof of Creation* – Dr. Jason Lisle
- *How To Answer The Fool DVD* - Sye Ten Bruggencate
- *The Way of the Master* – Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron
- www.logicalbelief.org Search for “World Views”
- www.logicalbelief.org Search for “The Irrefutable Proof of God”

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Question and Answer Time?

