

Saturday, August 27, 2011

STB: One Year and Still Waiting...

It has been an entire year now since I posted my [critique of Sye Ten Bruggencate's argument for the existence of the Christian god](#).

And Sye has yet to interact with my criticisms.

Before posting this blog entry, I visited [Sye's website](#) and clicked through the steps of the argument for the existence of the Christian god which he presents there. I do not see that Sye has modified his case in any way since I posted my critique of his argument. For instance, his [Step Five](#) still has his visitors choose between the following alternatives:

Laws of Logic, Mathematics, Science, and Absolute Morality are Immaterial

and

Laws of Logic, Mathematics, Science, and Absolute Morality are Material

Also, the "[proof](#)" that Sye showcases on his website is still what it was when I published my critique:

The Proof that God exists is that without Him you couldn't prove anything.

This of course still seems as unhelpful to establishing the existence of the Christian god today as it did a year ago when I presented [my critique](#). As I pointed out in my critique, this statement "seems merely to be the opinion of someone who already believes the claim that said god exists in the first place." I see nothing in Sye's case as it appears today to suggest that my assessment is in any way incorrect. Indeed, as I had pointed out, I see no reason why the ardent Blarko-believer couldn't use essentially the same "reasoning" on behalf of his mystical affirmations, such that he might say

The Proof that Blarko exists is that without Blarko, you couldn't prove anything.

I find it quite dubious indeed to suppose that a thoughtful person would really think that such statements would be at all persuasive.

But they apparently make for great show-stoppers in public debates. And I suppose this is what accounts for the staying power of this kind of sloganeering that is so characteristic of the presuppositionalist methodology.

But seriously, I see no reason why someone who believes in some non-Christian form of mysticism could not adapt essentially the same logical format that Sye uses to validate his god-belief, to validating an alternative set of religious beliefs. And nothing in Sye's presentation of his "argument" preempts such assimilation by non-Christian mystics. So it defies the serious intellect to suppose that such a debating strategy can actually have any rational value.

Now it's not like Sye has dropped off the face of the earth. On the contrary, he seems to be the talk of the town, at least in presuppositionalist circles. His big thing is the show debate, where he can verbally spar with non-believers and ply his arsenal of gimmicks and deploy the usual slogans. If I didn't know any better, I'd say Sye's ambition is to become the modern-day William Lane Craig of presuppositionalist apologetics, though without the weighty wall decorations from academic institutions. If so, I'd say it's not a very lofty aspiration, since the gaping void is [aching for someone to fill it](#).

by Dawson Bethrick

Labels: [Christian Psychopathy](#), [Presuppositional Gimmickry](#), [TAG](#), [The "Immaterial"](#), [Theistic Arguments](#)

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