



Does God Exist?

A Journey Through One of Life's Greatest Questions.

"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." (Psalm 90:2)

It's good to question.

People in Ireland are questioning like never before. That in itself is a good thing. It would be a bit silly if everyone was locked into what their parents believed. Christianity would never have been established in Ireland for a start – 'No thank you St Patrick! – We are all pagans here!'

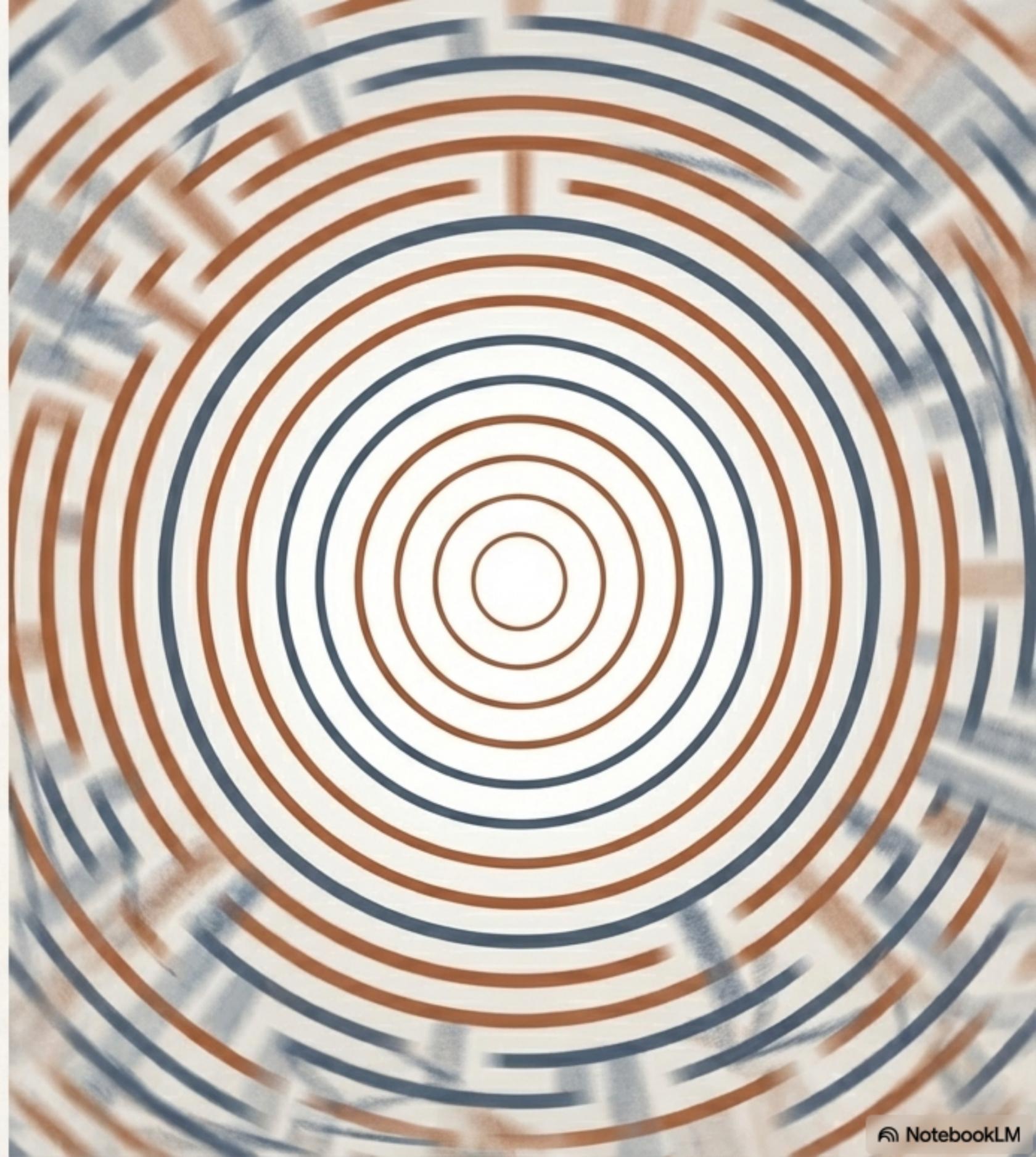
While questioning is good, **it's also good to be open to reasonable answers.** In many important matters, we make decisions based on **compelling evidence**, not absolute, cast-iron proof.



The Labyrinth of Doubt.

The philosopher Descartes famously doubted everything he could possibly doubt. He was left with only one certainty: "I think, therefore I am." While this was his starting point, other philosophers found flaws even in this logic.

Radical doubt can become a prison. Is there a solid foundation we can build on?



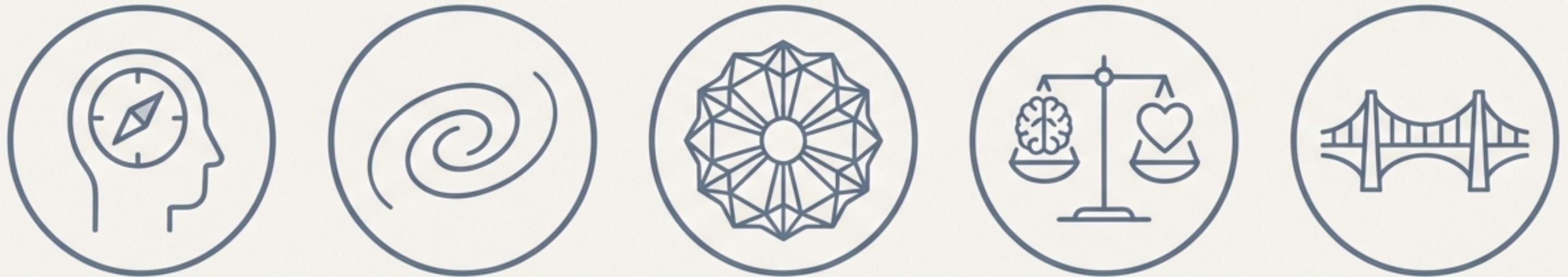
To not choose is still a choice.

Even if you could choose to drift through life and make no decisions at all, that in itself would be a decision. If we neglect to consider the deeper things of life, we will be consumed by things that might not matter very much in the long run.

**Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
(Matthew 7:13-14)**

Finding Our Way: Five Strands of Evidence

Can we prove God exists with absolute, mathematical certainty? No. The world isn't like that with big questions. Much of what we know is a mixture of instinct, reason, and exercising reasonable faith.



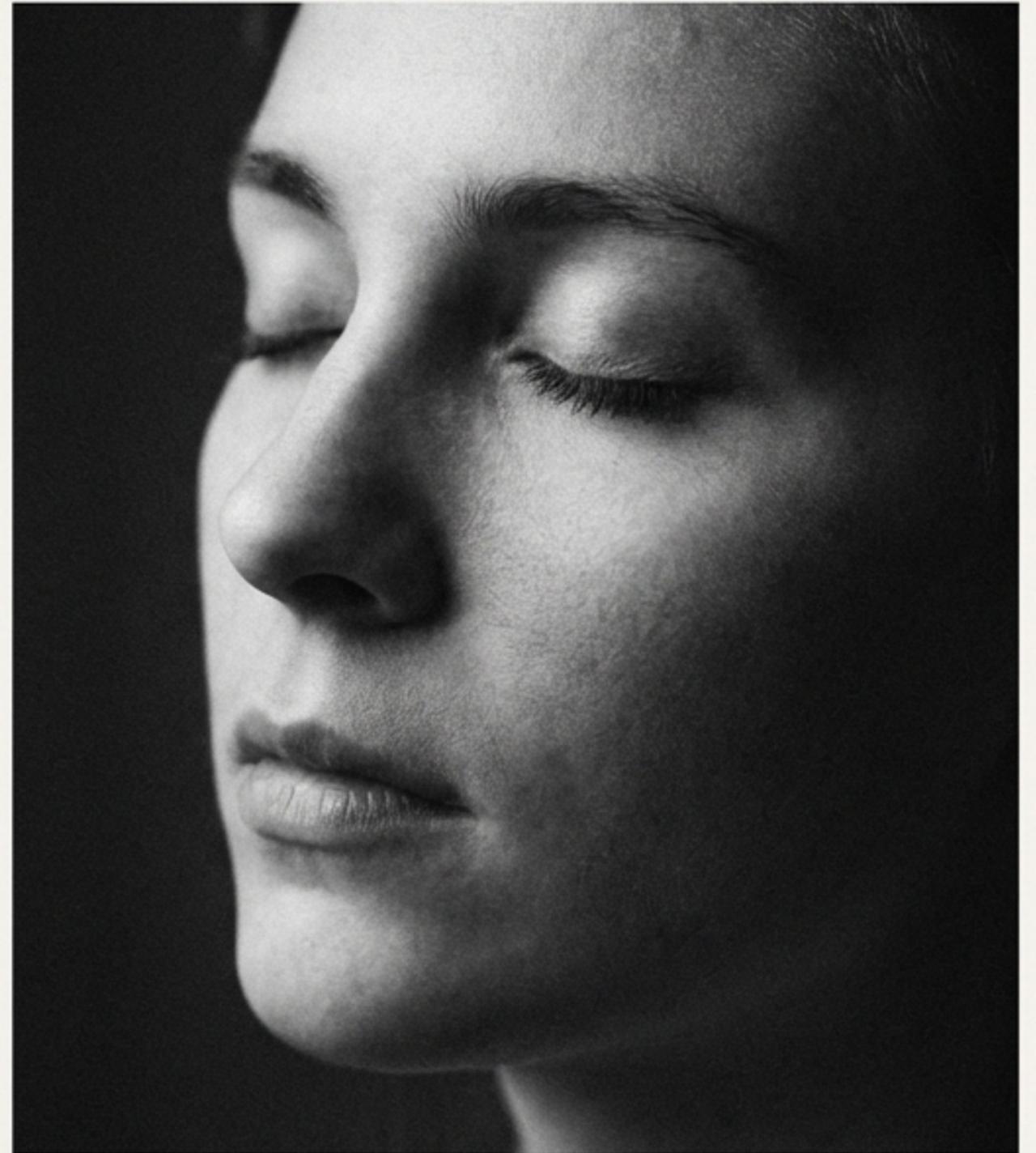
Let's explore five "signposts" on the journey—five strands of evidence that point toward a Creator.

SIGNPOST #1

Our Innate Appetite for God.

Humans appear to have a belief in God wired into them. Like a newborn craves milk, we have an appetite for meaning and transcendence. The Bible argues that we don't lack knowledge of God, but we actively suppress it.

"...what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen... so that men are without excuse." (Romans 1:18ff)



SIGNPOST #2

Why is there something instead of nothing?

1. Things have causes. The universe had a beginning (the Big Bang).
2. What caused the Big Bang? It is reasonable to assume a first, *uncaused* cause.
3. In our world, *personal beings* take initiative. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that this first cause was a personal being who chose to act.

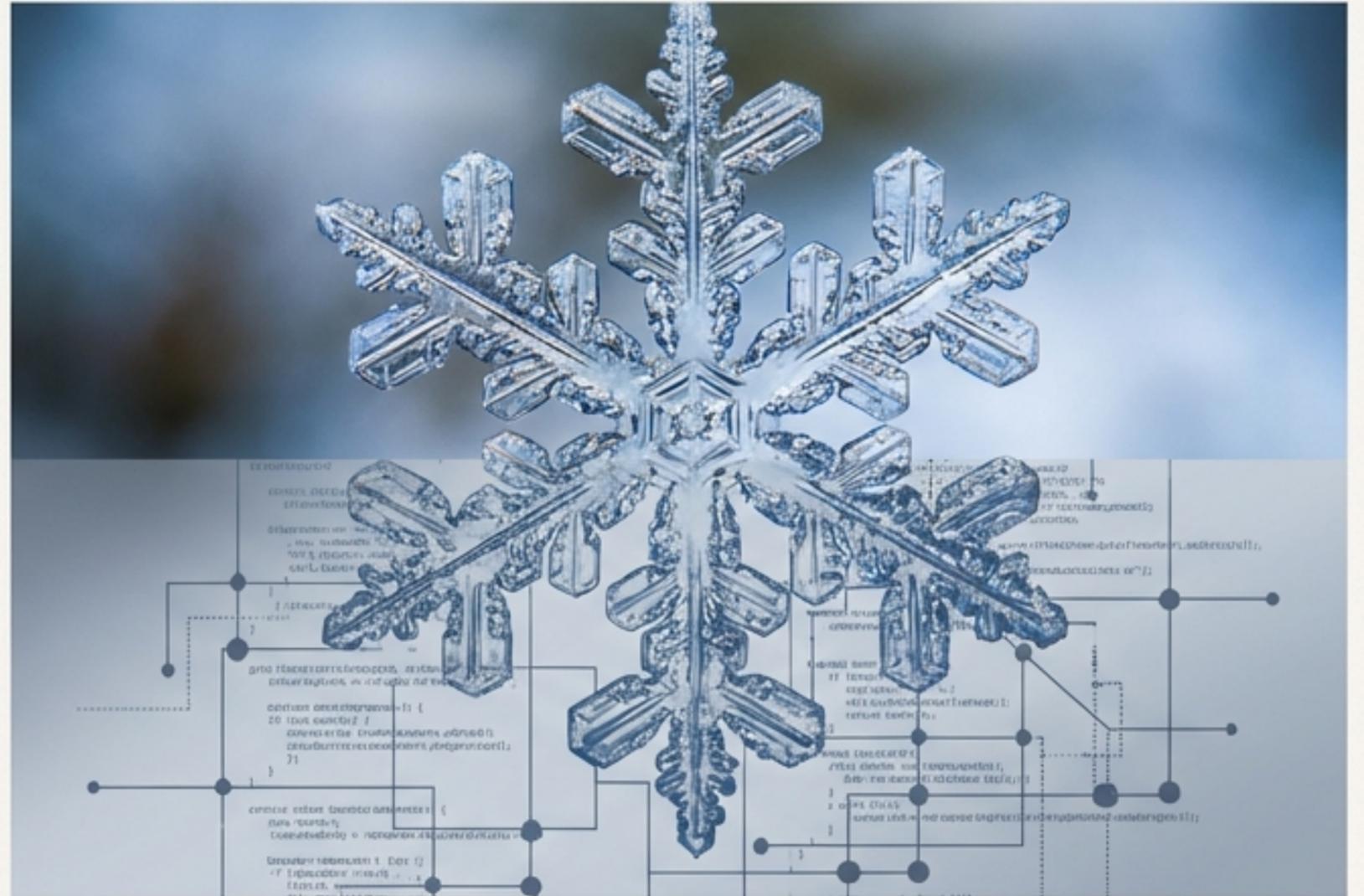
Point of Reflection: Why are many people happy to accept the possibility of intelligent beings within the universe but reject the notion of an intelligent being outside the universe?

SIGNPOST #3

A Universe Fine-Tuned for Life.

The odds of the Big Bang producing a universe capable of supporting life by pure chance are astronomically small. The universe seems programmed, like the work of an artist or super-intelligence.

Analogy: If your neighbor won the lottery 10 weeks in a row, you would look for an explanation other than pure chance.



"I was merely thinking God's thoughts after him."

— Johann Kepler

Concluded that "a super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and the complexity of nature."

— Dr. Anthony Flew (former militant atheist)

SIGNPOST #4

The Mystery of Mind & Morality



1. The Mind: We can make complex robots, but how could mindless atoms produce *consciousness*? The human mind seems fundamentally different from everything else in the universe. Might a great mind lie behind all other minds?

2. Morality: Why do we universally agree that acts like the murder of children are absolutely evil? If morality is just an evolutionary invention, who is to say Hitler or Stalin were wrong? Where does our sense of absolute right and wrong come from if not a moral lawgiver?



SIGNPOST #5

God Has Not Remained Silent.

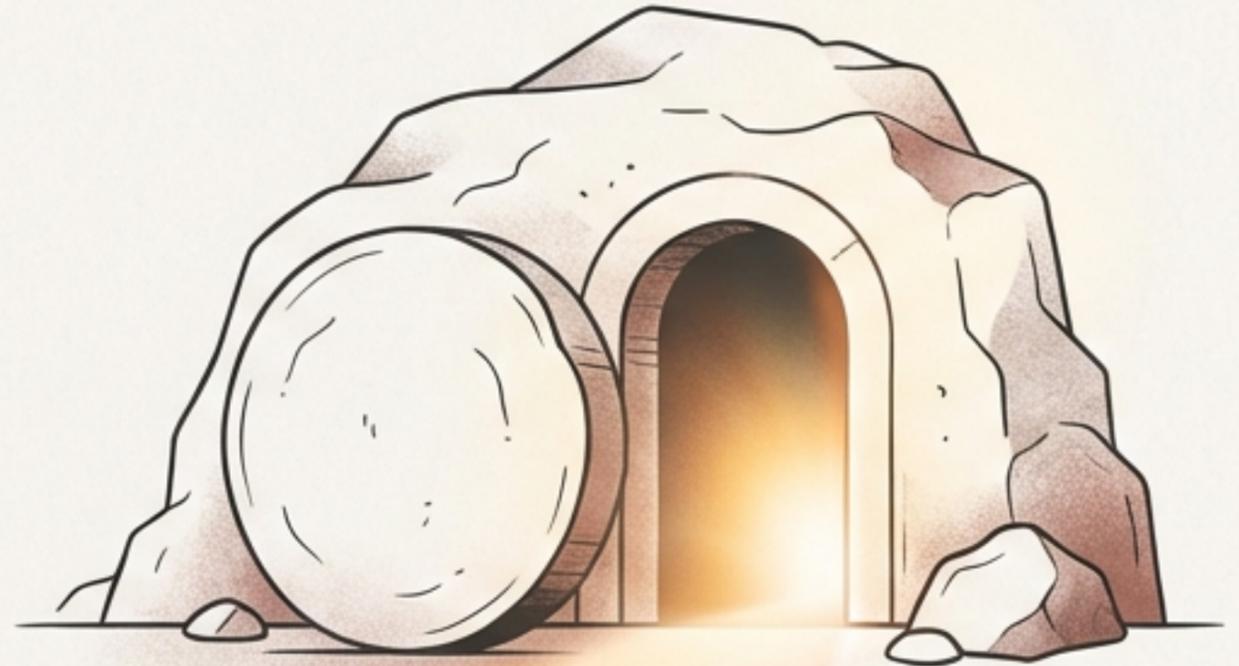
Why would a Creator bother to create humans with a desire to communicate, if He didn't want to communicate with them? A truly great being isn't just powerful and intelligent; a great being is also loving.

The Pivot: These philosophical arguments open us to the possibility of God. But they don't settle the matter. The heart of the Christian claim is that God took the next step and entered our story directly.

The Climax of the Story: Jesus Christ.

Christians believe God came down to us. He became a man, walked this earth, and showed us what God is like. He proved his identity through many miracles, culminating in the most important one: his resurrection from the dead.

The Proof: Why would his disciples lie about the resurrection? A person might die for what he mistakenly thinks is true, but who would die for what he knows to be a lie? Over 500 people saw him at one time. The resurrection changed everything.



Unless I See, I Will Not Believe.



The Story of Thomas

When told of the resurrection, the disciple Thomas declared, **“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands... I will not believe.”** (John 20:25)

Jesus appeared to Thomas and offered the proof he demanded. But he then said, **“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”** (John 20:29)

The Takeaway

Thomas wasn't asked to believe without evidence; he already had the credible testimony of his trusted friends. His problem was demanding *more* evidence than was necessary. Faith is trusting the compelling evidence we already have.

The Gate is Open.

We began with honest questions. We followed the signposts of evidence in our world and within ourselves. And the path has led us to a person: Jesus Christ, who claims to be God Himself.

The heart of the message is an invitation, not a philosophical conclusion.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)