

Science (n)or religion?

Mathematicians often say that they don't know what they are talking about. For example, when they discuss $1 + 1 = 2$, they could be talking about apples, dollars or who-cares?, they don't. It is the structure of adding that is the point of the matter for them. It is absolutely breathtaking just how far they go without any real subject!

In this same spirit, a number of aspects of life can be dissected. It is amazing just what conclusions can be drawn without saying anything at all about the topic at hand, really. All the same the consequences for the topic at hand can be profound, and inevitable.

With fundamentalists trying to take over the culture and government in the USA, it might be well recommended to apply this mathematical type structure analysis just to see what comes of it. Could be useful!

Take the debate on the origin of mankind, i.e., evolution or creationism. The latter is supposedly laid out in the bible. But now, the bible is taken as the "word of God"; so, if true, then it is beyond dispute. Plowing around in the bible will bring up the following curious little point: the bible itself warns readers to be aware that there are 'false prophets' out there who can fool them and lead them astray. This point, in turn, is completely gratuitous (would God be that dumb!) unless God himself had provided mankind including bible readers (as *the* Creator, He is the only one who could) with the means to discern the truth. After all, the bible itself could be the work of a false prophet! —If any mortal is smart enough to think of this ruse, Belzibub, the antichrist or devil sure as hell (!) is.— How shall this question be decided then? What could the requisite tool be actually?

When it comes to finding things out, history seems quite clear. There are two possibilities (whether from God or wherever), trial-and-error in its various refinements, or revelation. The latter would take us back to the beginning, so we have to go with the former. In its systematized form, this is 'science,' with its standard of acceptance being the capacity to predict, and its standard of negation being failure to reappear on demand (at least probabilistically) before our senses.

Thus, without saying anything at all about the content of the bible, but just on the basis of self consistency or 'structure,' one can conclude that even bible readers in the end must turn to the methods of science to find their way, even within the bible itself; after all, the bible so advises.