LIT 450 B: God's Debris - Course Overview

¶0.1

$$\text{Course} = \text{Overview} + \sum_{n=1}^{6} (\text{Lecture}_n \times 10\text{min}) \approx 1\text{hr}$$



The Premise: Delivery Man + Omniscient Old Man.

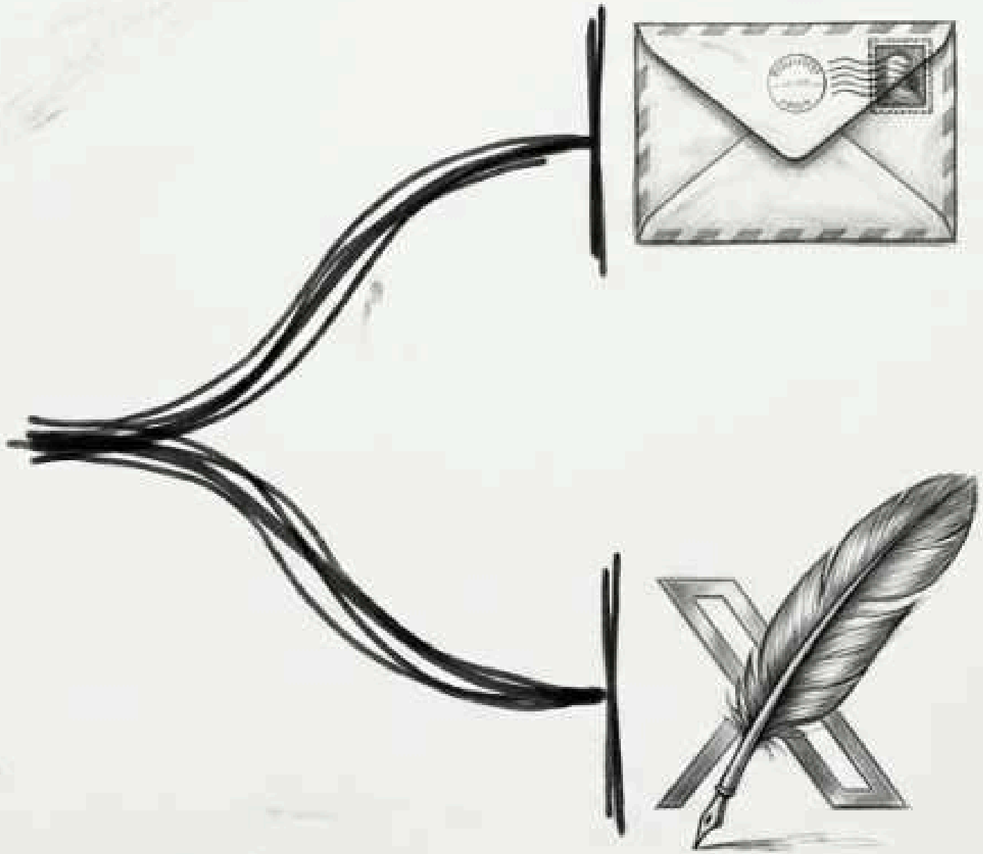
[God | Belief | Science | Free Will]

Reading God's Debris: A Thought Experiment (2001) by Scott Adams (creator of Dilbert).

The Contact Node

¶ 0.2





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Questions & Feedback

@garyanderson
Public Discourse

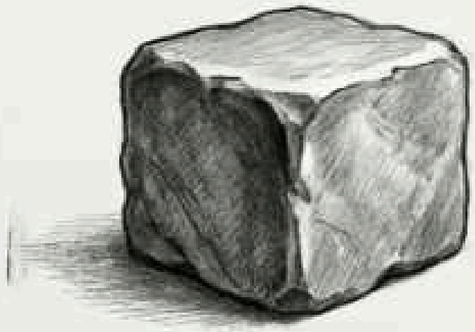
The Pedagogical Thesis

¶ 0.3

Habit of Mind > Provided Answers



Confident Explanations
(The Old Man's Claims)



Scientific Fact



Invented Plausibility

The reader's task: sort the truth from the inventions.
An unusually easy door into the oldest debates in philosophy and theology.

Lecture Roadmap (I - II)

¶ 0.4



Lecture 1: Author, dialogue form, and the opening coin puzzle.

Lecture 2: The tension between an all-knowing God and human free will.

Lecture 3: Belief, the brain as an illusion generator, and the parable of the curious bees.

Lecture Roadmap (IV - VI)

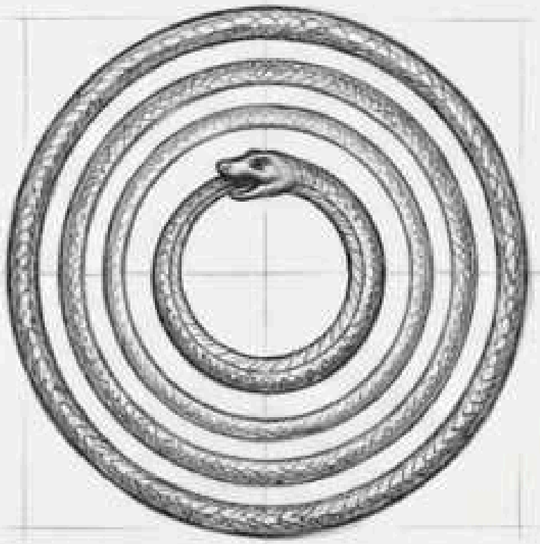
¶ 0.5



Lecture 4: God became scattered matter and probability to face his final challenge. We are his debris.



Lecture 5: The conscious penny, blunt willpower, and obeying probability.



Lecture 6: Five levels of awareness, the Avatar, the circular ending, and a balanced verdict.

Treatment of Claims: Ideas ≠ Conclusions

¶ 0.6

Debated Questions



Examples: Free Will, Personal Nature of God.

Course Action: Main positions set out fairly. The reader decides.

Mistaken Science



Examples: Evolution (The book is simply mistaken).

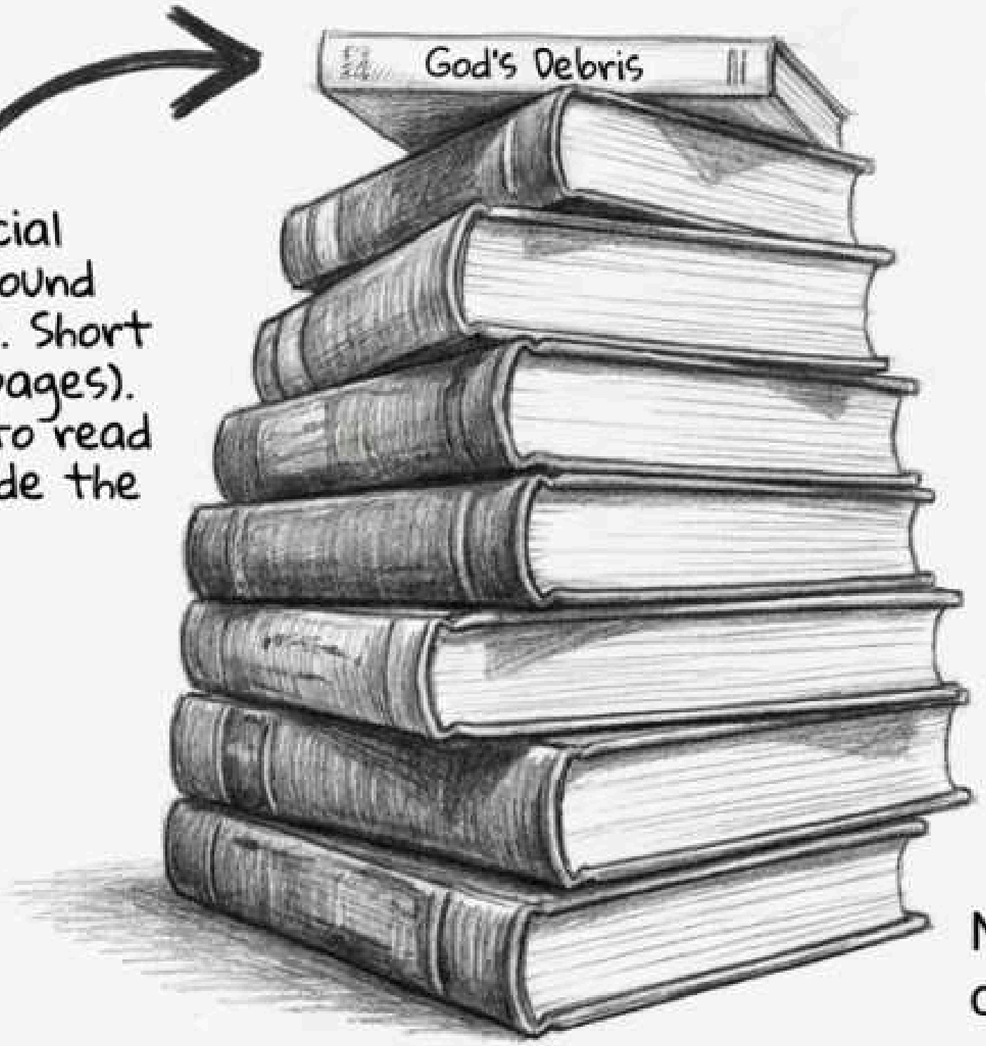
Course Action: The course says so plainly and corrects the record.

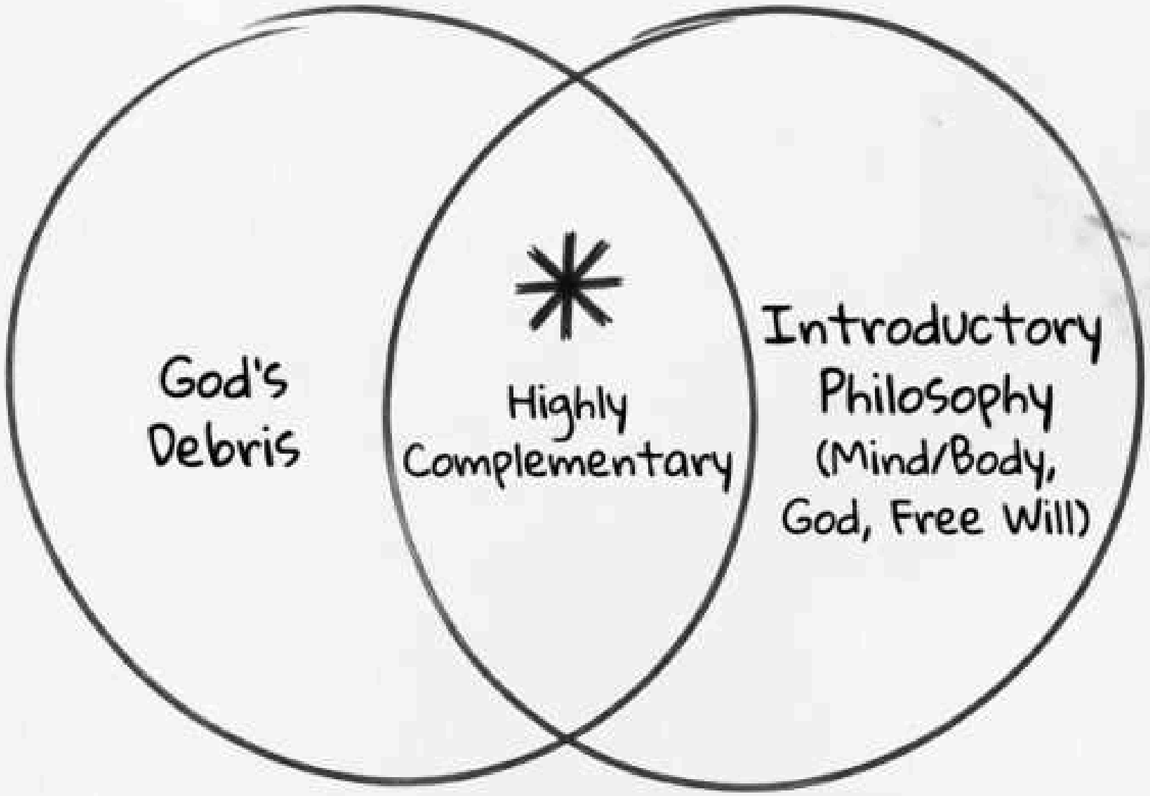
Quotations: Limited to a single sentence. | **Pagination:** Refers to the 2001 Andrews McMeel hardback.

Prerequisites & Synergies

¶ 0.7

No special background needed. Short (~130 pages). Ideal to read alongside the course.





Next Steps: Readers may also enjoy Anderson Academy courses in literature, philosophy, and religion.

Study Methodology & Taxonomy

¶ 0.8

Sounds Right	Is Right
(Note the old man's claims here)	(Move here ONLY when you can prove why)



N.M → Lecture_N.Paragraph_M

3.4 = Lecture 3, Paragraph 4

Used for all quizzes and exams.

Now, let us begin.