

REASONABLE FAITH

God, Free Will & Rationality

The surprising implications of belief in God



JOHN LENNON

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky

IMAGINE





LET'S IMAGINE

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS IF
THE SKY IS ALL THAT'S ABOVE US?

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If the sky is all that's above us,
then the only causes of all that
happens are natural causes.
There's no God or spiritual realities
to cause anything.
Nature is all there is.

THIS MEANS THAT

Every galaxy that forms; every star that shines; every creature swimming in the seas, flying in the sky and walking on earth came about only by natural processes.

Additionally, the thoughts that we have, the choices that we make, and the loves that we feel are caused solely by the physical forces at work in nature.

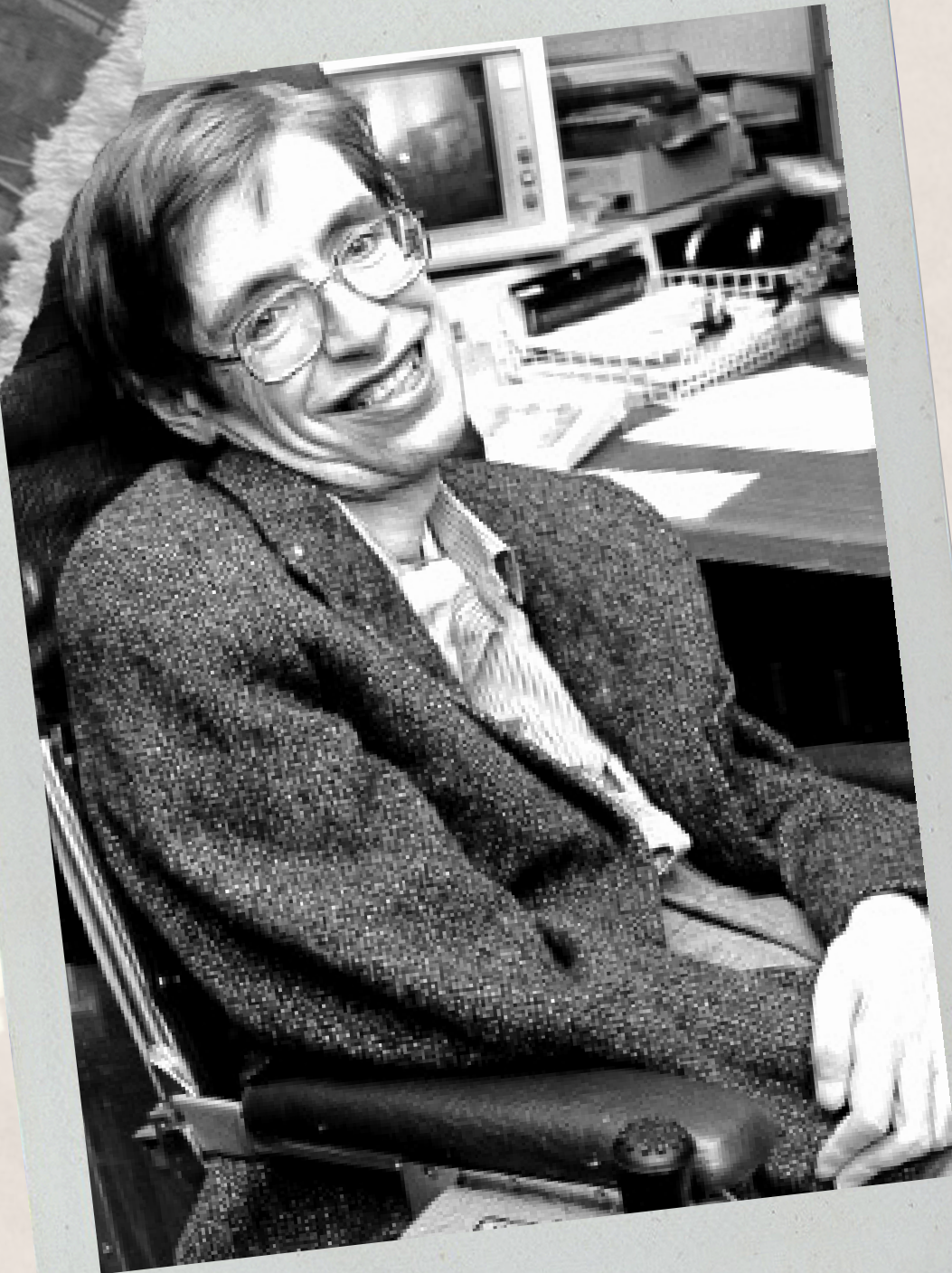
Why? Because the sky is all that's above us. There is no other explanation than the natural one.



STEPHEN HAWKING

“It is hard to imagine how free will can operate if our behavior is determined by physical law, so it seems that we are no more than biological machines and that free will is just an illusion.”

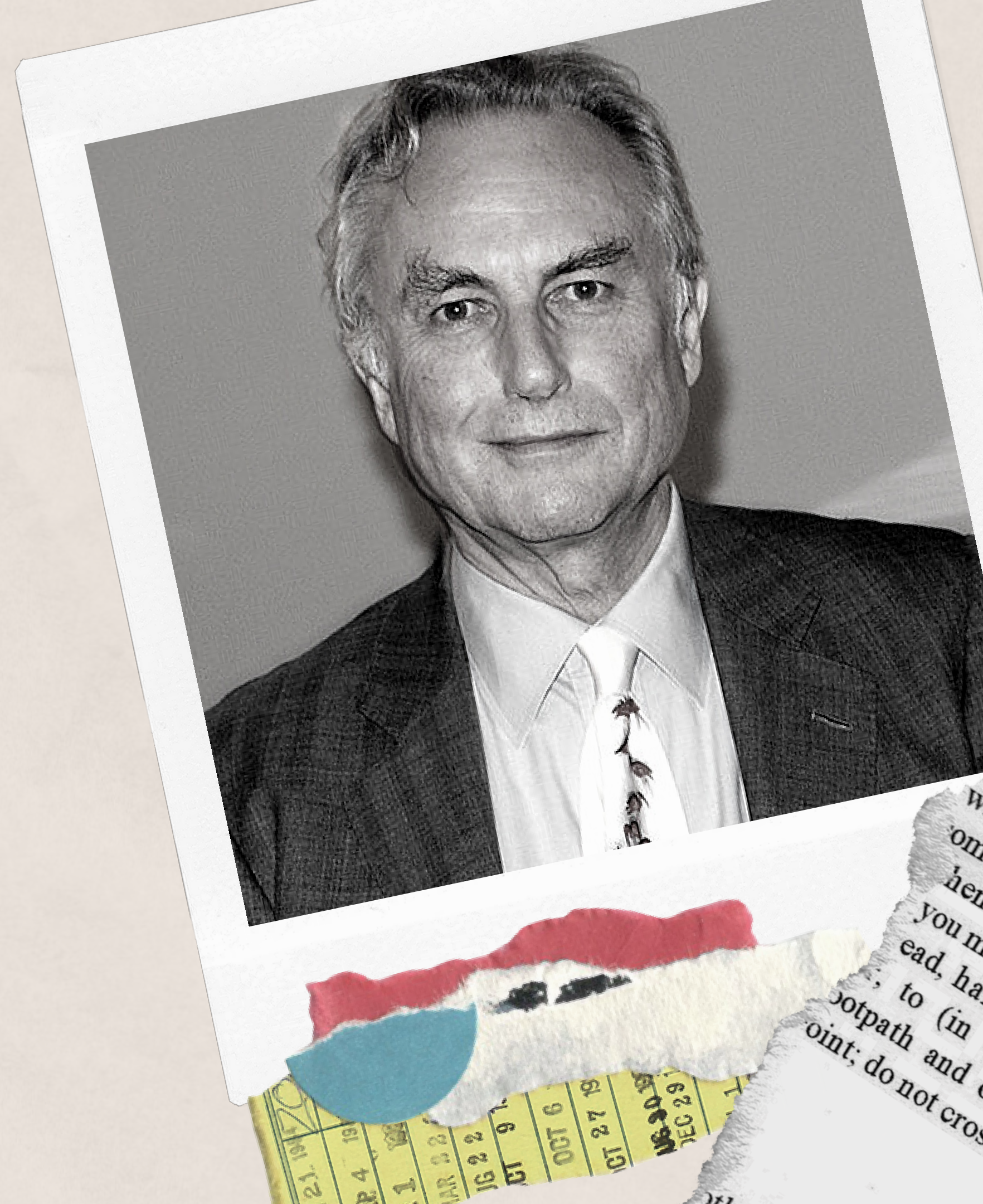
"THE GRAND DESIGN"



RICHARD DAWKINS

"...when I think I have free will, I'm deluding myself. My brain states are determined by physical events."

[YOUTU.BE/ANBXAOCZNGK](https://youtu.be/ANBXAOCZNGK)





SAM HARRIS

"Free will is an illusion. Our wills are simply not of our own making. Thoughts and intentions emerge from background causes of which we are unaware and over which we exert no conscious control. We do not have the freedom we think we have."

"FREE WILL"

IF THIS VIEW IS TRUE, THEN...

All of our thoughts, all of our choices, and all of our loves are nothing more than chemical and physical forces at work in our brains.

Those who love their children, those who abuse them, and those who develop cures for a child's disease are just doing what their biology is driving them to do. Their ideas, choices and loves are all totally determined naturally.





Just Variations in Brain Chemistry

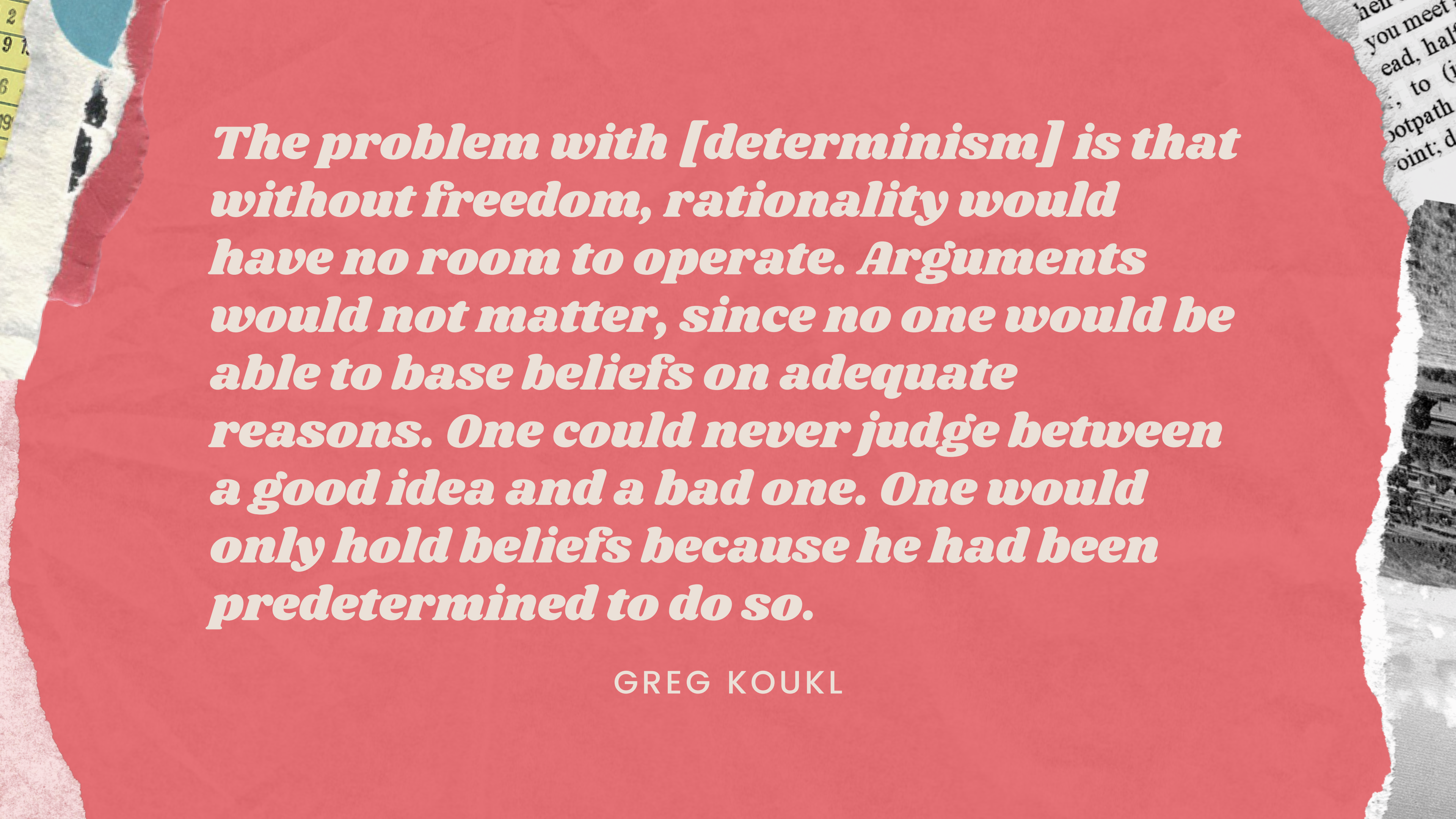
The compassion of Mother Teresa and the crimes of Ted Bundy were all driven by their respective brain chemistry. She is not to be praised for what she had no control over, nor he condemned. They did exactly what their brain chemistry dictated.



It Gets Even Weirder... If That's Possible

When people deny that free will exists, they cannot hold this belief freely as a result of rational reflection. Their thoughts are driven by brain chemistry, too.

If their position isn't rational, then why accept it as being true? They may argue that it's rational, but we can dismiss their assertions as being products of their brain chemistry. Weird, isn't it?



The problem with [determinism] is that without freedom, rationality would have no room to operate. Arguments would not matter, since no one would be able to base beliefs on adequate reasons. One could never judge between a good idea and a bad one. One would only hold beliefs because he had been predetermined to do so.

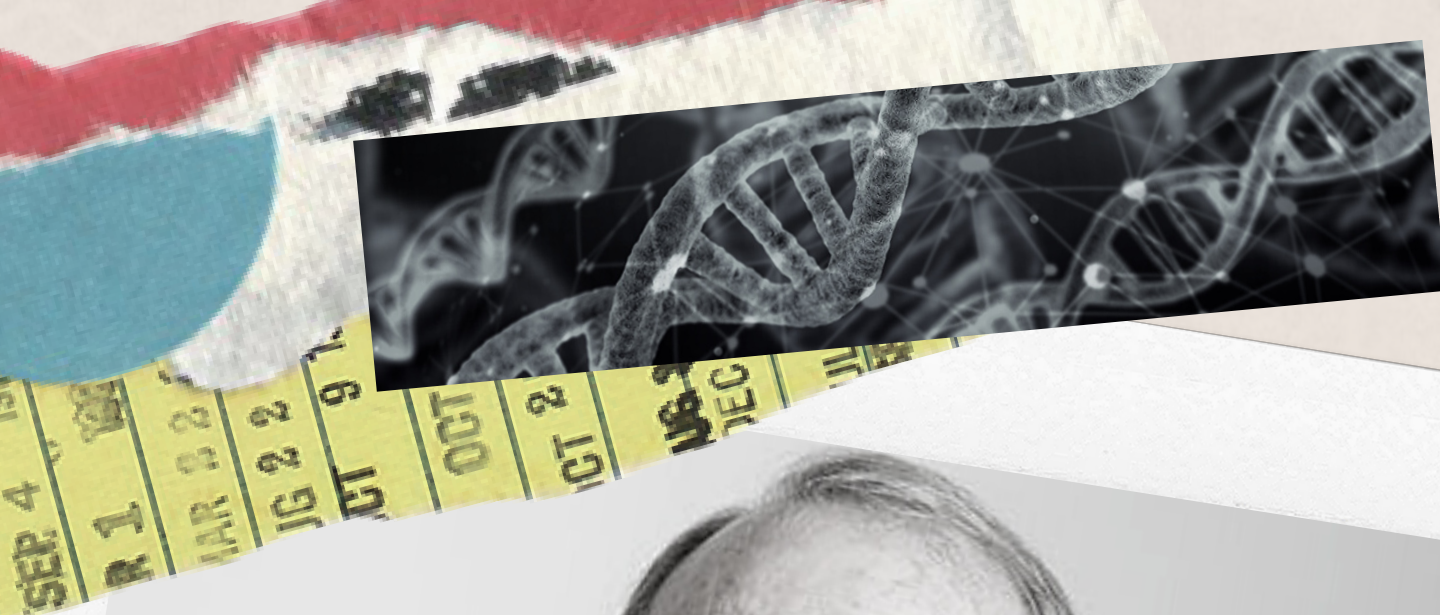
GREG KOUKL

But what about brain trauma?

Imagine a talented musician playing a song on a piano with broken keys. While the music sounds one way in his head, it sounds completely different to his audience.

The brain is the instrument through which the soul expresses itself. And when the brain is injured, the soul's expression is impaired.





J.P. MORELAND

Neuroscience shows correlation between
mind and brain, not that mind and brain
are identical.



When you imagine a world where the sky is all that's above us, you lose a way to explain your thoughts and choices as being free and rational. And such a world is unimaginably undesirable.

GENESIS

1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**CHRISTIAN THEISM PROMOTES
HUMAN FREEDOM AND DIGNITY**

