



## The Disappearing “God of the Gap”

Excerpt from: "The Reason  
Revolution: Atheism, Secular  
Humanism, and the Collapse of  
Religion"

By: Dan Dana, PhD

Website: [dandana.us/atheism](http://dandana.us/atheism)

*It is perfectly acceptable and even virtuous to think critically about any faith based ideas which are silly, harmful and oppressive. It is wise (and not disobedient) to refuse to be told what to think. Be your own person and care about what is actually true. Test it. Scrutinize it. Believe what turns out to be reality? Why believe anything else?*

Fliers & Pamphlets at [Freetheism.org](http://Freetheism.org)

The earliest deity was probably the sun, followed by the moon, then by additional gods controlling seasons, fertility, and other mysterious events. As science emerged as an alternative method of comprehending those mysteries, religious authorities eventually acknowledged that the sun was not a deity, that seasons are explained by planetary motion, that fertility is explained by biology, and other prior mysteries are understood without resorting to religion for explanation. No less an authority than Pope (now Saint) John Paul II declared in 1996 that, "Truth cannot contradict truth," meaning faith cannot contradict science.

The gap between scientific knowledge and the remaining mysteries has narrowed significantly.

Within the past century, science has produced astounding insights into the nature of the world and the universe, further narrowing the gap to a small slice of the huge and baffling pie of mystery that confronted our pre-science ancestors as they sought to understand their world.

Yes, mysteries remain, but given the remarkable and accelerating progress made by science in debunking previously held religious "truths," is it not more reasonable to regard the remaining mysteries as natural phenomena that can eventually be understood by science, rather than continue to attribute them to some decreasingly necessary supernatural deity for which there exists no empirical evidence whatsoever?



## The Disappearing “God of the Gap”

Excerpt from: "The Reason  
Revolution: Atheism, Secular  
Humanism, and the Collapse of  
Religion"

By: Dan Dana, PhD

Website: [dandana.us/atheism](http://dandana.us/atheism)

*It is perfectly acceptable and even virtuous to think critically about any faith based ideas which are silly, harmful and oppressive. It is wise (and not disobedient) to refuse to be told what to think. Be your own person and care about what is actually true. Test it. Scrutinize it. Believe what turns out to be reality? Why believe anything else?*

Fliers & Pamphlets at [Freetheism.org](http://Freetheism.org)

The earliest deity was probably the sun, followed by the moon, then by additional gods controlling seasons, fertility, and other mysterious events. As science emerged as an alternative method of comprehending those mysteries, religious authorities eventually acknowledged that the sun was not a deity, that seasons are explained by planetary motion, that fertility is explained by biology, and other prior mysteries are understood without resorting to religion for explanation. No less an authority than Pope (now Saint) John Paul II declared in 1996 that, "Truth cannot contradict truth," meaning faith cannot contradict science.

The gap between scientific knowledge and the remaining mysteries has narrowed significantly.

Within the past century, science has produced astounding insights into the nature of the world and the universe, further narrowing the gap to a small slice of the huge and baffling pie of mystery that confronted our pre-science ancestors as they sought to understand their world.

Yes, mysteries remain, but given the remarkable and accelerating progress made by science in debunking previously held religious "truths," is it not more reasonable to regard the remaining mysteries as natural phenomena that can eventually be understood by science, rather than continue to attribute them to some decreasingly necessary supernatural deity for which there exists no empirical evidence whatsoever?