

**NATURAL THEOLOGY: OR
EVIDENCES OF THE EXISTENCE
AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE DEITY,
COLLECTED FROM THE
APPEARANCES OF NATURE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649225613

Natural theology: or Evidences of the existence and attributes of the Deity, collected from the appearances of nature by William Paley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM PALEY

**NATURAL THEOLOGY: OR
EVIDENCES OF THE EXISTENCE
AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE DEITY,
COLLECTED FROM THE
APPEARANCES OF NATURE**

210
P
TO THE HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND

SHUTE BARRINGTON, LL. D.

LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

MY LORD ;

THE following Work was undertaken at your Lordship's recommendation, and, amongst other motives, for the purpose of making the most acceptable return that I could, for a great and important benefit conferred upon me.

It may be unnecessary, yet not perhaps quite impertinent, to state to your Lordship, and to the reader, the several inducements that have led me once more to the press. The favour of my first and ever-honoured Patron had put me in possession of so liberal a provision in the Church, as abundantly to satisfy my wants, and much to exceed my pretensions. Your Lordship's munificence, in conjunction with that of some other excellent Prelates, who regarded my services with the partiality with which your Lordship was pleased to consider them, hath since placed me in ecclesiastical situations, more than adequate to every object of reasonable ambition. In the mean time, a weak, and, of late, a painful state of health, deprived me of the power of discharging the duties of my station, in a manner at all suitable, either to my sense of those duties, or to my most anxious wishes concerning them. My inability for the public functions of my profession, amongst other consequences, left me much at leisure. That leisure was not to be lost. It was only in my study that I could repair my deficiencies in the church. It was only through the press that I could speak. These circumstances entitled your Lordship in particular to call upon me for the only species of exertion of which I was capable, and disposed me without hesitation to obey the call in the best manner that I could. In the choice of a subject, I had no place left for doubt :

in saying which, I do not so much refer, either to the supreme importance of the subject, or to any scepticism concerning it with which the present times are charged, as I do to its connexion with the subjects treated of in my former publications. The following discussion alone was wanted to make up my works into a system : in which works, such as they are, the public have now before them, the evidences of natural religion, the evidences of revealed religion, and an account of the duties that result from both. It is of small importance, that they have been written in an order, the very reverse of that in which they ought to be read. I commend therefore the present volume to your Lordship's protection, not only as, in all probability, my last labour, but as the completion of a regular and comprehensive design.

Hitherto, my Lord, I have been speaking of myself and not of my Patron. Your Lordship wants not the testimony of a dedication ; nor any testimony from me : I consult therefore the impulse of my own mind alone when I declare, that in no respect has my intercourse with your Lordship been more gratifying to me, than in the opportunities, which it has afforded me, of observing your earnest, active, and unwearied solicitude, for the advancement of substantial Christianity ; a solicitude, nevertheless, accompanied with that candour of mind, which suffers no subordinate differences of opinion, when there is a coincidence in the main intention and object, to produce any alienation of esteem, or diminution of favour. It is fortunate for a country, and honourable to its government, when qualities and dispositions like these are placed in high and influencing stations. Such is the sincere judgment which I have formed of your Lordship's character, and of its public value : my personal obligations I can never forget. Under a due sense of both these considerations, I beg leave to subscribe myself, with great respect and gratitude,

MY LORD,
Your Lordship's faithful
And most devoted servant,

WILLIAM PALEY.

Bishop Wearmouth,)
July, 1802.)

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

State of the Argument	Page 9
---------------------------------	--------

CHAPTER II.

State of the Argument continued	13
---	----

CHAPTER III.

Application of the Argument	17
---------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Succession of Plants and Animals	33
---	----

CHAPTER V.

Application of the Argument continued	36
---	----

CHAPTER VI.

The Argument cumulative	46
-----------------------------------	----

CHAPTER VII.

Of the MECHANICAL and IMMECHANICAL Parts and Functions of Animals and Vegetables	47
---	----

CHAPTER VIII.

Of MECHANICAL Arrangement in the human frame, p. 54.—Of the Bones	55
--	----

	CHAPTER IX.	
Of the Muscles		70
	CHAPTER X.	
Of the Vessels of Animal Bodies		82
	CHAPTER XI.	
Of the Animal Structure regarded as a Mass		93
	CHAPTER XII.	
Comparative Anatomy		106
	CHAPTER XIII.	
Peculiar Organizations		129
	CHAPTER XIV.	
Prospective Contrivances		135
	CHAPTER XV.	
Relations		139
	CHAPTER XVI.	
Compensation		146
	CHAPTER XVII.	
The relation of animated Bodies to inanimate Nature		154
	CHAPTER XVIII.	
Instincts		158
	CHAPTER XIX.	
Of Insects		168
	CHAPTER XX.	
Of Plants		181

CONTENTS.

vii

CHAPTER XXI.

Of the Elements 192

CHAPTER XXII.

Astronomy 197

CHAPTER XXIII.

Of the Personality of the Deity 212

CHAPTER XXIV.

Of the natural Attributes of the Deity 228

CHAPTER XXV.

Of the Unity of the Deity 232

CHAPTER XXVI.

Of the Goodness of the Deity 235

CHAPTER XXVII.

Conclusion 275



Mr. Wm. Smith
May 17, 1813.

NATURAL THEOLOGY;

OR,

EVIDENCES OF THE EXISTENCE AND ATTRIBUTES OF

THE DEITY.

CHAPTER I.

STATE OF THE ARGUMENT.

IN crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a *stone*, and were asked how the stone came to be there, I might possibly answer, that for any thing I knew to the contrary, it had lain there forever; nor would it perhaps be very easy to show the absurdity of this answer. But suppose I had found a *watch* upon the ground, and it should be enquired how the watch happened to be in that place, I should hardly think of the answer which I had before given, that, for any thing I knew, the watch might have always been there. Yet, why should not this answer serve for the watch, as well as for the stone? Why is it not as admissible in the second case, as in the first? For this reason, and for no other, viz. that, when we come to inspect the watch, we perceive (what we could not discover in the stone) that its several parts are framed and put together for a purpose, e. g. that they are so formed and adjusted as to produce motion, and that motion so regulated as to point out the hour of the day; that, if the several parts had been differently shaped from what they are, of a different size from what they are, or placed after any other manner, or in