

## C&T Notes – 2/9/07

- (77): “harder to believe”
- (85b): “self-aware phrase”
- (71a): “bank theory”
- (70c): “7-day genesis non-literal”
- (80a): “cosmic evolution boundary”
- (109b): “Microcosm God book”
- (99a): “no definition of life”
- (107b): “Okham’s Razor”

M13 – What’s it mean to be alive?

- If an organism is “fixed” is it alive?
- Author doesn’t think so.
- He compares finding out what life is to finding true love, and to finding extra-terrestrial life.

107a – Author admits that the complication and awe-inspiring detail of the universe gives doubt that evolution is the only force at work, but ultimately he sides with Darwin.

- Discussed what evolution really means, what it involves, etc.

77

- Tough to take the author seriously with the way he writes – talking about Kama Sutra, orgies, etc.
- Even if we believe in “the big bang,” don’t we still have to take certain aspects on faith?
- Important to know that all of these are just theories, and some are more far-fetched than others.
- What was there before the big bang? Anything?
- Author admits that scientific “fact” is itself more a faith that is provable in principle than a fact.

70c

- Literal 7-day Genesis? What do you guys think?
- Have to be willing to allow nature to disprove our theories.
  - Too many scientists get so stuck on what they think that they refuse to change their minds when the alternative proves true.
- If we disproved “big bang,” would society really change?
  - It would, at least eventually, if the Earth was going to collapse or something.

84d

- “DNA never dies, it only improves”
  - So what will that mean for our descendants?
  - Will we keep the Earth alive long enough for DNA improvements to manifest themselves?
- Does life try to be perfect or just better suited to the environment?
- Are we the conclusion?
- Are we the evolutionary goal, or will we too eventually need to evolve?
- Can we produce super-human beings? People who will never be sick?

80a

- We have no other planets or life systems to compare to, so we don’t know how much is evolutionary and how much is random or “local flavor.”
  - What might other galaxies hold?
- “Ancestral Cloud” theory
  - Theories about the origin of the solar system itself.

107b

- The theory that when looking at multiple theories that are the same in effect, shouldn’t we use the simplest one?
  - Maybe just safer: the less variables the less chance of being wrong.