

Is the Supernatural Impossible?

(Arthur C.) Clarke's Third Law: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

***Abstract:** A lot of times when I talk to individuals who do not believe in God or even "a god," the first objection they provide to me is that it is not possible for supernatural events take place. Now this is their apparent excuse to not even investigate further into the possibility of there being a supernatural realm. This **irreverent** conversational style essay attempts to remove that objection so that the conversation can proceed to the next level.*

To start off this discussion I'd like to introduce the concept of a group of beings with Advanced Technology. Now I'm not promoting any sort of Erick Von Danikan theology here. Just stating a possibility. Because if I am discussing the concept of the supernatural with you and you don't believe in it, then by necessity you *must* believe in Evolution. So if it is given that you believe in evolution, you then have to admit that due to existence of billions and billions of stars, you must allow that somewhere out there, there is a race of advanced beings. Advanced in the sense that their technology is far advanced than ours. You cannot eliminate them as a possibility. You cannot conclusively say they do not exist. The very fact that you believe in Evolution, forces you to admit that it is indeed statistically possible for another race to be out there that started evolving before we did, or that has evolved faster than we did. For you to disagree with this would be for you to have to disagree with evolution. Because it is impossible for you to say that it could ONLY happen once or that it could only happen the way it did happen here on earth. In fact Richard Dawkins recently admitted that this was what he believe happened to create life on earth.

Having made that statement, let us tackle the main question: **Are supernatural/miraculous events possible?**

Multidimensionality

To answer this let us focus first on the possibility of extra natural dimensions. For natural I intend to imply the 4 dimensions that most Atheists maintain are the limits of science. Height; Length; Width and Time. This is not a strawman as I've had these sort of statements made to me many times by atheists.

However, as I mentioned in my debate against Eric Rothschild and Eugenie Scott at the Commonwealth club, if you limit science to only 4 dimensions and any sort of extra dimensional activity as superstitious religious claptrap, you are then making a statement that the few thousand papers and the tens of thousands of attendees at String Theory conferences that postulate almost 26 dimensions are all written by and attended by religion freaks.

Physics regularly discusses multidimensionality, and just moments after the Big Bang we can calculate that there were at least 10 dimensions if not 26. All but 4 of the dimensions have disappeared to our senses. But they are out there, and string theory postulates that we can one day interact with them.

So the atheist that says there is nothing else real out there but what we can touch, taste, feel, hear, smell, or measure, he's being just plainly unscientific and naïve and has just dug himself into a hole.

Obviously things that take place outside the realm of the 4 dimension are not impossible. Only a luddite would make that claim.

Jesus Healed people

So given that introduction to expand the readers horizons and keeping in mind the "Super Intelligent race with Advanced Technology" let's first look at the miracles of Jesus and then we can expand our view to include other supernatural events.

Let us start with some of the more generic healings that are claimed to have been done by Jesus. The question I would like to ask at this point is whether some of the healings affected by Jesus could not have in fact have been affected by a modern medical doctor with modern technology? A blind man could have his corneas removed to heal him from glaucoma. A paralytic could be administered to with a bone healing/growing stimulator or a spinal column growth stimulator. A manic could be given medicines or herbs that would be Prozac or Lithium equivalents.

Now let us move on to other sorts of miracles.

How about the feeding of the 5000? An individual with Advanced Technology could seemingly create food out of nothing if he had the technology that allows matter replication/conversion, where the very air molecules are taken and converted into new elements. Now given, that we today do not have this technology. But one could theorize that one day we may (of course on Star Trek, the replicator and transporter is standard fare based on the same theory, conversion of matter into energy and back into matter again whether it be different matter or the same type of matter in a different location). We simply resort to the concept that it is possible that a representative from our 'advanced set of beings' decided to pay us a visit. Now this is not to say that I personally presume that Jesus was really an alien from another planet, with a race of beings with technology far superior to ours. However, the point I am trying to argue is that it IS indeed feasible for this to be the case. True, there is no hard evidence that such a race of beings exist, or of their abilities to create a miniature self powered food replicator. But the goal here is not to prove that Jesus did it. But that it is conceptually possible, it is physically possible and it is certainly possible within the realm of logic and science. Whether Jesus did it or not is a case for a different paper (and a valid case needs to be made for that as well, we cannot ignore that).

However, if you are having trouble accepting that technology may explain the miracles of Jesus, then let me ask you to put yourself in the shoes of a Palestinian shepherd 2000 years ago. Let's say you had the ability to create a time machine. And you went back in time with a small ultra-light plane. Would you not have the capability of flying (until you ran out of gas and realized that Oil refineries didn't exist back then). Would not the same natives then assume that you were capable of supernatural powers? How about if you took a flash light with you? Or what about a small rocket launcher?

Now let us continue to look at other "supernatural events."

The sudden appearance of beings. This could be explained in a number of ways. One method is to consider the ability of technology to one day allow us to move between other dimensions. If the concept of the Star Trek Transporter is too inconceivable, another option is that using the same matter creation replicator, a doppelganger may be created at the location of interest along with sensors and transmitting equipment. Once the message had been presented, and the replies and reaction obtained, the doppelganger and the transmission equipment would then be dispersed back into the discrete atoms that it was to begin with.

This also can be explained through simple hyperspace travelling. Just as you a 3 dimensional being could hop over a 2D wall and befuddle 2D beings a multidimensional being could easily move into a 5th dimension and through locked doors and walls like Jesus is claimed to have done in the upper room when he appeared to the disciples.

"Earthquakes" could be caused merely by using well placed lasers or atomic explosions in key places.

Pestilence and plagues like locusts and frogs of the Pharonic types could be caused through simple biological or genetic manipulation. The locusts could be genetically designed to flourish and then die off in the allotted time. Geographical areas could be protected simply by introducing locust specific virii that would kill off any locusts that spread into the "protected regions."

Turning areas of the Nile into "blood" could have been effected using chemical compounds that would taint the water. True, large quantities of the chemical would be needed. Or an easier way would be to use genetically altered bacteria again, that would biologically multiply and turn the water red for a few days and then would be genetically programmed to die off and the sediment left to drift to the Nile bottom or be consumed by the fauna.

Ah but you say: That would make it "look" like blood, not make it actually blood. OK, if you insist that it needed to be actual blood, then bring back our matter to energy (water into energy) to matter (energy into blood) converter. Expensive energy wise, but hey if the Advanced Technology folks were able to use cold fusion then energy could be cheap and right there. Just break down some of that water into energy and you'd end up with a slightly lower water/blood table, which I doubt the Biblical writer would have noticed.

Destruction of the first-born would be more time consuming as each first-born child and animal would actually have to be identified and then dispatched. However, there is no reason why this could not be done by a race of technologically advanced beings who had efficient communication and tracking systems. In fact, each first born could be genetically tagged to die on a certain day, or even electronically tagged and lasered to death while they slept. We've all heard of laser guided missiles where the operative on the ground "lights up" the target with the laser, and the LGM heads straight there (I actually did some work with FOGM's Fiber Optic Guided Missiles in my younger days). This would merely be an RFID version of that using perhaps microwaves for the actual destruction. Find the correct RFID tag, focus the microwave and provide internal cooking of the heart, no external physical damage and Bob's your uncle. Gruesome but effective. Oh and lest the operatives are confused, stay away from any house that has blood painted over the doorway.

And certainly a "virgin birth" would be a matter of simple in-vitro fertilization for any doctor today. Forget about an "advanced" race.

The point is that "supernatural" events are possible. But the only "supernatural" thing here is to explain how future technology appeared way back in time without leaving any residue for archaeologists to find.

Thus one cannot argue that these so called "supernatural events" are completely impossible. Improbable yes, impossible no.

Having said that we can now return to our premise question:

Is the supernatural possible?

And the answer: "Supernatural" events are certainly possible, but not probable.

We will have to leave the probability question for another paper. **But it is sufficient to say that if some sort of extra-dimensional creator exists, then surely he is quite capable of interacting with his creation intra-dimensionally. And when he does these event will appear and in fact be supernatural (or multi-dimensional).**

If you read my paper "Who is Agent X and Where did God come from" at www.noblindfaith.com/http://www.rationalfreethinker.com/sermon/TheSingularityWhoisAgentX.pdf

it would seem that out of necessity the first cause HAS to be a non mechanistic free will first cause that is outside of time and space and all the dimensions (omnipresent) because it created all the dimensions, able to create a universe (omnipotent) and knowledgeable enough to fine tune the universe (omniscience); thus the First Cause is eminently able to cause supernatural events to occur.

Again remember, I'm not trying to argue that space aliens ala Scientology (Thetans) or Mormonism (a god from the planet Kolob) did all these things. I don't think that is true based on my knowledge of the first cause. But I'm trying to show you that blindly saying that these events can never ever occur is rather ignorant and close minded. As I've shown you how it could feasibly occur even without a supreme being. Us mere mortals using simple advance technology could achieve them. And if mortals using simple advance technology can achieve this how much more can a Supreme Creator outside of time, space and all the dimension do such things?

God and the Impossible

Remember though we should provide a caution here, God cannot do that which is actually impossible. Miracles are NOT impossible. They are merely improbable.

But making $1+1 = 3$ is impossible. Making a square circle in 2D space is impossible. The difference should be quite obvious to any rationally thinking person who has some exposure to science and mathematics and reasoning.

Let me elaborate: Trying to make $1+1 = 3$ is nonsense and irrational. This cannot be done even if you were to extend the dimensions to 100 or interact with 4 dimensional objects in multi-dimensional space or even extra-dimensionally. God cannot do nonsense or be irrational. Making a blind person see is not nonsense, it's merely a manipulation of multidimensional elements to achieve a goal.

And now this

The points about advanced technology and multidimensionality having been made above, the remainder of this document is just a bit of fun and continues to suggest other technological "miracles." Please note that I would like to reemphasize that I do **not** believe that an "Advanced Race of Beings" really did all this. I believe **God** did all this. However, for the sake of the defense of the argument, I provide these examples to prove that no one who believes in Evolution could argue that it is impossible for what we call supernatural events to occur without them having to concede to the existence of an Almighty God. Note: in situations where we do not have the technology currently I have called upon popular science fiction authors for their ideas. OK so I'm a geek.

Resurrection from the dead. If the brain cells are intact, it could be done through the transfer of the contents of the brain to a genetically identical clone. Or through the physical regeneration of tissue. If the brain cells are not intact, it could be a simple clone, the clone would not have much of a memory of what the original had experienced but that could be overcome with some good training and videos of the original's encounters with people. Again I'm not saying this is what happened. Just you can't claim it CAN'T happen.

In light of multidimensional space, the body becomes secondary to the “soul” that perhaps exists within other dimensions. In which case re-animation of a new body is very similar to moving your old hard drive to a new laptop or even just moving the very arrangement of those electrons on the old hard drive to a new hard drive. Of course in the latter case one could argue that the arrangement is not unique and could create doppelgangers. Ah well, but you get the idea.

Manipulation of the weather. Using lasers and cloud seeding and technologically advanced weather predictions, one could control weather. (See Ben Bova's science fiction novel called The Weather Makers).

People living to the age of 900. By creating genetically pure individuals and removing aging genes a person could conceivably live to great ages. Secondly though extremely unethical by most standards, one could take organs and tissue from clones that were bred without brainstems as a source for replacing their own old organs individuals could live centuries (See Robert Heinlien's, kinda sick Oedipal science fiction novel called, Time Enough for Love).

Feeding people in the wilderness. Again there are multiple options here. Genetically alter plants to yield food (manna) or use the trusty food replicator/energy matter converter again. Of-course manna is a proven phenomenon today. It's the secretion of a Tree Lice and tastes just like honey.

Preservation of a human in a whale (Jonah). Technologically speaking, the whale needn't be a real whale, it could either be a programmed replicant (see Blade Runner) or a vehicle designed to look like a whale. Or the human could have been protected with some sort of protective suit with oxygen and the lot. Or perhaps a big enough whale could indeed swallow a human without him dying. Or conversely, maybe it wasn't a big whale, maybe Jonah was just sucked into the torpedo bay of a submarine and then spat out. Maybe the submarine had been painted to look like Shamu the killer whale of Marine World Africa USA. OK I'm having a bit of fun with that. But again my point is that it's not impossible, it's just improbable. OK so you complain that the Bible said it really was a whale. Well you are wrong there. Whale is only our English translation. The actual word used is “dag” which could also mean a great sea monster. Later when Jesus refers to it in the Greek he also uses the Greek word for Sea Monster “ketos.” Maybe it was a very very large prehistoric dinosaur type thing.

A donkey that talks (Balak and Balaam). Similar to above, a programmed replicant or a simple transmission device implanted into the donkey's body controlled by one of the technologically advanced beings who speaks into it.

Destruction of Achan, and also the destruction of the children of Israel for the worship of the golden calf. Achan and his family are destroyed completely for plundering Jericho against the commands of God. The people of Israel who worshipped a golden calf are similarly destroyed. A single Sidewinder missile in each situation could take out individuals who had been physically separated from others. Lots of noise and smoke would add to the intended effect.

Destruction or striking down of select individuals like Annaias and Saphira. A simple focused microwave transmitter could cook an individual from the inside and kill them without harming anyone in the close vicinity of the victim. The victim would fall down dead with no explanation or external markings (see old issues of Popular Science on The New Warfare). Or a high intensity laser would do the job with only a tiny hole in the body.

The crossing of the Red Sea is more complex. But there are a number of options.

1. A tube of Transparent aluminum, (you laugh now, see Star Trek IV with the whales) placed in the water providing a path for the people to walk through.
2. A simple dimensional transfer of individuals or of the water. The water or the individuals transferred temporarily into another dimension or location and then returned to their own dimension once they are past the point of concern (see Hitchhiker's Guide to the galaxy, where it suggests an annual stampede of wildebeest or the like were temporarily transferred to another planet to protect the destruction of Elvis Presley's Saloon that just happened to be right in their path. Once the stampeding animals were past the Saloon, they were then transferred back to their original location).
3. A molecular barrier created by genetically altered microorganisms to create a huge water tight net.

4. A simple everyday force field.

5. Using massive water repellent technology. Or even ionizing the water in such a way that the water on one side repels the water on the other side for a period of time.

6. Very strong jets of air, buried in the sea floor aligned in along the two sides of the path shooting straight up creating a curtain of air (a much stronger version of what is commonly used as an "air-conditioning door" today, and a very strong and fast sump pump to suck out all that water.)

There are numerous other ideas that one could come up. All designed to show any individual that it is quite feasible that one day we or a technologically advanced race of beings could indeed do "marvelous and miraculous" deeds.

Again, if the supreme extra dimensional first cause (God) wanted to do something as simple as parting the Red Sea he could have easily done it. Oh and don't tell me the water was only ankle deep. Thousands of Egyptians and their horses died in that "ankle deep" water.

OK so we've had a bit of fun, but I hope you see the point. None of these are impossibilities, only improbabilities. If any advanced civilization can create technology for such events, surely a non-mechanistic free will first cause that is powerful and knowledgeable enough to create a universe can easily do these things.

So our conclusions then are:

A. Given that miracles can indeed happen we cannot just toss the Bible out as impossible. Unlikely maybe, but not impossible.

B. Once we concede to this, then we must actively entertain the concept that it is possible that a Supreme Intelligence may exist that could do those things, not using technology, but by using extra dimensional powers far beyond any we could conceive of.

So now let's ask the real question: Why does the existence of this Supreme Intelligence that can do such supernatural things and requires your worship bother you?

Is it because you are rebelling against it?

Is it because you are irritated by the schmucks like me who push him?

It is because you hate the idea of bowing down to anything?

I'd be curious to know: **responses2supernatural @RationalFreeThinker.com**

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