**Final Assignment: Do you think it is more important to answer the question “Why are we here?” scientifically or philosophically, or are they both important? Describe viewpoints from both perspectives in your answer.**

Why are we here? There are so many answers to just one question. It is question significant to many people as the answer impacts their daily lives. I will discuss the different viewpoints we have.

 A scientist would answer that we are here because of the Big bang theory; a chance that happened in one and a million. The big bang theory was a massive heat explosion that started everything 13.7 billion years ago .In a single seconds the universe was born and is expanding constantly by the minute. [1]There was much controversy around the big bang theory as the universe was thought to be 1.8billion years old at first; the earth was then estimated to be 3 billion years old. Then from 1952-55 errors were found by Baade and Sandage making the universe 5.5 years old. By 1958, the age of the universe ranged between 10 to 20 billion years old. [2] The CMB radiation was discovered in 1963, which contributed to the theory and in 1990 the Big bang model was approved. [3]

Another reason is that because of the fact that this is the only planet that can sustain life. The fact that we have water, energy and time on Earth is the only reason we can have life on this planet; without these necessary features earth would be like Venus – big, beautiful but devoid of life. Lastly, we are here due to human evolution; our ancestors were apes and we have adapted in order to survive. [4]

A Philosophical person would answer our purpose of being here rather than saying who created the world; we are here to attain happiness in our lives and be good. A Religious person would say that God has created us and he made the world. This is a contradiction to the philosophical view as religion talks about creation rather than purpose. However, in every religion, there is a different purpose to life. In Hinduism and Buddhism, we must act well in this life to be reincarnated into a human in our next life. In Christianity and Islam life is a test we will be judged on our sins and good deeds to decide whether we go to heaven or hell.

Some people think only think scientific answers are important because they have no religion; they do not know what to believe. Also, it can be the fact that they are more logical; how can a being we have never seen create us? [5]

Some people think only philosophical answers are important because they need a reason for their existence. The religious figure Buddha is a prime example of someone who found a philosophical answer; Buddhists try to find enlightenment in life rather than pray to God or believe in the Big Bang theory. Some people think only religious answers are crucial because they are religious themselves. It is their faith to believe in God or Gods.

We all have worldviews [6]: It all depends on how we were raised. If we were raised in a Catholic family then we will believe in the one god, if we were raised by Buddhists we practice more on how to find happiness, if we were raised by theists we would believe in god but not have a religion. With a diverse country like America or England, many convert this is because we are more open-minded but with countries like Syria people are much more conservative and devout and less willing to change their worldviews. This in a way isolates them from the rest of the world because their beliefs are too different from others. If this happens an important business partner in the economic world could be lost as well as allies and important alliances which keep countries from danger and harm. More or less, our worldview depends on these factors: birth, environment and the people we associate ourselves with; these all impact our worldview changing our idea of the question “Why are we here?”

Personally, I am Hindu/Buddhist but sooner or later I wish to convert to a different religion. This is because as a child I was very devout but when I came to the UK I saw that it was very diverse unlike Nepal, my worldview changed and now I want to convert because in my eyes it is the religion for me. I wish to convert to Christianity; I once wanted to be a theist but that thought disappeared from my mind quite quickly this is because I believe that to me religion is vital: it is something that gives me reassurance that I am not alone; God is watching over me. However, in my opinion, I do think that if religion was removed from the world, then over half the wars we've had wouldn't even happen. For example, take the war in Syria: two countries with the same religion killing thousands just because of a slight difference in each other’s faith.

In conclusion, I think that God has created the world. Scientists tell us that we have evolved from monkeys but no one has ever observed evolution at work, therefore, how can we say that it even exists or is an on-going endeavour. Are these scientists not teaching their opinion? Are they not a scientist but a preacher? We believe the scientist because we have trust and faith in them: that is the link between man and god; faith. It is what keeps things alive and moving.

Reference:

1. Big bang theory. <http://www.ouruniverseforkids.com/the-big-bang.html> [6th June 2018]
2. Why are we here? Pg54-55,Appendix 4 [6th June 2018]
3. Why are we here? pg 19 [7th June 2018]
4. Evolution. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution> [7th June 2018]
5. Why are we here? pg 30 [8th June 2018]
6. Why are we here? Pg 36 [9th June 2018]

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