

FIRST CAUSE. We were discussing if there was a God and the point was made that there had to have been a First Cause, how else did the universe come into being?! **M**y take on the issue is rather un-prosaic: In due time answers may be found that are based on science ... maybe in a hundred years, a thousand, a million, or even more. **P**ossibly it will not be humans, or at least not humans of the species sapiens, who will solve the riddle. Anyway, until then there is an easy answer: We don't know. **N**evertheless, the fact the question exists is proof we are intelligent beings and we must not be discouraged asking it ... however, it is not proof that there is (or must be) a God.

see also HUMAN, MEANING, WONDER
Einstein, Hawking et al make the case that on a quantum level matter appears (and disappears) spontaneously, without apparent cause; and this may well, it's said, occur on a cosmic scale.

FORGIVENESS. There is a documentary about relatives of murder victims. **T**he film focuses on how they forgave the killers of their loved ones. A man said: "Forgiving the murderer did a whole lot more good for me than it did for her." **F**orgiveness gives sanity to victims and the opportunity to normalise their lives. **R**evenge poisons and inhibits healing.

From Fury to Forgiveness, directed by David Wright, produced by Sheldon Himelfarb 1995 Yorkshire Television, Great Britain

It was controversial when in 2009 the Libyan Abdel al-Megrahi was released from prison for compassionate reasons (apparently he was dying of cancer). Al-Megrahi - the only person convicted of the 1988 Lockerbie Bombing, where a plane was blown up in mid-air and 270 people, mostly Americans, died - had always protested his innocence.

Many victims' relatives feel 'pain that never fades.' "You commit mass murder, kill all those innocent victims, and you are released for compassion?" said one. Two tragedies occurred in this instance. Firstly, hundreds of people died in a terrorist attack. Secondly, many hundreds more continue to suffer from not being able to forgive and move on.*

**American Outrage
as bomber gets hero's welcome
SMH, 22-23 August 2009*

Earthly justice is flawed; but the belief in higher justice and the willingness to accept, detach and let go, can give us peace of mind.

see also JUSTICE