

INTELLIGENT DESIGN. This essay refers not to intelligent design that claims the world was created six thousand years ago, but that there may be intelligence in the structure of the universe. **I**saac Newton, a heretic and no slave to conventional religious belief, said, "this most beautiful system of the sun, planets etc. could only proceed from the counsel of an intelligent being." **A**lbert Einstein, a secular Jew who repeatedly affirmed his disbelief in a personal God, stated that, "the scientist's religious feeling takes the form of a rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection." **S**tephen Hawking, himself an avowed atheist and opponent of intelligent design, refers to our universe as "an apparent miracle". **H**owever, Newton, Einstein and Hawking understood they were not making scientific claims, but abstract, metaphysical ones.

*after Intelligent Design, maybe true, maybe false, but not absurd
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see also EXISTENCE, FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE

INTIMACY. One of the greatest pleasures in life is intimacy. That time on a Sunday morning ... waking up, with my partner next to me; there is no reason to get up, no time-constraint. **I** start caressing my lover, I stroke and kiss her and after a while I gently proceed to us making love. She moans and approves with a whispered "I love you", to which I respond likewise. **K**nowing my love is reciprocated and my advances are welcome is the most wonderful aspect of our intimacy; when we confirm our love with giving ourselves willingly, we perform sacred sex. **S**ome men seek intimacy with unwilling partners. They will impose on vulnerable women and men; or use outright force. They may say, "oh, that is just the way I am"; or claim consensus. **T**hey often protest they had no inkling their advances upset the victims, and apologise ... but these sexual predators destroy lives; many of the victims don't get over the assault for decades, if ever. **T**he Weinsteins and Spaceys of the world use their positions of power to exploit and abuse people who crave their approval. One of them was 'president of the free world'. God help us.

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see also my blog 895*