



Creation Stories Vocabulary

agnostic: one who does not believe that something is knowable. Applied to God, An agnostic claims no knowledge of whether god does or does not exist. *When it came to the question of whether "true love" existed, he proved to be an agnostic.*

anthropic: that which has to do with 'man.'

anthropos Greek word for "man' Thus, "anthropology" is the "study of man."

Anthropic Principle: First proposed by Physicist Brandon Carter, it is the idea that a high number of "coincidences" in the forces of the universe are what is necessary for human life to have evolved. These coincidences can be unified under the title "Anthropic Principle," because they are precisely what is needed if the universe was to produce human life.

atheist: religiously held belief that no god exists.

b'ra: Hebrew word for "create." It is attributed only to God. In Hebrew, man "fashions" (atsa) from something which is preexisting, while God alone "creates."

capricious: fickle; liable to sudden change or impulse. *My girlfriend is so capricious; I never know when I she will feel like going out with me.*

context The general circumstances in which a word or words are to be understood. *The context of his statement suggested that he was less than serious.*

contextualist: One who looks at the surrounding circumstances of a passage before determining how a passage is to be interpreted. One context may demand a literal approach to a

passage, while another passages context suggests a more s symbolic approach.

ex-nihilo from the latin, meaning "out of - nothing." *God created ex-nihilo.*

haphazard: accidental; done without plan or purpose. *His haphazard approach to homework, left him often confused about what was due and when it was due.*

icon: an image or picture that has become standard or emblematic for something. A "sacred" image. *The accusations against Kobe are more shocking, because Kobe has been an icon for what's good about the NBA.*

idiom: an expression; a phrase or word whose meaning is difficult to understand, unless one is familiar with its cultural use. For example, to be "hung up" means to be fixated or obsessed with something.

inference: when piece of information which leads one to a logical conclusion through the use of reason. *The inference of God that was gained from complexity of even the simplest cell made the atheist feel very uneasy.*

irreducible: said of something which cannot be broken down into smaller parts. That which cannot be reduced. *The working, whip-like tail of the cell is irreducible - it cannot work properly with even one of its parts missing.*

naturalism: The religiously held belief or assumption that everything which exists can be explained by natural causes. The belief that nothing outside of the material world is needed to explain all of reality. Naturalism is based on a belief which cannot be verified scientifically. *The idea that we are the result of purely chance natural processes is an expression of naturalism.*

nihilism: the belief that there is nothing to believe in - no "truth," "meaning" D.C. *The movie was representative of nihilism, for it show that there was no point to living at all.*

nihilistic: A philosophical approach which holds that there is nothing to believe in. To believe in nothing.

paradigm: A set of expectations or a mental idea through which we see

some part of reality. *Columbus' delay in returning to Portugal reinforced the \ flat-earth paradigm of the disbelievers.*

paradigm shift When there is a major change in one's outlook or set of expectations about something. *When Columbus arrived safely home, the europe experienced a paradigm shift - the world was no longer flat - it was big round and fat with the hopes of new adventure.*

philanthropist: from the Greek, "one who loves mankind," one who does good deeds for his/her fellow "man."

secular: Non religious or worldly. A paradigm or viewpoint without religiously based values; without reference to God.

scientific materialist One who believes that the material world is all there is and that all reality can be explained in terms of material causes. The belief that only those things which can be scientifically verified are "real." (Ironically, this assumption is not scientifically verifiable)

unalienable: That which is integral to someone and cannot rightfully be taken away; that which is inseparable.