



David Roemer <david@dkroemer.com>

Survey Monkey and Graham Oppy

1 message

David Roemer <david@dkroemer.com>

Wed, Jan 25, 2017 at 2:32 PM

To: Uri Nodelman <editors@plato.stanford.edu>

Dear Uri,

I've attached a survey I sent to over 7000 academically oriented individuals which mentions the SEP entries on the arguments for God's existence. I got 220 responses. If you want to analyze and see the results, I can make you a member of my team at Survey Monkey.

I am in the middle of an interesting exchange with Graham Oppy who wrote a book about the arguments for God's existence that I refer to in my review of another book about God's existence that I told you about in my email of January 15, 2017.

The fourth question in the survey states,

Homo sapiens evolved from animals. But homo sapiens are not human beings because human beings have free will and conscious knowledge.

Professor Oppy said in an email to me,

I agree that homo sapiens evolved from animals. I disagree that homo sapiens are not human beings. Your survey is designed in a way that does not allow me to register my opinion.

This was my response:

Dear Graham,

Thank you for the clarification. The purpose of the survey was not to give people an opportunity to express their opinions. I consider it a scientific fact that homo sapiens are not human beings. If you admit to this, I am willing to discuss the metaphysical theory that human beings are homo sapiens.

I believe I can prove that human beings are not homo sapiens if you accept an expanded definition of the word proof. Suppose, I tell you that I can prove England is an island and show you all the maps. You respond by saying it is only highly probable that England is an island. I can't tell you friends and family that you are ignorant, stupid, dishonest, or irrational. But suppose I offer to give you free tickets to England, and you say something about England not being an island. I can then tell everyone you are ignorant, etc. In other words, there is a sense in which I can prove England is an island.

Very truly yours,
David Roemer

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