

# Re: Religion

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- *From:* Lorentz <[drosen0000@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:drosen0000@xxxxxxxxxx)>
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On Aug 3, 8:02 pm, Alexm <[amcwill...@xxxxxxx](mailto:amcwill...@xxxxxxx)> wrote:

A Martian (if one existed) observing earth could fairly easily perceive that humans have religions. Are there any other creatures on earth the behaviors of which can be interpreted as being in some sense religious in nature?

There are behaviors of animals that have been interpreted as being homologous to religion. Read "The Ascent of man" by Charles Darwin. Darwin talks about his dog, growling at a wind chime. He claims that the confusion of the dog is either homologous or analogous to a human believing in spirits. A Martian, seeing that dog growl at the wind chime, could have seen it the same way.

Darwin makes an interesting observation which I am not sure is true. He claims that most spirits are evil. He attributes that to the defensive nature of natural selection. Natural selection favors protective rather than trusting responses.

Dog hears wind chime, dog only has experience with humans who ring wind chimes, dog concludes that a human is ringing the wind chime, but an invisible human. One who isn't trying to pet him. It must be an invisible intruder, the worse type of intruder! So the dog barks. In actuality, it was only Satan...