

## Re: There is no gap between philosophy and physics – is belief evil?

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**From:** Patrick Reany (*reany\_at\_asu.edu*)

**Date:** 07/22/04

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dubious@radioactivex.lebesque–al.net (Bilge) wrote in message  
news:<slrncg010n.cg0.dubious@radioactivex.lebesque–al.net>...

> *Robert J. Kolker:*

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>> *Bilge wrote:*

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>>> *Why are human theories not natural? Did humans originate in a*

>>> *different universe than this one?*

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>> *Any human artifact must be created within nature. That is a truism.*

>> *However theories in and of themselves are not the nature they describe.*

>> *The Word is not the Thing. The Map is not the Territory.*

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> *Does that mean nature doesn't operate according to any rules?*

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>> *The most a theory can do is model some of the observables of nature and*

>> *postulate hypothetical causes to account for them.*

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> *In that case, the bible would have to be considered a scientific theory.*

I don't see the logic in that claim.

Science is one of a possible infinite number of ways to "model some of the observables of nature and postulate hypothetical causes to account for them."

Science has its own ontology and epistemology. But this never gets taught in science classes. The ontology of science is pragmatic, making room for both realism and instrumentalism. However, it generally frowns on ghosts, demons, and deities. As for winged horses — maybe.

Patrick