

LETTER 28  
1975

**THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

When a person becomes strongly convinced of an idea, it is apt to be very difficult to change him. Sometimes a strong prejudice or an unfortunate experience in the past leads one to become so convinced of an idea that he cannot even consider the possibility that he might be wrong. In such a case it may be necessary to find an oblique way to bring the evidence to his attention without first arousing his prejudice. I wonder if you might be able to lead him into a situation similar to the following imaginary occurrence:

As an atheist friend and I walked through a beautiful forest, he gave a glowing description of some of the wonders of modern scientific discovery. As we followed a winding trail, he spoke of the advances in the study of living cells, and described the great complexity in the cells of even the apparently simplest forms of life. He said, "There is no reason for believing in God. Science has shown that everything can be explained by natural causes." Further along the trail we came to a small clearing in the forest. In the middle of the clearing there stood a rustic log cabin. Smoke was rising from a small pipe that came through the roof and reached upward a short distance. As we looked I said, "I am more and more amazed at the wonders of nature. It would be most interesting to understand the forces that produced what we see here. How fascinating it would have been to stand here and watch the forces of nature that produced this cabin. There must have been a very strong wind to cause trees to fall in such a way that the loose branches would all be lopped off, while the trunks would land in such a way as to produce the four walls and roof of this little cabin. If one could look back through the centuries, it would be fascinating to know whether the whole area here was covered with fallen trees and some process of erosion removed all except those that are now part of the cabin, or whether the wind was so selective that only those trees fell that form its walls and roof. I wonder what wind or other force caused those trees to break up into pieces of exactly the right size to fit together to