

I have traveled extensively through our country, visiting cities and towns both large and small. In some of the large cities I encountered a few in and around the synagogues that had been influenced in their thinking from foreign philosophers, perhaps similar to that which our brother Paul encountered<sup>1</sup>. But rather than considering too many “gods”<sup>2</sup>, they were being drawn away from the knowledge of God as the Creator of the heavens and earth.

The idea that there was no great cause, that it just happened without any divine influence, was one of the prevalent themes. I countered with the obvious design and craft of the universe, and emphasized what I believe to be the impossibility of life randomly emerging by itself.

To illustrate in terms that my people would understand from their own history, I asked them to consider Aaron, the brother of Moses, as he tried to explain how the golden calf came about. When Moses came down from the mountain with the ten words<sup>3</sup>, he found the Israelites running wild around an image of a calf which they claimed had delivered them<sup>4</sup>. When confronted, Aaron said, “I threw in the gold and out came this calf!”<sup>5</sup> And I asked them if they really believe that the calf could be created without being crafted. None would sign up for that.

There was no doubt about the existence of the calf. Someone, Aaron in this case, was the one who was responsible for its “creation”. It truly did not walk out of the fire on its own. And neither did the universe<sup>6</sup>.

Added Note: There is also a parallel in what happened to the “creation”. Aaron’s calf was turned to dust due to the sin of the Israelites. And God’s creation has been groaning from the time of man’s original sin.

1. Acts 17:16-34
2. Acts 17:16, 22-23
3. Exodus 32, see also Deuteronomy 4:13
4. Exodus 32:6
5. Genesis 32:24
6. Genesis 1:3