

The idea of rejecting religious beliefs for scientific ones is not a new concept, in fact atheist began to appear in Europe and Asia in the sixth or fifth century BCE. Even though the idea isn't new, it was never a popular thing in the past years, that is, until now. Atheism is the fastest growing religious stance in the world, and is becoming a more acceptable ideology among society. There are people who we can point to when we look for a reason as to why atheism is becoming more popular. Richard Dawkins and Lawrence Krauss have time and time again strongly advocated secular thinking and logic. They teach that religion has no place in the 21st century, and we should use logic and science for the questions we have rather than relying on myths and gods to explain the parts we don't understand.

Dawkins was born in Nairobi, British Kenya on March 26, 1941. He is a British ethologist, evolutionary biologist, and writer. He is an emeritus fellow of New College, Oxford, and was the University of Oxford's Professor for Public Understanding of Science from 1995 until 2008. Dawkins describes his childhood as "a normal Anglican upbringing". He was a Christian until halfway through his teenage years, at which point he concluded that the theory of evolution was a better explanation for life's complexity, and ceased believing in a god. Dawkins states:

"the main residual reason why I was religious was from being so impressed with the complexity of life and feeling that it had to have a designer, and I think it was when I realized that Darwinism was a far superior explanation that pulled the rug out from under the argument of design. And that left me with nothing."

Krauss was born in New York, May 27, 1957 and he is an American theoretical physicist and he is the Foundation Professor of the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University. Krauss has argued that public policy debates in the United States should have a greater focus on science, and that the public have a right to scrutinize the religious beliefs of Presidential candidates in the ways that they relate to public policy. Krauss describes himself as an anti-theist and takes part in public debates on religion. When asked what was it that led you to your anti-theism? Was there a certain event or series of events that led to your skepticism, or were you always a skeptic? Krauss answered:

“No specific incidents. As I grew up the stories I learned as a child became silly and as my education continued I learned the value of questioning, especially as I discovered things about the world that contradicted a priori assumptions. I became more outspoken about the dangers and silliness of religious myth as I began to see its negative impacts around me.”

Both of these men started out in Christian households, raised to believe in God, but they both managed to become strong advocates for secularism. It's interesting how both of them became atheists through different means, Krauss explains that it was a series of multiple different things over a long amount of time that led to his anti-theism, while Dawkins' experienced one specific event that triggered his skepticism.

