

On The Definition of Science:

A debate between Socrates and Hector Dawkins

By James Hoskins

As a fairly reasonable person, I am repeatedly astonished by dogmatists who voice their opinions on amoral issues so loudly and adamantly, that they seem to imply a moral indignation toward anyone who would disagree, thereby encouraging the discrimination of those people of differing views. As a Philosophy student, I often enjoy imagining said dogmatists locked in a room with Socrates; the master of interrogation and debate. My latest fantasy involved Socrates questioning the archetype of the philosophical materialist, whom I will call Hector Dawkins, on the definition of science and the justification of Guillermo Gonzalez' tenure denial from Iowa State University. Hector Dawkins is a man who believes religion is the bane of human existence, that believers in the supernatural are ignorant or insane, and that anything other than Darwinian Evolution is pseudoscience. I fear such a person would not fare well in a debate with Socrates. And so I offer this lighthearted piece of fiction as a brief snapshot of what that dialogue might look like.

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