

# Hidden Brain podcast: Suggested Episodes on the Gods & Religion

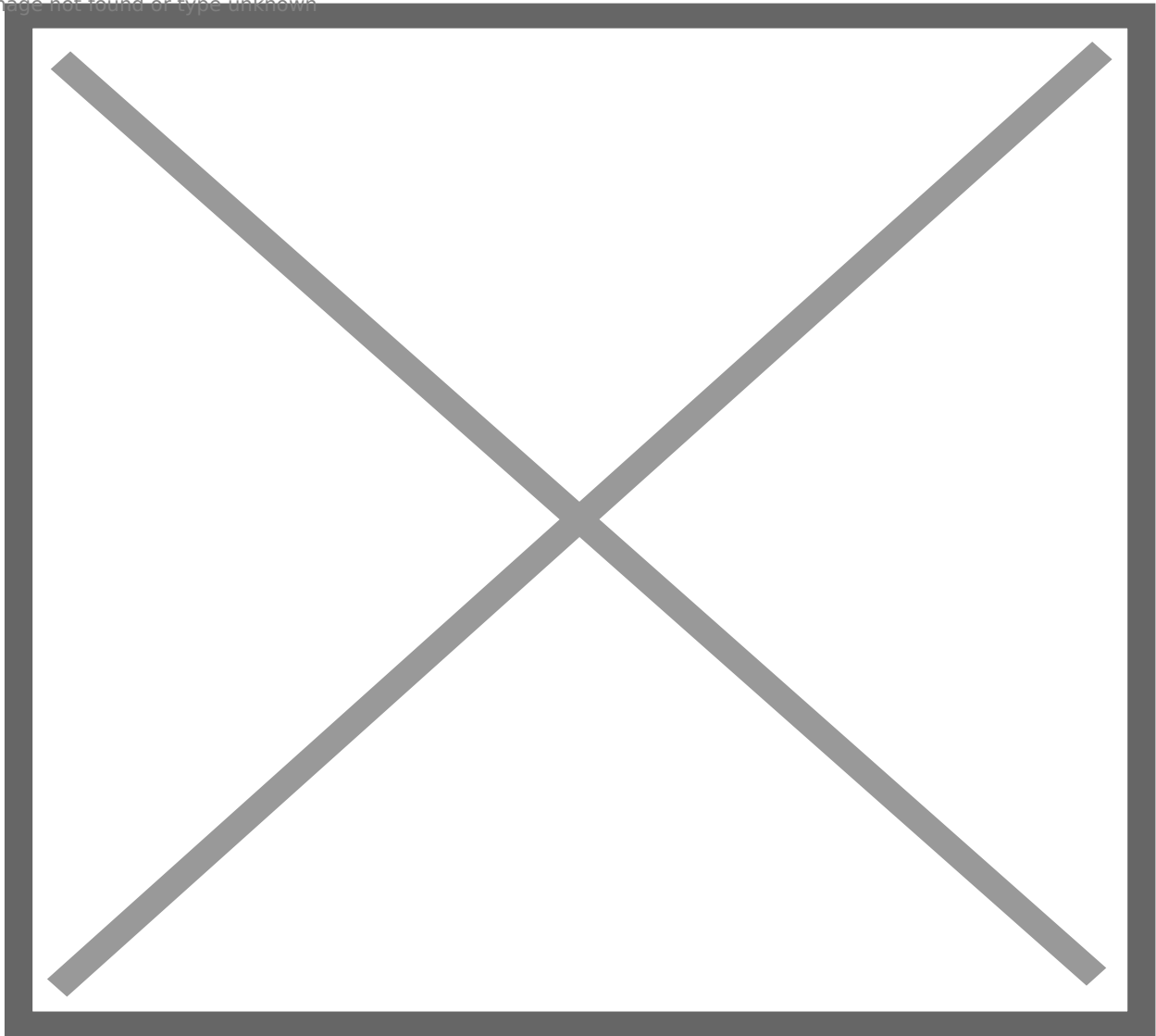
Post by "Don" of June 29, 2024 at 10:22 PM

*(NOTE: I'm sure these podcast episodes are also available where you happen to subscribe to podcasts. I'm posting the program's episode pages because they also had some additional resources that might not be in show notes on a podcast-subscription platform.)*

I just started listening to the second episode of *Hidden Brain* listed below but felt obligated to share them. I've found them to be instructive and thought-provoking from a cultural evolution of religion perspective.

"Creating God"

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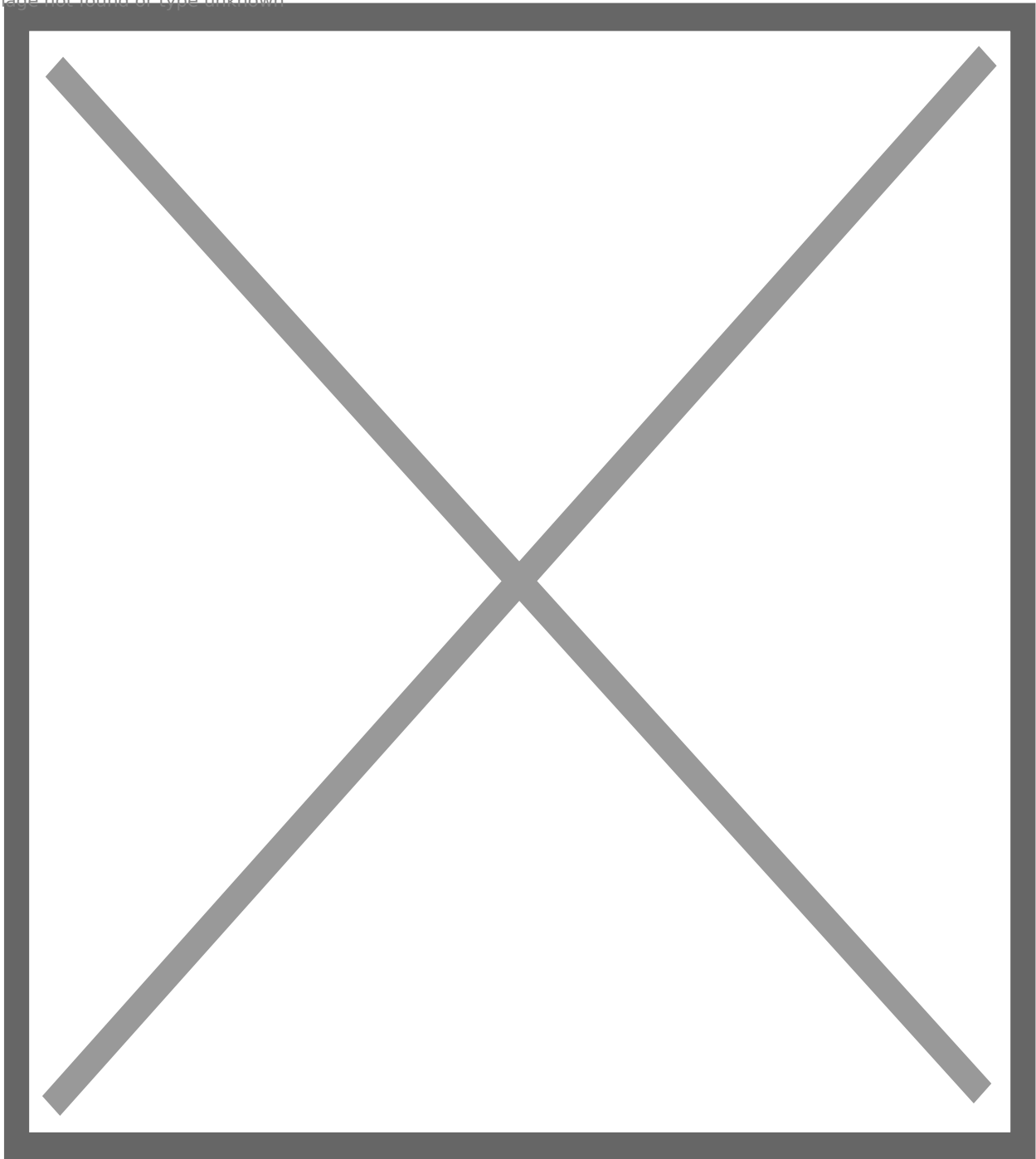
[Creating God | Hidden Brain Media](#)

If you've taken part in a religious service, have you ever stopped to think about how it all came to be? How did people become believers? Where did the rituals...

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"Our God-Shaped Brains"

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[Our God-Shaped Brains | Hidden Brain Media](#)

Some think of religious faith as just that: a leap of faith. But psychologists are increasingly filling in the gaps in our understanding of how beliefs shape —...

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These two have also made me question whether we really do have a prolepsis of "blessed and incorruptible" characteristics of gods.... or whether the ubiquitous nature of gods across cultures is really (as talked about in "Our God-Shaped Brains") due to our innate proclivity

<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/3942-hidden-brain-podcast-suggested-episodes-on-the-gods-religion/?postID=31187#post31187>

(prolepsis) for assigning agency even where it doesn't exist, to anthropomorphize, and to engage in "teleological thinking" (seeing purpose where none really exists). The episode talks about these innate evolution-adapted proclivities giving rise to gods/spirits/divinities across cultures. Not some innate "preconception" of "blessed and incorruptible" beings existing somewhere. It seems to me that that is worth considering... although *I'm fully aware this goes against Epicurean orthodoxy!* There are still prolepses involved in there being ubiquitous gods, just not the prolepses that Epicurus posited. And if a "modern" Epicurean wants to imagine gods as admirable archetypes to emulate, I don't see a problem with that (at the moment I'm typing this at least). However, if these podcast episodes are correct, in a manner of speaking, the hoi polloi can be "forgiven" for holding the beliefs they do about the gods... in a way, evolution made them do it.

I'll have to cogitate on this for awhile, but I'm posting here for consideration by forum members. I look forward to any and all thoughts.