

## Francis Bacon Assignment 1

### 1. What is Bacon's attitude towards atheism?

In his essay "Of Atheism," Francis Bacon firmly opposes atheism, arguing that the complexity of nature points to the existence of a divine creator. He suggests that while superficial engagement with philosophy might lead to atheism, deeper inquiry often rekindles religious belief. Bacon also intriguingly implies that even philosophers typically associated with atheism may inadvertently support religious beliefs because the idea of a universe emerging randomly from particles seems less convincing. Additionally, he hints that some who claim atheism may not genuinely deny God's existence but may do so for social or rhetorical reasons rather than a deep-seated belief.

Bacon's view strongly opposes atheism and highlights the importance of in-depth philosophical exploration. He leans towards believing in a divine creator and uses the complexities of nature as proof of intelligent design. His perspective emphasizes that thorough philosophical investigation often guides people back to their religious convictions, pointing out that some atheistic stances may be more about rhetoric than genuinely held beliefs.

### 2. How does Bacon reconcile his support for atomism with his apparent support for religion? (150-200 words)

In Francis Bacon's essay "Of Atheism," he explored the theological implications of Atomism and its relationship with his apparent support for religion. Bacon thought that it is more believable to think that a world made up of four changeable elements and one unchanging fifth essence, eternally arranged, can function without the need for God's presence, as opposed to the idea that an infinite number of unarranged, unguided particles could create the order and beauty of this universe without a divine overseer.

Bacon viewed Atomism as a possible way to reconcile the ancient Greek philosophies of Democritus and Epicurus with the teachings of Christianity. According to Atomism, the universe was believed to be composed of a limited number of atoms, a concept that could be aligned with the notion of a purposefully created world. Furthermore, Bacon argued that the motion of these atomic particles could be seen as evidence of a divine providence governing the natural world. In his view, the complex world, shaped by countless atoms in constant and irregular motion, required a miraculous act of creation by a divine being. This perspective demonstrated his effort to reconcile his support for atomism with his underlying religious faith.