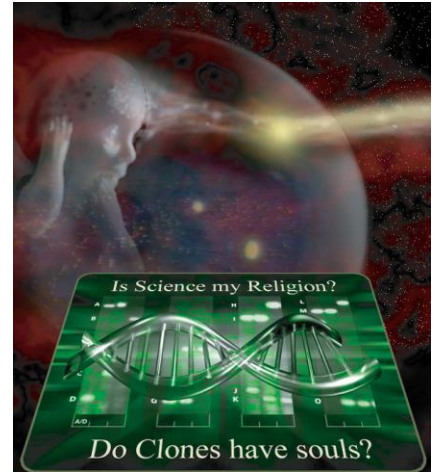




GODSPAWN CRITIQUE

Godspawn is downloaded thousands of times each month from www.godspawn.org, by readers in over 20-countries. It inspires controversy, they either love it or hate it. What polarizes such opinions?

It is long at 600-paperback pages, converging two plot-arcs (timelines) into a two part book. Momentum builds gradually unlike formula fiction, in fact it takes a while to figure out what's going on. Obscure words are borrowed from ancient history and emerging science, using a writing style that morphs to fit each scene's lead character, pulling the reader's perspective into that character's mind. Yet, unnaturally human characters can be difficult to identify with. Some evolve from acting mechanical in scenes that feel dry, analytical and stilted, whereas more natural characters drive their scenes with fiery prose.



The merging plot-arcs are also differentiated, one arc is threaded with scientific analysis and the other with emotional mythology. You can float along on the surface, barely paying attention to the philosophy, but you continually risk being seduced by profoundly disturbing ideas. It is an unusual book.

The story explores the same subject matter that made Darwin so contentious in the 19th century: Evolution. Yet, in *Godspawn*, it is not natural evolution but unnatural evolution—genetic engineering—that takes aim at western religions.

Godspawn challenges those who believe there is a heaven for humans or that Man is made in God's image. Future, more evolved humans might consider us almost Neanderthal, as if we do not deserve our souls.

So, what if we are no more significant to God than is our choice of religion? What if everything we believe with our finite brains, is at best an approximation? How could we then defend our beliefs against those who kill to defend theirs?

Godspawn attempts to explain a future perspective on God. We find ourselves wondering whether our religions are actually capable of evolving to accommodate our genetic creations; especially if such creations intend to displace us, the way we displaced Neanderthals.

The theory of natural evolution is called a theory so as to avoid offending anyone. Yet the science of genetic engineering is NOT called a theory. Future evolution is going to be a fact. So, if artificial humans or even clones can have souls, where does God draw the line? Could half-human androids have half-souls? Must a mind be biologically alive to claim soul-stuff? Wait! If everything—alive or dead—shares the same soul, western religions are worse than irrelevant; they are positively harmful to our connection with God.

Fortunately, *Godspawn* does not preach; that task is best left to tedious zealots and crack-pots who can be certain without facts. Instead, *Godspawn* is a heart-warming journey through the soul of humanity. More than just fiction, it is a uniquely human experience, a new way for us to examine who we are to our God!