

## My Conversation with Peter Ward

On October 27, 2011 at Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington, Dr. Hugh Ross, and Dr. Peter Ward (“The Rare Earth”) of the University of Washington, engaged in public “conversation at “The Skeptics Forum.” Atheist, Dr. Ward closed his opening lecture, which focused entirely on Darwinism, with the assertion that God was unnecessary to explain any aspect of the development of life. Interestingly Ward did concede that the single greatest challenge in all of science is the movement from non-life to life.

At the Q & A I attempted to ask Dr. Ward a question. But my request was delayed in favor of students being entitled to ask the first questions. Mine never did get asked publicly.

Afterwards, however, I approached Dr. Ward. I must say I was cordially received and was very impressed with his demeanor. His first words, said with a smile, were, “Have I seen you before?” I said, “I don’t think so...I live up in Snohomish.” He replied that he has a vacation home up here. We both agreed that we love the Snohomish area.

Gary: Dr. Ward, in your lecture I did not hear you mention the big bang...the zero-volume singularity of the absolute beginning of the universe. How does the absolute beginning of the universe square with your non-theistic view of the cosmos?

Dr. Ward: I’m not an astro-physicist [he is an astro-biologist]. I don’t know with much certainty about the big bang. It could have happened in many ways, possibly, that we don’t know about. The universe could, for example, be a multitude of parallel universes. Or, our universe could have expanded and collapsed an infinite number of times.

Gary: Would the 2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics really have allowed that?

There are many things that happen that we don’t understand and many other things that we don’t know about.