

**CELESTIAL TEAPOT.** With his analogy of the Celestial Teapot the philosopher and atheist Bertrand Russell refuted the idea that the burden of proof lies with the sceptic to disprove claims of religions that cannot be proven to be false. **R**ussell wrote: "If I implied there is a teapot revolving around the sun, nobody could disprove my claim. But if I were then to say since my assertion cannot be disproved, it is intolerable to doubt it - I rightly would be accused of talking nonsense. **H**owever, if the existence of such a teapot were affirmed in ancient books, taught as the sacred truth every Sunday and instilled into the minds of children at school, hesitation to believe in its existence would become a mark of eccentricity." **I**n his book *The God Delusion* Richard Dawkins elaborates: "The reason organized religion merits outright hostility is that, unlike belief in Russell's teapot, religion is powerful and systematically passed on to children too young to defend themselves. **C**hildren are not compelled to spend their formative years memorizing loony books about teapots. Schools don't exclude children whose parents prefer the wrong shape of teapot. People who put milk in first don't knee-cap those who put tea in first. **T**eapot-believers don't stone teapot-unbelievers to death."