

Does God exist?

Wow! This is the kind of question you ask yourself after you read "A brief history of time" by Dr. S. Hawking, a physicist considered one of the great minds of this century for his work, among other things, on black holes.

Although I realize I am stating the obvious, as I finished to read the book, I realized how far science has progressed since the time the earth was believed to be flat. Science has made phenomenal discoveries and developed majestic new theories. It is quite safe to assume that the existing theories will be perfected and expanded to explain processes that we think do not exist. It was important for me to recognize and accept this obvious truth. We cannot hide ourselves behind our ignorance. Keep this in mind as you read these thoughts.

Science can now explain what happened to the universe since it started expanding. Scientists know exactly how we, humans, developed. What is shocking is that, as science moves on and explains what once was the realm of religion, we are gradually forced to modify what we believe in.

The reason why science can explain so much about our life and the universe, is because of two main theories: the theory of relativity (the theory of the very big) and quantum mechanics (the theory of the very small). The latter is the theory that made it possible to explain the composition of the universe when it was very, very small.

The crucial question, of course, is: what happened before the universe began expanding? What created the beginning? Did God start the clock? Does time actually have a beginning? Dr. Hawking's suggestion is not to jump to conclusions. The scientific theory of the universe is not complete. The two theories mentioned above are crucial in explaining what has happened and where we come from. It looks like we are the result of a combination of provable series of physical events.

But there is no unified theory that explains the very small, the very large, and the concept of time. Maybe time does not exist as we think of it. The interesting comment made by Dr. Hawking was that we see the time-space universe we belong to. But beings in a different time-space universe may see our domain in a different way, if at all. Besides, they have a totally different concept of time because time is relative to who observes it and in which time-space he/she belongs.

The implication is time always existed. There was no one who started the clock. This is a direction scientists are taking. If these scientists are right then we have to redefine God and what he did.

As I write, I recognize my religious background brings me to say God is still quite active. We seem to ask of him quite a few things such as health, strength, and peace in our family and in the world. He must keep pretty busy in protecting us all. In our mind he is

not a static symbol.

It seems to me we look too much at God as in the pagan times. Flowers, dances, candles, fires, processions and chants. In exchange we ask for some concessions. People like that. They find safety in all the symbolism and rituals. The dialogue provides comfort and peace of mind.

We never evolved from a tribal concept of God. Organized religion did not let us. The masses like the idolatry and ancestral ornaments surrounding God. Sometimes people forget the real purpose of their acts.

Maybe God is not a human-shaped old man. Or, to put it more respectfully, God is not what we were told he might look like. He does not do what we have been told gods do.

Maybe God is us. Is what is inside us. Is what is around us. The people we meet. Just one good friend. A smile. Two hands touching. The flowers we smell. The colors we see. A red jacket. A yellow kayak. Gliding. Stopping it in the middle of a lily pad. Large leaves and white flowers. The sun burning your skin. Dolphins playing with the spray of the bow. Looking at you with their glazed eyes as you try to touch them. Riding the wind with your mind.

Maybe we should relax and search no further. Maybe God is a concept much simpler than the one presented throughout the centuries by organized religions.

Maybe God is a mental state. A mental awakening. Reaching out with your mind until you know you are somewhere, like in a new dimension. I have no answers, of course. Just searching. Trying to understand.

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