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God – the Creator of the Universe and Supporter of our Lives

The question on whether God exists and He is the creator of our universe has been an open question for centuries. There have always been debates between science and religion and many famous scientists, philosophers and theologians expressed their opinion on conflict or confirmation between science and religion. For example, Stephen Hopkins was arguing in his book *The Grand Design* that, “Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going” [2]. On the other hand, another scientist Isaac Newton was very religious and in his famous *Principia* he wrote: “This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all. . . . The Supreme God is a Being eternal, infinite, absolutely perfect . . . and from his true dominion it follows that the true God is a living, intelligent, and powerful Being. . . . He is not eternity and infinity, but eternal and infinite; he is not duration or space, but he endures and is present” [3]. There is definitely room for God in our universe for several reasons. I think that in order to start the creation process out of nothing there has to be some external push. In addition, I believe that creation is still happening and we are the live spectators as well as main participants in that creation. Finally, in my opinion, science and theology are supplementing each other where science is in charge of body and matter, while theology is in charge of mind, soul and spirit.

One of the main reasons we are existing is that there is always some energy transfer happening around us. As humans, we need energy to walk, breathe and think. We get that energy from food, as an apple needs a potential energy to fall on the ground off the tree. If

there was no energy transfer around us, there would be no light, no matter, no movement, in other words there would be nothing. Many people claim that our universe has started from nothing or in other words the universe has started from a vacuum, which is the lowest energy state of the field. This theory assumes that universe has a net zero value of energy (Hosinski 73). Some other scientists believe that the universe started from the singularity, which means that all the mass, energy and space time was compressed in the infinitely dense point.

However, I agree with the idea that our universe came into existence from the fluctuations in the quantum vacuum. Even though, the fluctuations in the quantum vacuum were the beginning of the energy transfer before that the energy was equally spread out throughout space, meaning there was nothing. When energy is equally spread out it could not come out of this stable state on its own; something external should have to bring in a distortion and start energy movement. Palamas refers to God as “*hyperousios*, “beyond being”; he is “the beyond-essence, nameless and surpassing all names” (Clayton 162). Therefore we can say that God is outside of the energy system, which makes Him a perfect candidate for someone who started the process of creation by bringing a distortion into the equally spread out energy system.

In physics, the initial conditions are very important if we want to predict the system state after some time. If we have two identical systems started with slightly different initial conditions, the systems will deviate as the time increases. In chaos theory for nonlinear systems (our world could definitely be considered as a nonlinear system), such a phenomena is called a butterfly effect. Our universe is 13.8 billion years old and one can imagine how much our universe could be different from what we have now if initial condition were slightly different. The chance that initial conditions were happened to be so exact to result in the present world is infinitely small. Therefore, I find it hard to believe that initial conditions were chosen randomly, which is another argument for the theory that somebody, such as

God, should have set those initial conditions. Very often, when we study the system, we can identify the initial conditions because they propagate through the system as constants. Nowadays science identifies multiple physical constants such as gravitational, Plank, Boltzmann and other constants. In theology, there is a principle called “fine tuning”, which describes that in order for our universe to be as it is, somebody such as God had to choose all these constants and laws to be as they are. In other words, by choosing the constants God performed a “fine tuning” on our world. I believe that that in terms of science and matter the only time God was involved only in the initial creation and the “fine tuning” of the world after what the universe evolved itself according to the laws that we observe now. This statement from *In whom we live and move and have our being* by P.Clayton and A.Peacocke is a great summary to my discussion: “Inevitable “creation” came to be seen by many as an event in which God brought into existence (in time) an autonomous world, which was then free to run according to its divinely endowed laws, so that God tended to become the redundant clockmaker, or absentee landlord, od Deism” (Clayton 137).

God may have not intervene into the scientific side of our world after the creation, although God is always present. I want to introduce an analogy of God as an author of the book, where book is our universe. God is always present like the author that is currently creating the story. To write a book, the author has to follow the laws of grammar for whatever language he or she is using. However, without violating any grammar laws, an author can write any kind of story by changing the content of the story and it is important to understand that this content is not materialistic. In our analogy of God the author of the universe, we can say, “likewise there is plenty of room in the universe for new things to occur without ever violating in the slightest the laws of physics, chemistry or natural selection” (Haught 58).

Another comparison between the writer and God is that in order to create the text the author uses letters for written communication. These letters are the smallest possible components of the book. There are only twenty-six letters in an English alphabet but billions of authors created trillions of stories varying from simple kids' books to the very complex and deep books such as Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. In the universe, the analogy to the letter are the fundamental particles, such as quarks, leptons and bosons from which, "all entities, all concrete particulars in the world, including human beings, are constituted of" (Clayton 139). The Standard model of particle physics, that describes four fundamental forces, includes seventeen fundamental particles. Pretty much everything that exists is made out of these seventeen fundamental particles and I find this very fascinating. In addition, there is a philosophical worldview called "monistic" view which argues that "everything can be broken down into fundamental physics entities and that no extra entities are thought to be inserted at higher levels of complexity to account for their properties" (Clayton 139). The most recent particle, Higgs boson, was officially experimentally discovered in 2012, so we are not sure by now if we discovered all possible fundamental particles. However, science is very close to confirm the "monistic" view.

This analogy of God as an author gives us an opportunity to see God as someone who by initial creation established the tools to develop the story. The story is not finished yet and, "in the light of science, theology may confirm that *creation is still happening*" (Haught 128). We do not know how far we are in this book or what the end of the story is; we are just the characters of the book. With the fact that in the "universe calendar" we came to be only two minutes ago, we might not be the most important characters of this book. We do not even know if the story is centered on our civilization, or our world is just a small part of the novel. There are many unanswered questions, nevertheless, many people have experienced the presence of God in their lives. There are many examples of real human stories when, for

example, everything happened just so the person does not make it on the flight that happened to crash. In this case, that person was not supposed to die that day; however, that situation was a strong message to that person that one has to take into account. In addition, life is might not be as random as one might think. Often many interesting coincidences happen, for example, a person appears to be at the right time to the right place where the life of that person can change completely without one expecting that. I believe that everything on our life happens for a reason, and someone should be behind that reason directing our lives in the positive direction, such as God – the author.

If God is not “touching” science anymore, but we see through experience of people that God is always present, it would be great to discuss how He is doing it. I am introducing you to the concepts of *elemental* and *fundamental*. John Haught does a great job in his book *Christianity and Science* on giving the example of comparing elemental and fundamental ideas. Haught tells how at the level of elemental the temperature makes molecules in the water move faster and brings the water to boil. While on the level of fundamental, someone is boiling this water for the purpose, for example, because he or she wants tea. Haught states that, “divine influence stands in relation to the natural world, including such events as the origin of life, analogously to the way in which “I want tea” stands in relation to the molecular commotion in the boiling pot of water on my stove” (Haught 144). Based on Haught discussion, I come up with analogy of our spirit, mind and soul to be on the level of fundamental, while our body and all the matter is elemental. Therefore, our spirit, soul and mind has a divine influence and has a relation to the elemental natural world around us. Our existence, actions and decisions depend on everything around us and laws of science govern it. In this world, one cannot exist without another.

The discussion about soul and body and their relationship has been up since ancient Greece. Socrates, who is named the father of western philosophy, had some great ideas on the mind

and body dualism. I agree, with his argument, that soul and body are separate, but as Socrates states body and soul is what makes us alive in this world. Socrates also says that body is death because it is constantly dying. He claims that body is material and composite, while soul is immaterial and incomposite. Since soul is incomposite it cannot be destroyed and this idea brings us to the discussion on recollection. I believe, in Socrates idea that we all come to the world with something. Our soul has experience from its previous lives and bodies, and as we live, we recollect the knowledge and build our understanding of the world upon that. I find this to be a great explanation for why our knowledge of science and technology is evolving faster with newer generations. For example, it is much easier for current kids to learn how to use a smartphone that it was for the first generations of smartphone users. Here I want to bring back the analogy of positive and negative energy. Recollection implies that soul is evolving therefore I want to compare soul to a positive energy, while body that is always dying I see as a negative energy analogy. This analogy ties back to the idea that there is a net zero energy in the universe. In addition, since soul is incomposite it is clever to tie the God, who is infinite, to the soul. I consider that Haught discussion on fundamental and elemental as well as Socrates ideas on soul and body are great support for the fact that God is present in our world through fundamental level affecting our mind, soul and spirit.

We are biologically developed and adopted to life and this world is made so life can emerge. Our universe could not start evolving from nothing without an external push from someone such as God. He is the creator who gave the initial conditions and let the world biologically, chemically and physically develop into the world that we observe now. God is always present through the soul, spirit and mind what gives us consciousness and feelings. Going off the Socrates idea of recollection, I believe that we are predetermined to be born at the right place and at the right time because we have that specific background from previous lives. Our soul belongs to that specific body because each person has its mission, life path

and destiny. God is giving us chances to fulfill our mission to the absolute best. Each mission has one big greater goal - make our world better.

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