

Did Einstein forget that he agreed to the existence of GOD in a physics theory?

Roger J Anderton

R.J.Anderton@btinternet.com

As per usual with Einstein there is a lot of stumbling over words and doubt as to what he actually said and doubt to what he meant, with appearances that he changed his mind. In this article is the issue of confusion when Einstein agreed to Lemaitre's theory of the big bang.

As per latest paper to be auctioned from Einstein: "The single-page note, typewritten in 1945, was a reply to a young US naval officer who had contacted the scientist to report a conversation that he had had with an unnamed priest. In it, the cleric alleged that he had persuaded Einstein to believe in an ultimate controlling power. Einstein retorts: "I have never talked to a Jesuit priest in my life, and am quite astonished by the audacity to tell such lies about me. . . I am, of course, and always have been, an atheist.'" [1]

Never talked to a Jesuit priest?

Einstein had however talked to Lemaitre on several occasions, Lemaitre was Jesuit-educated and became a priest although not a Jesuit priest. (According to Farrell [2] those who think him a Jesuit priest are wrong.) (Also note - I don't know when he became a priest.)

According to wiki [3] Einstein had talked to Lemaitre (who was Jesuit-educated) many times before 1945: "Lemaitre and Einstein met on four occasions: in 1927 in Brussels, at the time of a Solvay Conference; in 1932 in Belgium, at the time of a cycle of conferences in Brussels; in California in January 1933; and in 1935 at Princeton."

Lemaitre's theory was the big bang (called that later), and Einstein supposedly eventually agreed with it; and from Jesuit perspective that would have been God creating the universe. i.e. the old idea - before the existence of our universe there was a creator.

So, when Einstein was agreeing with Lemaitre, was he:

(1) not realising Lemaitre was Jesuit-educated priest (if not actual Jesuit); maybe Lemaitre did not have on priest garb, and that is why Einstein didn't realise.

And

(2) when Einstein was agreeing with Lemaitre's theory; was he not realising that he was agreeing with implicit idea that big bang was started by creator/God.

So, it might be a case of Einstein as a typical case of "absentminded professor" forgot that he was agreeing with a theory that implicitly had God associated with it, and a theory coming from a priest that was educated by the Jesuits.

On the other hand, for those who don't like Einstein, it might seem like something more sinister and purposely misleading. [4]

Other things lead to confusion: Einstein said he believed in Spinoza's version of God [5]:

"I believe in Spinoza's God who reveals himself in the harmony of all that exists, not in a God who concerns himself with the fate and the doings of mankind."

And Lemaitre didn't like his theory taken to be scientific validation for Catholicism. [6]

References

[1] Einstein letter to Jesuit priest to be auctioned in US, by Paul Wilkinson, 01 March 2019 Church Times <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/1-march/news/uk/einstein-letter-to-jesuit-priest-to-be-auctioned-in-us>

[2] The original Big Bang man, John Farrell, The Tablet 22 March 2008 p. 22-23 http://www.farrellmedia.com/farrell_tablet.pdf#page=1&zoom=200,-49,796

[3] George Lemaitre wiki:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Lema%C3%AEtre

Wiki at 8 March 2019

[4] quote from received email to me.

[5] These were Albert Einstein's five favourite books, Paul Ratner, 19 Feb 2019

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/5-favorite-books-of-albert-einstein/>

[6] Steven Soter and Neil deGrasse Tyson (2000). "Georges Lemaître, Father of the Big Bang". Cosmic Horizons: Astronomy at the Cutting Edge. American Museum of Natural History. Archived from the original on 17 January 2013. Retrieved 13 April 2013. It is tempting to think that Lemaître's deeply-held religious beliefs might have led him to the notion of a beginning of time. After all, the Judeo-Christian tradition had propagated a similar idea for millennia. Yet Lemaître clearly insisted that there was neither a connection nor a conflict between his religion and his science. Rather he kept them entirely separate, treating them as different, parallel interpretations of the world, both of which he believed with personal conviction. Indeed, when Pope Pius XII referred to the new theory of the origin of the universe as a scientific validation of the Catholic faith, Lemaître was rather alarmed. (as per wiki)

c.RJAnderton8March2019

