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STEPHEN HAWKING AND DIVINITY IN HIS “GRAND PLAN”

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Abstract

Relationship between religion and science remains a permanent attraction of all people. As the simplest atheist is the most telling proof of the existence of God, as any attempt to change the message revealed by God, is implicit recognition. This is also the attitude of the authors of the paper, great Plan Stephen Hawking and Mlodinow Leonad. That last reality of this world bears the imprint of the Holy Trinity, we even say the authors, who are not as irreligious, as will appear. Speaking about quarks, they say the following: "Curacii, which also we cannot see, I am a model explaining the properties of protons and neutrons from the nucleus of an atom. Although I think that protons and neutrons are obtained from Quark, we won't be able to notice a Quark never, because the force between quarks increases enormously as they try to separate them, so there may be no free quarks in nature. They always occur in groups of three (proton and neutron) or in pairs Quark-Quark (mezonii), and behaves as if it would be connected with rebounding, (Stephen Hawking, 2012, 40).

Keywords: Religion; science; divinity; third;

1. INTRODUCTION

We live in a day and age of communication and high tech media! We constantly expose ourselves to information! The age of the printed press has been long gone and the age of artificial intelligence has been ever expanding. In such a world it only seems natural to question oneself whether or not there has been some room left for God as well. As it is to be expected, the answer may vary from one person to another, from one generation to another, from one nation to another, so on and so forth. Nonetheless, in keeping with the given answer, we could divide the world in two sides: according to the first one, God died and there is no more place for Him on Earth, while according to the second one, it is technology and information that open people's hearts even wider to receive God! For a true Christian, things are pretty clear. On the one hand, God has Revealed Himself to Man, He has Shown his work throughout history and, through Jesus Christ, we have accepted His invitation to a partnership of eternal love. Despite its difficulty, we are forever fighting against meanness, hatred or envy for fear that they should overwhelm us and we desire to be like Him since "It is He who causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Mathew, V, 45) For us, Christianity

is a way of life where we are invited to live according to Christ's own way! God is a most loving Father, constantly waiting for us to become one with Him, that is through LOVE, the only path to achieve eternal life. We are trying hard to strike a balance between all scientific discoveries and His Revelation, while finding convergent points and being convinced that there is only one single Truth and authentic science cannot but anchor itself into it.

On the other hand, life is not easy for those taking the second side, permanently eager to demonstrate that God is dead, since, during their endeavour to overshadow the Truth, they will find it almost impossible to not swear false about the Truth, should they always be true to themselves! Accordingly, we have embarked upon the discovery of such recurrent ideas in *The Great Design*, written by one of the most intelligent contemporary people, Stephen Hawking, recently passed into the world of the righteous, a work edited in collaboration with Leonard Mlodinow. (Stephen Hawking, 2012).

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

To our knowledge, the research topic that we want to approach has not been undertaken by anybody else so far. This is an extraordinary challenge, on the one hand because while reading the work of the two previously mentioned researchers I have come up against quite a considerable number or paragraphs full of contradictory ideas while, on the other, through their arguments they postulate exactly the idea of faith and God's existence, and even of the Holy Trinity. This is the very point that we want to make in this paper!

3. RESEARCH TOPIC

The notoriety of the authors stirs admiration in every reader, all the more if they attempt to make a presentation or even try to alter some of the points of view expressed by them. Without ever experiencing the sensation of feeling superior or inferior to someone, we are convinced that, while keeping in mind the advice of Saint Gregory of Nyssa, there are no limits to knowledge in this world because man is invited by God to become like Him, The Source of all Knowledge and Wisdom Himself. From this perspective, we would not be wrong to assume that the limit of human knowledge is boundless. Therein, *The Great Design* is a book that fully sustains this argument.

On the one hand, what used to be a mere axiom has proven an outdated hypothesis and on the other, what we are holding to be an axiom today might have the same fate tomorrow, repeating the same cycle over and over again. We might say that our only certainty is uncertainty. This is how things are in the field of scientific research, although, without a certain conventionality and axiom acceptance the evolution of knowledge or the scientific progress would not be possible at all. It should only seem natural to ask ourselves whether or not what is happening in the field of scientific research today is but a mere invitation to postulate and discover the Creator. It is rather sad that for a considerable amount of time the man of science had been completely overlooking the religious aspect, in general, and the spiritual one, in particular (The authors admit to a divorce between philosophy and physics: "philosophy has not been able to keep up with the development of modern science, and with the development of physics in particular", *The Great Design*,5).

In this sense, science has taken leaps, building itself a specific vocabulary, but in so doing, it has completely ignored man's spiritual and religious aspect, losing the possibility to connect with him. Rightly so, a contemporary neurosurgeon, preoccupied with this aspect, stated that "in a world which has developed its technical but not its spiritual side, the inability to express any spiritual truths resembles an author willing to write a novel using only half the alphabet of his own language". (Eben ALEXANDER MD 2013: 76). Moreover, what the contemporary man of science seems to deliberately ignore is the fact that on the basis of all human existence and becoming there is LOVE! Outside Love there is no conscious life but only biology! We make a distinction between conscious life and biology! Biology is an attribute common to all life on earth, conscious life is only specific to man. Some form of reasoning or another may be found in all beings, but man is the only creature, from the entire Universe, who does not just reason about things but who can make judgements of his own reasoning! It is through his reason that he is endowed to discover the explanation of his whole existence! And yet, if while analysing, questioning his

existence and discovering its laws should he conclude that chance lies at the foundation of all this and there is no Creator, then he might be right if and only if “a tornado sweeping off a mountain of trash could make up a Boeing 747 from the materials compiled down there” (Sir F. HOYLE, 1981).

Moreover, the contemporary man of science has accepted several work hypotheses, quite relative as they were, and has assigned them an axiomatic value, by turning them into a genuine ideology. Nobody has ever proven that there is at least one example of cross-species and yet evolution is accepted as a proven fact! In consequence, it is on this thesis that the entire current and ongoing scientific research grounds itself into. And Stephen Hawking made no exception to it. While blaming the belief in God he obliges us to believe in what he was unable to prove to the end of his life! Accordingly, what we aim at analysing in his work, *The Great Design*, are exactly these inadvertences or even the paragraphs or the phrases which postulate faith, divinity, Holy Trinity etc.

4. RESEARCH PROPOSALS – THE GREAT DESIGN– SOURCE OF MEDITATION ON THE EXISTENCE OF DIVINITY

We hereby intend to look into *The Great Design*, by Stephen Hawking, written in collaboration with Leonard Mlodinow. What these two authors seem to be missing is the fact that things, events, and facts are unique by themselves, but when looked at from different angles, they give one the feeling of being special! The same could be said of the Universe as well: it is unique by itself, but when looked at by so many people and from so many angles, when scrutinized under the lenses of so many individuals eager to expand their knowledge and with different levels of expertise, the Universe might as well appear something different, each time! As such, resembling a child on his way to intellectual metamorphosis, humankind has been constantly giving different testimonies and surprising ever new features of the Universe! Throughout times, it has become widely accepted that humanity has been changing its perspective over the universe, the surrounding environment, the earth, or, simply put, its existence. But the one considered by the scientific world as the father or the modern notion of scientific law has been to the day Isaac Newton (1643-1727), contemporary with the Romanian Brâncoveni and Dimitrie Cantemir. Ever since his days and up to the first twenty years of the twentieth century, the Universe, man included, have been perceived of and recorded as precise mechanisms and perfect machines, and, accordingly, the three laws of motion and the law of gravity seemed to be quite enough to explain everything and provide solutions to all problems alike. From a theological point of view, this prompted a material approach of life and of the universe. And yet, once quantum physics became known, things have changed. We could say, theologically speaking, that from that point onwards scientists were forced into thinking that the world is anything but what can be seen on the surface, to say the least of its being a mere machine, a mechanism. Quantum physics has made a descent right into the abyss of the matter that is presently and boldly so called God’s particle. Each new discovery in quantum physics raises one more veil from the face of all the uncertainties and mistaken proclamations stated by humankind up to that moment. For example, Richard Feynman’s theory contradicts not only the idea of preordainment but also the existence of a Universe born as a result of fortuity (Stephen HAWKING, 2012: 6)

The more the genuine scientist looks into existence, as opposed to the simple newsmonger of scientific data, the more he is able to solve mysteries and discover secrets. To be noticed in Stephen Hawking’s work is a *contradictio in terminis*! On the one hand, he does not accept any historical-religious theory describing the origin of Universe and of life, while on the other, he seems to be forwarding some sort of final theory, i.e. M Theory, which, according to him, “is the only model which contains all the features we all believe a final theory should contain...” (Stephen HAWKING, 2012: 7-8).

In reality, M Theory is hardly a theory but rather a mythic-religious-scientific syncretism, and the analogy with the impossibility to represent the surface of the earth on a single map cannot even be considered, since reality itself is unique and not double, triple or quadruple etc as it is understated in the work of the two scientists! Furthermore, the reason they forward this M Theory is because “it can provide us with answers to the question of creation...” and “it foretells that countless universes were created out of nothing.” (Stephen HAWKING, 2012: 8). We need to explain that the authors reject the idea of the Divine Revelation which has culminated with the Embodiment of Christ in history, but they invite us

nonetheless to embark upon a voyage on the waters of probabilities and predictions! To believe in perhaps and foretell and reject the One who said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life! To believe in evolution which has not yet provided us the slightest example of cross-species, but to ignore Christ who has changed the direction of history and revealed that we have the face of a loving Father who invites us to feed our existence only with and through Love, the only one to bring us eternal life!

Without the slightest proof of evidence, Stephen Hawking and his colleague talk about universes created out of nothing, but they insist on making the following statement nonetheless: “their creation does not presuppose the intervention of a supernatural being or of a god, but these multiple unfolded universes occur naturally as a result of the laws of physics, and are predictions of science”(Stephen HAWKING, 2012:8). If genuine science grounds itself into probability and prediction, then the two authors are right, because, for the most part, their work is built around these nuclei! Talking about laws without a law maker is an example of evolutionary logic, because, in the simplest human logic, such thing is hardly ever possible! Moreover, the two talk about a set of initial conditions, without which evolution would not even be possible (Stephen HAWKING, 2012: 21), but they mandate fortuity so marvellously as it supposedly generates this set of conditions! In the existential equation of the two scientists, Divine Revelation does not happen, despite its being obvious, at least by the Coming of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, into the world, and not only!

Starting with His Coming into the world, the history of humanity has known an obvious transformation, and yet, the two scientists refuse to accept this truth as self-evident and invite us to trust their judgement which cannot be sustained with arguments and which should be accepted at once.

We believe in that which has revealed itself to us, they invite us to believe in that which cannot be proven, in predictions and suppositions! Speaking about subatomic particles which are not visible to the naked eye, the two authors state that “electrons are a useful model which explains observations such as the traces in a misty room or the spots of light on the cathode tube of the TV set, and many other such phenomena as well.”(Stephen HAWKING, 2012: 39). As a matter of fact, electrons cannot be seen to the naked eye, and, despite all that, “all physicists nowadays believe in the existence of electrons, even if they cannot be seen” (Stephen HAWKING, 2012:39). And things don’t stop here because, “quarks, which are also invisible to the naked eye, make up a model which explains the properties of protons and neutrons in the nucleus of an atom. Although it is generally considered that protons and neutrons are made up of quarks, it will always be impossible to observe a single quark because the more we try to separate them, the stronger the linking force between quarks grows, which means that they cannot exist free in nature. Quarks always appear in combinations of three (in protons and in neutrons) or in pairs quark-anti-quark (in pi mesons) and behave as if they were bonded by an elastic band” (Stephen HAWKING, 2012:39-40).

This is the most obvious design of the Holy Trinity, which is the foundation of all existence. Unity through trinity and trinity through the unity of quarks is a meditation theme for any Christian, but also for any scientist to whom the Divine Revelation, achieved through the Embodiment of Christ, has not revealed itself yet. Unfortunately enough, the man of science believes in the existence of the quarks, despite their invisibility, but rejects God’s existence and His Son, by the means of which everyone is invited to join a partnership of eternal love! We can but admit for the fact that we have grown so fundamentally apart one from the other, at least in as far as certain life issues are concerned such as its origins, the meaning and purpose of life etc, especially because the field, the discipline supposed to harmonize all scientific researches ever made has died (Stephen HAWKING, 2012:5). Up to 1989, Philosophy, as this is the field referred to, used to provide materialist axioms which have been currently replaced by uncertainties only! Things couldn’t be otherwise since it feeds itself on the general tendencies manifested by humanity which witnesses and observes, quite helpless, that “philosophy has failed to keep up with the development of modern science, and especially with physics. In an attempt to better know the world, researchers have become the bearers of the torch of all scientific discoveries”(Stephen HAWKING, 2012: 5). And, given that every man of science is a specialist in a minute area from the entire field knowledge, it is understandable that they only state their opinion or launch a hypothesis which, from the very beginnings, can be attacked by subjectivism, reductionism, one-sidedness etc.

Philosophy is meant to process all these new data, all these scientific discoveries, to harmonize them and make an objective statement about one of the tiny areas conquered by researchers. We would

not be wrong to state that, through their work, the two authors intend to fill in this huge gap in philosophy. Regrettably, one needs to observe that their “eagerness” is hardly compensated for by “their skilfulness”, because they take up their endeavour from a materialistic stand! The questions raised and most likely to be reproved are numerous and cannot be listed in this paper. Given the scarcity of space, reference will be made only to a few.

A quite thorny issue is connected with the problem of the free-will which the two authors seem to be dealing with in quite a determinist fashion. It is a well known fact that, starting with Pierre-Simon, Marquis de Laplace (1749-1827), the issue of scientific determinism started to become into focus, which means that the entire universe has acted, acts and will act in keeping with scientific laws, which excludes all possible intervention on behalf of divinity. This is just one face of the deist perspective which has been circulating in the theological world and which sustains that God created the universe and then gave it laws to govern itself, and then God retreated someplace else. Both Hawking and Mlodinow, as well as a considerable number of the modern scientific community, partially embrace this perspective, as long as they exclude the existence of a creator, without being able to point to the origin of all scientific laws, or who passed them, and who calculated them so accurately, but most importantly how they have remained valid throughout times. As a matter of fact, they will reject any difference between the material and the spiritual world, and with reference to the action of scientific laws, both in the material and in the spiritual world, everything is subjected to the determinism of scientific laws. The matter in question is quite tricky enough since one should remark the protestant influence of the thesis on predestination. Both authors belong to a protestant cultural environment where they were born and brought up. Needless to mention that we do not intend to criticise anything, but, whether we like it or not, mention needs to be made to the fact that each and every one of us bears the print of the environment they were born and brought up in and perhaps this is where the beauty of the world we live in comes from; every human being is unique in their own way, distinguishing one from another, even if they are twins, because not only are they the unique work of art of their parents but also of their Creator! Through their work, or better said, hypothesis, the two authors no longer leave room for the Creator in the process of creation; everything is subjected to scientific determinism and God can no longer intervene.

Should things be like this, we can no longer speak of a History of the chosen people, we can no longer mention the Prophets, Moses, Jesus Christ, the Church etc because scientific determinism does not take leaps; in that case, we can no longer talk of man’s becoming. How can we account for the fact that there are some children who grow to be scientists and others who turn into illiterate grownups since scientific laws act the same at all times? The same question applies to all current scientific research in the field of genetics and neurologic activity. How could we explain, given the context of scientific determinism, the great conversions? Reputed scoundrels turned into saints, but the other way round too, special people turned into a laughing stock!!!

What is worth remembering, though, is connected to the fact that the latest discoveries in the field of quantum physics disagree with the thesis of scientific determinism. Related to this, let us mention the article Two experiments that prove that time can run backwards and future events can affect the past (for further information see the full article at <http://www.agerpres.ro/sci-tech/2015/06/17/doua-experimente-care-demonstreaza-ca-timpul-poate-merge-inapoi-si-ca-viitorul-poate-influenta-trecutul-02-15-09?ref=yfp>) which would justify our prayers for the deceased ones! And yet, the greatest proof of the groundlessness of scientific determinism is Richard Feynman’s work, a laureate physicist who was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 1965, and who by the means of his double slit-experiment proves that matter can be influenced by human consciousness (Physics Essays, 2012) .

Nonetheless, worth remembering is that, in their moments of sheer honesty, the two scientists acknowledge the limits of the researcher and of his existence. Accordingly, at a given moment, they admit that “in the case of quantum physics, scientists are still striving to understand the details of the way Newton’s laws appear in the quantum field”(Stephen HAWKING, 2012:55). Likewise, they state that “quantum physics is a new model for the reality which provides us with a picture of the universe. It is an image where many fundamental concepts of our intuitive understanding of reality no longer make sense” (Stephen HAWKING, 2012: 56). And yet, despite all that, he sustains that “the universe can be understood because it is governed by laws”, but he does not conceive of or accept any lawmaker!

Man's helplessness to understand that laws exist even before they are discovered, and that they have been there from the beginning of times, is quite terrible. The scientist discovers them one by one but he cannot fathom that he is far from having discovered them all. However, the most important thing is connected to the fact that all laws have an infinitesimal precision. The most insignificant change, in any law, entails a perturbation of the entire cosmic harmony. And to understand the meaning of scientific religiosity with Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow, it should only be enough to state that we are invited to have faith in their presentation, despite the fact that it can neither be proven nor true. For example, speaking about the so-called theories of the great unification, they sustain that the age of the universe is 10 to the 10th power, and protons "i.e. the matter we are made up from disintegrates itself after 10 to the 32nd power years"! If what they say is true, they do nothing but anticipate immortality, and should we want to make a critical analysis and systematically expose our arguments, then we reach the conclusion that they take us outside time!

We wind up our short survey of The Great Design by outlining, yet again, the Holy Trinity design on the latest existential reality. With reference to the quantum chromodynamics theory and to the fact that the proton, the neutron and many other particles of elementary matter are made up of quarks which have a remarkable feature which physicists name colour, the two authors make the following statement: "quarks can have three so called colours: red, green and blue. Moreover, every quark has an antiparticle partner and their colours are called anti-red, anti-green, anti-blue. The idea is that only those particles which are colourless can exist as free particles" and what is even more interesting "a colour and an anti-colour annul themselves reciprocally, so that a quark and an anti-quark form a colourless pair ... similarly, when all three colours combine, the result is colourless" (Stephen HAWKING, 2012:93).

5. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

For these two scientists it would be preferable to ground the design of the universe into fortuity, rather than assign it to a Wise Creator. Therein, they state the following: "our universe and its laws seem to be grounded into a design especially made to fit our existence and leave us some space for changes"(Stephen HAWKING, 2012:139). The fact that everything in this universe has a *raison d'être* and a logic, is the best proof that, beyond this reason and logic there is an Omniscient and All-Wise Being to set things in perfect harmony.

6. RESEARCH METHODS

The research methods used in this presentation are textual and close analysis so that we convince ourselves that the exceptional fame which precedes these two men of science is above the logic of The Great Design.

7. FINDINGS

The purpose of the current study is to convince ourselves that, should there be the case, we have been invited to discover Christianity as the most wonderful way of life, the highest dignity that a man can assent on earth: this is an invitation to a love partnership between Man and God, which means the same number of partnerships with all the people we meet in this life.

8. CONCLUSION

We are convinced that nobody questions the authority and the scientific integrity of the two authors, or at least of the late Stephen Hawking. And yet, reference should be made to the fact that The Great Design only partially lives up to the fame of the author, particularly because he keeps on contradicting himself time and time again. Likewise, Stephen Hawking was the one to have disagreed with the theory of the black holes in the Universe to later become one of the most ardent believers in their existence, and even of their role!

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