

Resurrection & Elegant Mathematics

The first-ever photograph of the celestial phenomenon of a “black hole” made big news just prior to Easter. It was something anticipated by Einstein’s theory of relativity and affirmed by the famous physicist Steven Hawking.

A “black hole” is a region in the “fabric” of space-time of infinite gravity: It is a “gravity well” so deep and strong that not even light can escape its grasp. Over the edge of this “well” of gravity, at an area referred to as the “event-horizon,” the known laws of physics break down and this gives way to educated-speculation as to what occurs. The notion that the very bottom of the black hole is a point of infinite density, called a ‘singularity,’ is a source of discomfort to scientists. The indeterminate nature of the beast does not accord with the desire for scientific precision.

As I understand it, one theory proposes that the “singularity” is the source of another “Big Bang” which causes another “universe” in another dimension. This theory correlates with the observations that our own universe seems to have emerged from an infinitely dense point which 13.5 billion years ago “exploded” into the universe in which we live today.

Therefore, this very logical theory seems to propose the possibility of many “universes” in many dimensions which are inaccessible to us. There is no way to get to another universe or to do any direct observation of one according to the known laws of physics. All that scientists have are “elegant” mathematical equations.

Atheistic scientists, of which there are very many, are dismissive of religious beliefs because of a history of religious claims based on “the God of the gaps.” In other words, gaps in scientific knowledge have been appealed to as proof of God’s existence and dominion. When Copernicus and Galileo and others like them systematically eliminated “gaps” in knowledge, religious people were made to look foolish.

Now, however, the requirements of scientific method seem to be near exhaustion. If claims cannot be observed and tested, then where is the

scientific proof? Elegant mathematics may tell us what is possible, but they do not verify what is real.

The Resurrection:

Writing on the mystery upon which our Christian faith stands or falls, Pope Benedict XVI tells us that the historical witnesses to Christ’s Resurrection ***“were confronted with what for them was an entirely new reality, far beyond the limits of their experience. . . What happened in the Resurrection of the Son of Man was utterly different, [than a mere resuscitation of a corpse]. Jesus’ Resurrection was about breaking out into an entirely new form of life, into a life that is no longer subject to the law of dying and becoming. . . a life that opens up a new dimension of human existence.”***



Reading these words reminded me of the speculation concerning the “black hole” and the possibility of other universes in other dimensions of space and time. In reference to the eye-witness accounts of the Risen Lord, the Pope wonders:

“What already exists is not called into question. Rather, we are told that there is a further dimension, beyond what was previously known. Does that contradict science? Can there really only ever be what has always been? Can there not be something unexpected, something unimaginable, something new? If there really is a God, is he not able to create a new dimension of human existence, a new dimension of reality altogether? Is not creation actually waiting for this last and highest ‘evolutionary leap,’ for the union of the finite with the infinite, for the union of man and God, for the conquest of death?”

Whatever you may think or believe, it is no mere psychological or purely interior experience of the eye witnesses: The Risen Lord is fully embodied and yet, not bound to space and time. Christ is truly Risen.