

For Theists (believers in God/Theos) of Every Creed and Color

*An Introduction to
The Wonder of the World:
A Journey from Modern Science to the Mind of God*

ROY ABRAHAM VARGHESE



God exists. The soul is a non-physical reality separate from the brain. The human mind can know truth. These are not convictions that depend on any claim of divine revelation or a particular religious system. Rather, they are instinctive insights. Their denial is counter-intuitive, self-contradictory and irrational.

Now the questions of what God's inner being is like or why we were created by God or what happens to us after death are questions answered differently by each creed and claim of divine revelation. Thus theistic Hinduism, Mohism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity all offer radically distinctive and mutually exclusive answers to these questions. But the differences in these answers should not blind us to their underlying consensus on the existence of a transcendent Reality who brought all other things into being – God!

The Wonder of the World addresses precisely this dimension of human thought and experience that lies outside the bounds of revelational and institutional religion. The work seeks to show that (1) the scientific enterprise and nature as a whole inescapably testify to an infinite Intelligence that created and conserves all things and (2) this awareness of God's existence is not to be restricted to any one religion and, technically, can even be accepted by someone who professes no religion. This latter point is highlighted by the differing religious heritages of the two

dialoguers, Judaism and theistic Hinduism. The book has, in fact, received commendations from eminent Jewish, Hindu, Islamic and Christian (Protestant and Catholic) scholars – and even from agnostic and atheist thinkers.

Now the adherent of a particular religion might be concerned that the book is ambiguous about the truth of one or the other religion. In point of fact, the book does not seek to enter into the discussion of religious truth-claims at all. This is not to say that such a discussion is not important or proper. Rather it is a matter of putting first things first. Neither theistic Hinduism nor Christianity, Judaism

nor Islam, make the claim that God's existence can only be known through divine revelation. Quite the opposite. These religions hold that the reality of God and the soul can be recognized by any normally functioning intellect. Like **Wonder**, the greatest thinkers of these religions, in fact, sought to show that God's existence can be known to human reason independent of divine revelation.

So which God is it that emerges at the end of the book's journey through modern science? Is it the Hindu or Jewish, Christian or Islamic God? The answer quite simply is that it is the God known to all human beings rather than by any specific religion or theology. This "pre-religious" awareness of God is well described by Christianity's Apostle Paul: "For what can be known about God is evident to them, because

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God made it evident to them [all human beings]. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made." (*Epistle to the Romans*, Chapter 1, Verses 19-20). As universally understood, God is an omnipresent, omniscient, eternal, immutable, infinitely perfect, personal, simple Spirit. These are the attributes of God that must be accepted by adherents of any theistic religion. Hence the book ends simply with this **Theos** who is common to every theistic creed.

Once the reader accepts God's existence and infinite being, the next step is a discussion of claims of revelation from God. Which such claim is persuasive and valid? **The Wonder of the World** does not delve into this discussion but enables it to commence. There's no point talking about God's revelation

if you don't first accept God's existence. **Wonder** tries to show that God's infinitely perfect existence makes sense of our experience and fulfills rationality. Modern science is often portrayed as challenging and refuting any claim of God's existence. **Wonder** points out that science presupposes and confirms the reality of an infinite Intelligence. At the end of the day, the work is a resource for theists of every stripe. At the very least, all theists, regardless of their other differences, have an obligation to jointly glorify the infinite Source of all being ("They have no excuse," as Paul forcefully puts it, "For although they knew God they did not accord him glory as God or give him thanks." *Romans* 1:20-1). **Wonder** facilitates this edifying celebration of Creator and creation while opening the door to the next round of fruitful dialogues on the divine Plan for humanity.

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