

Who Made God?
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

“God cannot be grasped by the mind alone. If He could, He would not be God.”

Years ago, when I considered my father to be the smartest man in the world, I asked him: “Who made God?” I think he expected that question because he answered decisively. “No one did. God has always existed. He was not made!”

That answer seemed to satisfy me until I went to university where my faith was tested by those who had no place for God in an eternal universe. I also rejected my father’s answer as behind the times.

At Acadia University I had the good fortune of majoring in philosophy under the mentorship of Dr. McGregor Fraser. One day we smiled at the story of the student who was asked to do research on the life of William Shakespeare. He later reported that he has studied all of Shakespeare’s plays but could not find him anywhere.

For us, this illustrated why some individuals cannot find God. They are looking in the wrong places. To look for God as one factor within the framework which He created is nonsensical. God is not an object that you can put into a test-tube and analyze by empirical evidence. Rather, he relates to us the way Shakespeare relates to the actors in his plays. Not as a character, but as the author, he is present in every moment of every drama.

The question, who created God is based on the wrong assumption that there was a time when God did not exist. But God created time, he began the beginning! This realm outside time and space places God in a totally different dimension from the material universe. By definition, God is infinite, having no bounds. But we are finite, having limitations. Only things that have a beginning, such as planet Earth, need a maker. God had no beginning, so God did not need to be made!

So, we are faced with a choice. We can believe that nothing produced everything. But this is absurd, because nothing does not exist and has no power to do anything. As Julie Andrews once sang, “Nothing comes from nothing. Nothing ever could.”

Or, we can believe that a Being with power and wisdom far beyond anything we can conceive brought the universe into existence from non-existence. Nothing cannot make something, but God as the ultimate personal reality with awesome qualities such as omnipresence, omniscience and omnipotence, can create something out of nothing.

Either the universe is eternal, or God is eternal. But according to the second law of thermodynamics our universe is running out of usable energy. But if the universe is running down, it cannot be eternal. Furthermore, it is philosophical impossible to have an infinite number of moments.

Now, I find it hard to improve on my father's answer.

God says, *"Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I will make sure that you won't be disappointed"* (Jeremiah 29:13 MSG).