

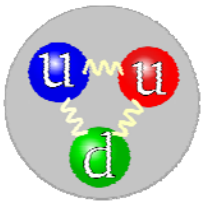
The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

Why Does God Demand Faith ?

Question: If God exists, why does he not reveal himself to us? Why does he first demand faith before we can know and see him?

Answer: When people ask questions like this, they often forget that acquiring even worldly knowledge requires faith and training.

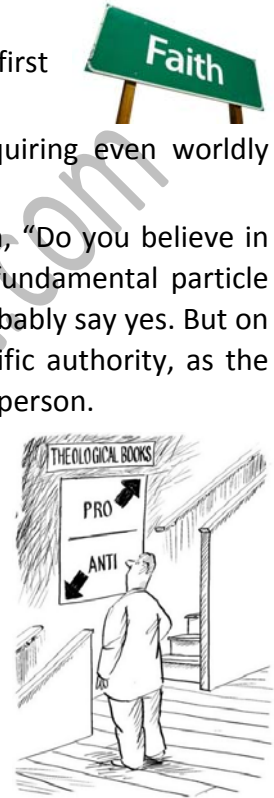


Suppose you asked the person who asked you this question, "Do you believe in the existence of a quark?" (Quarks are hypothetical truly fundamental particle supposed to exist within mesons and baryons). He would probably say yes. But on what basis? The only basis for belief is deference to scientific authority, as the subject is beyond the jurisdiction of a scientifically untrained person.

Yet to the question, "Do you believe in the existence of God?" the same person, if atheistic, is likely to be assertive, even aggressive, despite the fact that this question is far beyond the jurisdiction of a spiritually untrained person. Worse, that person will condemn deference to spiritual authority as blind faith.

Such blatant double standards beg the question: Is no training needed to pass judgment on spiritual matters? ISKCON founder-acharya Srila Prabhupada, during his talk at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), famously asked, "In MIT, why is there no department to study the almighty?"

Consider the profound sense of humility evident in the following statement of Albert Einstein: ""



We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many different languages. The child knows someone must have written those books. It does not know how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books, but doesn't know what it is. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God. We see a Universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws, but only dimly understand these laws. Our limited minds cannot grasp the mysterious force that moves the constellations.

It required centuries of sustained training and effort for us to begin comprehending God's creation through science. God is far greater than his creation. Then why should we object to the little training and effort necessary to comprehend God through spirituality?



When we understand God's exalted position, we will recognize that his demand for faith is not at all unreasonable; rather it is our demand to see him without reposing any faith or taking any training that is unreasonable. By humbly following the process of devotional service centered on chanting the holy names as outlined in the *Bhagavad-gita*, we can gradually realize experience God's existence not just as a reality, but as the highest reality.

