

Why Antony Flew Came to Believe in God

in his own words

“Now most of my discussions [arguing for atheism] were carried on independent of developments in modern cosmology. In fact, my two main anti-theological books were both written before the development of big-bang cosmology or the introduction of the fine-tuning argument from physical constants (p. 130) ... When I first met the big-bang theory as an atheist, it seemed to me the theory made a big difference because it suggested that the universe had a beginning and that the first sentence in Genesis (“*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*”) was related to an event in the universe. As long as the universe could comfortably thought to be not only without end, but without beginning, it remained easy to see its existence (and its most fundamental features) as brute facts... (136).

“But the big-bang theory changed all that. If the universe had a beginning, it became entirely sensible, almost inevitable, to ask what produced [it]. This radically altered the solution” (p. 136).

“I concluded..., even if it were agreed that the universe as we know it began with the big bang, it is *physically* impossible to discover what, if anything caused that big bang (*emphasis* mine—138).

“The old attempt to explain the universe by reference to an infinite series of causes has been [invalidly] recast in the language of modern cosmology. But John Leslie finds this unsatisfactory. Some people, he remarks, claim the existence (143) of the universe at any given moment can be explained by the fact that it existed at an earlier moment and so on, ad infinitum...

“Richard Swinburn summarized his exposition of the cosmological argument by saying, ‘There is quite a chance that if there is a God, he will make something of the finitude and complexity of the universe. It is very unlikely that (144) a universe would exist uncaused, but rather, more likely that God would exist uncaused.’” (145).

Antony Flew with Roy Abraham Varghese. [There is a God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind](#). (Harper One, 2014).