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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

Posted by BeYontRy - 2010/02/17 06:18

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Elder Gods... sounds like something out of Mortal Kombat... As Raiden once said: There is no knowledge that is not power . I'm not familiar with Mortal Kombat. As far as Elder Gods, it was my IMPRESSION (though not stated explicitly) that They were indeed older than your average Deity. The Beyonder

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I agree. I've been pagan for quite a while now, and I agree with you. It makes the most sense to me. Everything in nature is a duality (male/female, etc...) so why shouldn't the gods be a duality? While I believe in more than one God (even more than one species of God) I have to quibble with everything in nature being a duality. While duality is aesthetically pleasing to our sense of symmetry, on the MOST fundamental level that we've seen so far, there were five (at last count) kinds of quarks as the fundamental building blocks of matter, and four kinds of force. Duality is easier to work with using the most basic logic, binary yes/no type of thing. But, thank the Gods, the Universe show sus much more subtle logics. The Beyonder BTW, welcome to the group. :-)

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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

Posted by seiler - 2010/02/17 06:18

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Everything in nature is a duality (male/female, etc...) so why shouldn't the gods be a duality? Even Christians admit to dual hierarchies of spiritual beings. It's just that one end of the duality is nicer and more powerful. By the way, let me be about the tenth person to welcome you to the group.

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I was cheerfully agnostic for a few years, until some of the Elder Gods appeared to me. I've found that KNOWING, from direct observation, that Gods exist, and trusting Them are two different things. They are here for Their reasons, not for ours. Here's hoping someday you find a God you can trust.

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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

Posted by Vince Conaway - 2010/02/17 06:18

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As a Celtic Eclectic pagan, I say to you Frenchy, Well said! You make great sense:) Blessed Be and welcome! It's good to see a new face in the group. Love All, Vince (Hey Frenchy-do you think we outnumber them yet :-)? Nope...but I think we're about even now...;) CHRISTIANS: PAGANS: Erin Frenchy Scott Jim BeYontRy But you forgot poor Linda! She tips the scales in our favor. Love All, Vince

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LittlDragn posts, in part: I agree. I've been pagan for quite a while now, and I agree with you. It makes the most sense to me. Everything in nature is a duality (male/female, etc...) so why shouldn't the gods be a duality? While I believe in more than one God (even more than one species of God) I have to quibble with everything in nature being a duality. While duality is aesthetically pleasing to our sense of symmetry, on the MOST fundamental level that we've seen so far, there were five (at last count) kinds of quarks as the fundamental building blocks of matter, and four kinds of force. Duality is easier to work with using the most basic logic, binary yes/no type of thing. But, thank the Gods, the

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Universe show sus much more subtle logics. But there are many things in nature (I'll stay on physics for this) that do correspond to dualism quite well. Equal/Opposite Forces (causing forces to be opposing pairs), two contributors to E-M (E and M, polarized oppositely), two nuclear forces (weak and strong-again, opposing each other)... Love All, Vince

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LittlDragn posts, in part: I agree. I've been pagan for quite a while now, and I agree with you. It makes the most sense to me. Everything in nature is a duality (male/female, etc...) so why shouldn't the gods be a duality? While I believe in more than one God (even more than one species of God) I have to quibble with everything in nature being a duality. While duality is aesthetically pleasing to our sense of symmetry, on the MOST fundamental level that we've seen so far, there were five (at last count) kinds of quarks as the fundamental building blocks of matter, and four kinds of force. Duality is easier to work with using the most basic logic, binary yes/no type of thing. But, thank the Gods, the Universe show sus much more subtle logics. But there are many things in nature (I'll stay on physics for this) that do correspond to dualism quite well. Equal/Opposite Forces (causing forces to be opposing pairs), two contributors to E-M (E and M, polarized oppositely), two nuclear forces (weak and strong-again, opposing each other)... Do the strong and weak nuclear forces oppose each other? I've piled a lot of dust on my old physics texts-they're probably under a cat somewhere. EM has polarity, true, but not gravity. The Beyonder

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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

Posted by Alex Knapp - 2010/02/17 06:18

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I've been reading /posting to a.b-j for a while now, so I'm fairly well acquainted with who believes what. I do have a question, though... Why? Why do you believe what you believe? Why not something else? Gosh, there's the killer question. The short version is: I was raised in a totally non-religious household and was an atheist for nearly my entire childhood (kind of got the idea that religion was for ninnies from my parents). The first person who made me think about God was my Baptist friend in high school. While I disagreed with her totally, I was impressed by the strength of her faith. It was talking to her that got me interested in reading about religions. In high school I was fascinated by Greek, Roman, and Egyptian mythology (I have always liked adventure stories). I held a sort of pantheistic view for a little while, while reading about Eastern religions too. Meanwhile I bought my first Bible for 50 cents at a garage sale and read the whole thing through. Sad to say it was the King James Version, so took me quite a while! I began to read about the history of Christianity and learned about the Catholic Church (which I had been baptized into as an infant, though never raised in.) The more I learned the more I began to see that it was entirely plausible that this tradition had been handed down directly from Christ. The only question then was, did I believe in Christ's resurrection? Not for a while. C.S. Lewis's book Mere Christianity fell into my hands and probably did more than any other thing

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Posted by Vince Conaway - 2010/02/17 06:18

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EM has polarity, true, but not gravity. You spotted my force omission :-). Actually, I think gravity in itself is dualistic enough for me (any two massed bodies, no matter what they are, pull on each other). But I'm not really searching for perfect dualism in the universe. I just find it a really handy (and fairly accurate) mental and spiritual tool. Love All, Vince

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But there are many things in nature (I'll stay on physics for this) that do correspond to dualism quite well. Equal/Opposite Forces (causing forces to be opposing pairs), two contributors to E-M (E and M, polarized oppositely), two nuclear forces (weak and strong-again, opposing each other)... Um, if one nuclear force is more powerful then it isn't a duality... B{D LOL! Good one, excellent point. Ya got me :-). I wasn't really trying to say nature is perfectly dualistic. But you did find a weak chink in my logic. Love All, Vince

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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

Posted by Scott Eiler - 2010/02/17 06:18

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Can I be Rowanmead Starcloud? Huh? Huh? Can I? Can I??? Hey, we could tailor them to fit the person...there's Irishlass Popespeaker...and Whinebaby JesusHater....and Amishboy X-Man... and Lawgiver Scumsucker (sorry, couldn't resist the obLawyer Joke)...and JesusFan Farspeaker...;) Gallicwine Goddesslover ;) I'm trying to figure out what my Goddess-name would be if I were pagan, but I really can't come up with a better one than this. (signed) Amishboy Comfortably-Numb X-Man

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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

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(Hey Frenchy-do you think we outnumber them yet :-)? Nope...but I think we're about even now...;) CHRISTIANS: PAGANS: Erin Frenchy Scott Vince Jim BeYontRy But you forgot p the scales in our favor. Alex makes it even . . . and we have some regular posters who aren't even covered here. The Beyonder

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If everyone's ears were burning this morning, I was talking up the ng to my coworker, a sorta lapsed Catholic (he talks a good Catholic line, but when push comes to shove he admits he's not really heavily into it.) He said he needed to be a better Catholic. So I said, Well, go to church more. He didn't want to do that because he didn't find it very stimulating...he said it was too redundant, too ritualized, it couldn't keep him interested. Tell him to try a Catholic church that caters to university students and lets them plan masses and stuff. Those tend to be the most exciting.  
Erin

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But I'm not really searching for perfect dualism in the universe. I just find it a really handy (and fairly accurate) mental and spiritual tool. Granted. But, Newtonian physics is just as handy and accurate, even though it tends to break down at some of the most \*interesting\* frames. The Beyonder

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Can I be Rowanmead Starcloud? Huh? Huh? Can I? Can I??? Hey, we could tailor them to fit the person...there's Irishlass Popespeaker...and Whinebaby JesusHater....and Amishboy X-Man... and Lawgiver Scumsucker (sorry, couldn't resist the obLawyer Joke)...and JesusFan Farspeaker...;) Gallicwine Goddesslover ;) I'm trying to figure out what my Goddess-name would be if I were pagan, but I really can't come up with a better one than this. (signed) Amishboy Comfortably-Numb X-Man And I'd always envisioned (pun intended) you as one of the Avengers. ;-)  
Sincerely, Rational-Hedonistic Terraphile-Deitologist.

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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

Posted by Scott Eiler - 2010/02/17 06:18

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Sincerely, Rational-Hedonistic Terraphile-Deitologist. Now \*that\* rolls off the tongue.

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## steven hawking A Question of Faith: To everyone

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Why? Why do we need to trust our deities? Why do we need their love, other than as a psychological crutch? As long as they stay on their side of the fence and leave me alone I'm fine. By the same argument one could ask why we need to trust our significant others. Their love being merely a psychological crutch. Unconditional love is one of the biggest necessities to mental and emotional health. I have never denied, and will never deny that. But to satisfy that need with blind faith in the supernatural seems pretty sad to me. I know that's a really harsh thing to say, and there are a lot of people who really do need to look to God to keep them together, but I don't think it's a pretty sight. Love All,

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Vince

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Why? Why do we need to trust our deities? Why do we need their love, other than as a psychological crutch? As long as they stay on their side of the fence and leave me alone I'm fine. By the same argument one could ask why we need to trust our significant others. Their love being merely a psychological crutch. Unconditional love is one of the biggest necessities to mental and emotional health. I have never denied, and will never deny that. But to satisfy that need with blind faith in the supernatural seems pretty sad to me. I once met someone who said the same thing about blind faith in the fidelity of human beings. A sadder man I never met. Erin

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Alex makes it even . . . and we have some regular posters who aren't even covered here. I go to Baltimore to be a part-time Creature of Darkness for the weekend and everybody forgets about me? :( You can add me to that Pagan list, kids... Whatever I am, I don't think it's Christian.

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Slight correction on the 5 quarks... We found the top quark (Or, in the more archaic sense

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EM has polarity, true, but not gravity. You spotted my force omission :-). Actually, I think gravity in itself is dualistic enough for me (any two massed bodies, no matter what they are, pull on each other). I would say that gravity is neither dualistic nor ... um... monolistic? ::shrug:: I assume I got my point across. It's a fundamental property of the shape of the Universe that all matter/energy is attracted to all other matter/energy. The fact that we perceive it as a force is due to our ...somewhat limited perspective. Of course, I could be dead wrong here. Nobody really knows. That's what makes this stuff fun. For a good treatise on the subject of gravity in general and hyperspace theory in particular, I recommend *Hyperspace* by Michio Kaku. It's an excellent read. Yay for Nuclear Engineers!

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