Knowing—by Remembering or Dismembering?

WHAT'S NEWS for some is history for others. Copernicus' "discovery" of a heliocentric cosmos was blasphemous news to the Catholic Church, but Aristarchus of Samos in the third centurty B.C. concluded—after calculating the distance from the Earth to the Sun, and the size of the Sun and Moon (his measurements were not accurate)—that the Sun, rather than the Earth, was at the center of the universe.

Eratosthenes of Cyrene (276-200 B.C.) calculated the circumference of the Earth at 46,000 km—a little off, but not too shabby an estimate—and this was the circumference a globe, not a flat circle! This old finding would have been startling news to persons living in the first millenium of the Christian era.

Again, we may applaud the modern "discovery" of atoms, but it was a re-discovery. Five centuries before Christ, Democritus, Leucippus, and Epicurus said that atoms are basic building blocks of the material world. After all, *atom* is Greek and means "not cut", cannot be cut or reduced. But when the submicroscopic universe of the atom is unveiled, it reveals (at least to thought's eye) "tomic" parts even smaller and more basic than protons, neutrons, and electrons; namely, quarks, antiquarks, and gluons. Quarks come in six types ("flavors") whose combinations make two kinds of hadrons. Gluons are carrier particles that bind quarks to make hadrons. And Max Heindel may have seen into the heart of the matter: "It is true that the ultimate atom of all physical forms is the same." This "ultimate atom" would have to be sub-atomic, probably smaller than a quark, since all quarks are not the same.

The scientific speculations could get yet more complicated, for the inquiring mind—led by the inquisitive eye and the often misguided and violently invasive will to dismember matter—wants to do anatomy on its heart, to see what makes it tick. But the ticking impulse is etheric, just as the source of the electrical impulse coming from the site of the seed atom in the left ventricle of the heart is etheric.

So *new* and *old* are relative terms. For the writer, it is news to learn that in 1964 John Bell proposed that two particles that had once been connected would forever be connected, even if they became widely separated. In the early 1980s, experiments at CERN, the European accelerator, showed that Bell was correct. Bell's hypothesis states that an unknown force, of which space, time and motion are all aspects, continues to link separate parts of the universe that were once united. Since, according to the Big Bang Theory, the entire universe evolved from a single point, this suggests that every single part of the universe must be connected to every other part, down to the gluons and quarks, and no doubt finer particles, since each of these finite units is a point, and, at least theoretically, compressible. This thought does tax and compress the grey matter! And it would appear, finally, that formed matter tends to this point, to the nature and "substance" of thought itself: That a Thinker is doing some powerful thinking and then condensing that thinking to show, for show. The eyes see. The philosophical mind wants to know the *what* of that seeing. The instrumental mind wants to know the *how*. The *what*, finally, is about essences. And it is wanting to know the *what* that is behind the scientific inquiry. For man, the thinker, wants his mind to abide as one with the Thought, the Essence, that so clearly originates and maintains, and, yes, destroys, the contents of the visible universe. Mind wants to know what was from the beginning, what the writer of John's Gospel calls the Word (Logos). This is not new. Then again, it is ever new.

Albert Einstein once wrote: "I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element; I want to know his thoughts; the rest are details." As we become more like Him, we know more as He knows. We begin to think God-thoughts. ❒