

"Why Stephen Hawkings is talking nonsense. - a logical proof.
And why it matters to Africa"

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My first issue to address is 'why is this relevant to Africa?'

It is relevant because some of these views are part of an intellectual tradition which has to be overthrown for Africa to free itself. Some might think that here is a sub-text against the Enlightenment but that implies a serious mis-reading of the Enlightenment. This period of intellectual history has been kidnapped by people whose dynamic is exactly opposite that of the writers of the Enlightenment and at the end of this short paper I will show the connection between these thoughts and the Enlightenment proper.

Stephen Hawkings has spoken digitally on BBC that the universe came out of 'nothing'. So the origin of the universe is to be explained as its emergence from 'nothing'. What is this 'nothing'? Is it the same 'nothing' we refer to in daily life? Clearly not. The definition of 'nothing' in ordinary language or ordinary usage is the absence of any causative item. So we are using the word in some special sense. If we had a hermetically sealed bell and believed it was empty but four days later we found life forms we would conclude it had been contaminated. If someone today suggested spontaneous creation he would be referred for psychiatric assistance.

Let us look at this formally. If before the existence of the universe there was a state X out of which the universe is created and we wish to call this state 'nothing' - then so be it. But let us be clear what we are doing. A 'nothing' out of which 'everything' gets created is a perfectly valid definition of the 'divine'. In the Taoist tradition the divine is referred to as 'nothing' or 'nothing'.

What we have here is an X that is outside our current system and which gets it going without ever being seen again. It is a form of X or 'nothing' that is never ever again witnessed ..we never again accept spontaneous creation . There is an ancient term for this device - deus ex machina!

If however we pretend by a violent abuse of words that the 'nothing' out of which the universe is created is the same term we use in everyday language or everyday life then we have the physics equivalent of 'virgin-birth'. We are expected to believe this on the authority of the new very wonderful Church of Cosmology and its high priests such as Stephen Hawkins. If something can come out of nothing once why should it not happen again and many times? That would ruin our concepts of causation. So we have today a reversal of roles .. the Enlightenment fought against institutions preaching the 'incredible' and expecting acceptance on the basis of their 'authority'. Western traditions have reverted to type with the new priesthood emerging as white coated technicians. This is much more Auguste Comte than Enlightenment, but the Enlightenment is a better public relations cover. The problems of conceptualising the issues that face Africa come against, time and again, the appeal to 'authority' by Western intellectuals and so that authority needs to be challenged directly to free African thinking.