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Godsey's "The god particle: God-talk in a "big bang" world" (Book Review)

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Godsey, R. K. (2016). *The god particle: God-talk in a "big bang" world*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press. 102 pp. \$20.00. ISBN 9780881465853

Godsey has two earned doctorates (theology and philosophy) and was president of Mercer University for twenty-seven years. Godsey originally presented this material as a series of lectures given at the Mountain Top Lectures in Georgia. This book is the transcription of those lectures with the addition of a preface and a postscript. The edition reviewed is an advanced copy, so page numbers may not match.

Godsey presents the importance of faith and mystery to the facts of science in a language that is accessible to a general audiences, and intended for churches and faith-based organizations. Godsey's lack of citations or bibliography removes it from consideration for college-level religion and philosophy classes.

Godsey does well at presenting why faith, often stated as mystery, is necessary for science and scientific exploration. Godsey also has several ideas that spark contemplation. This failing of this book is that while the author self-describes with, "I am a Baptist." (p. 26), and labels himself repeatedly as a Christian, the book is full of heresy, and thus not recommended. Below are several statements to support this conclusion:

- "The resurrection cannot be established as a historical fact." (p. 27)
- "The Virgin Birth is not a factual story. ... For we who call ourselves Christians, our belief is not focused on Jesus as a factual story. One does not become Christian by accepting the fact of Jesus." (p. 39)
- "It is worth noting that the greatest religious seers in human civilization never offered themselves as objects of worship... This proclivity to worship Jesus obscures the power of Jesus' presence." (p. 49)
- "We are the incarnations of God's presence.... No set of religious doctrines will ever show us the way to the Eternal." (p. 53)
- "A person is not a saint because he or she believes the right things." (p. 74)
- "God is not somewhere else hidden from us; God is right here, hidden within us." (p. 93)

Reviewer

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