

God and Infinity

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The words ‘impossible’, ‘unbelievable’ and ‘incomprehensible’ are usually overused on a day to day basis. However, it is safe to say that even these adjectives end up becoming a terrible understatement while discussing two concepts : God and Infinity. Since the beginning of civilization, many a learned man has tried to explain, comprehend and explore these two vast areas; mostly leading to even more complicated questions, doubts and paradoxes. In fact, it is also possible that these two topics do not have answers at all. And that might be the best possible answer to any question, even broadly associated with the above mentioned topics. Stalwarts of all fields alike have reached various types of dead ends while trying to explain God and Infinity. Thus, the effort of this paper is to just give an ‘idea’; a possible approach that might pave way for a likely explanation, which in turn might allow us to begin our journey of understanding these vital concepts. Let us try and understand why these topics are so vast, how they are so strange, yet familiar, and what are the possible explanations for their seemingly unexplainable nature.

The main reason for ambiguity and debate arises from the inability to define a word in such a way that everyone is in agreement. When the topic of discussion is not clearly defined, it complicates the argument beyond measures as each party leads life trying to defend the argument from the point of view of ‘their definition’. This is an ‘infinite’ loop as nobody ever comes to a consensus. Thus, let us first try and define the two words ‘infinity’ and ‘god’, (at least their meanings in the context of the arguments of this particular paper).

The term ‘infinite’ is a mere notion of something that is endless. It expresses the largest possible quantity, the farthest possible distance and the greatest ever minds. It is the mother of all adjectives and there is nothing greater, bigger or larger than something which is ‘infinite’. One notices quickly that even in these few simple, easily understandable statements, there are a good many questions that suddenly arise. If there is nothing larger than something which is infinite, how can there exist many different quantities which are all infinite ? All they all greater than one another ? Is there a particular infinity that is greater than the others ? How can there be a largest possible quantity ? What if there is something larger than the largest possible quantity ?

If you set off on a journey to define infinity, you encounter a tremendous amount of road blocks in the first step : defining what your journey actually is. It is important at this instance to understand that our journey is a mere ‘effort’

to understand infinity. We do not claim to know infinity, nor are we Ramanujan (the only one perhaps who understood infinity albeit mathematically) (1).

Infinity has very many uses and the one thing common to all of them is the notion of 'never - ending'. For our three dimensional human mind which is made up of only a few trillion cells, it is almost impossible to fathom such a possibility : the existence of something which is never ending. Although the natural numbers never seem to end, the fact that they are abstract and not actually present in the physical world, makes it hard to use them as an appropriate example for this discussion. Thus, to answer the questions on infinity, to give a good example of infinity and also to give rise to more complicated questions, I introduce you to the second topic of this paper : God.

There are two possibilities : God exists, god does not exist. However, if he did exist, I claim that he has to be 'the' example for infinity. The universe is created by God (assuming he exists) and the first thing to understand is that the universe is spatially and also timely infinite. There are various theories regarding this conjecture. However, I feel that if the universe was finite, there has to be something holding it, or containing it. Thus by the logic of mathematical induction this leads to infinite things holding infinite other things. Hence, when I say 'universe' I do not refer to 'our universe' or 'known universe'. I am referring to the totality of everything there 'is'. Anything that exists is a part of my 'universe'. The second thing to ponder is the notion of 'creation' and 'creator'. If the universe is indeed infinite and is a creation of some creator, this leads to a paradox. Is the creator part of the creation? If he is not, then where was he when he made the creation? Since the creation itself is everything that ever existed, exists or will exist, there is no 'where' where he could have been while he made the creation. And if he is part of the creation, how did he create it in the first place?

Thus, I make a claim : There is no 'creator' or 'creation'. It is mere existence. God himself is the universe. It was not created by him. It is him. So, my belief is that when someone refers to God, they are referring to the entire totality of the universe. This 'totality' is infinite. God or universe has no beginning, end, length, breadth, or even a boundary. Anything else which is conceived to be infinite, has to be part of the totality of the universe. Hence, the universe is 'the infinity'. It is so big that it contains each and every possible infinity, be it physical, spatial, abstract or even imaginary.

I am thus claiming that God is a 'hunk'. He is infinitely divisible and I feel that the known universe is just a part of the massive totality which I define as 'God'. A good way to imagine this is to use the dimensions logic. A one dimensional 'dot' can be drawn on a two dimensional sheet of paper. The paper can in turn be placed in the real three dimensional world. I believe that time is the 4th dimension of the universe. Thus, the three dimensional space that we are aware of is actually contained in the fourth dimension, i.e. time. Thus, every known object can be contained in a larger object that has a greater dimension. God, however, is the totality of all the dimensions possible, because, he himself is the totality of everything that exists. Dimensions exist; thus they too, are a part of God. It is however extremely challenging for the simple, three

dimensional human mind to perceive the totality of things that go beyond our comprehensive abilities. I thus feel that it is convenient for us to imagine God as a person or a power or a thought, as it makes it easier to live and learn about life on a day to day basis.

As mentioned in an article by Jill Le Blanc (2) from McMaster university, 'The actual infinite, as I have said, can be conceived as collection of an infinite number of parts, the completion of some process that builds the infinite from the finite.' God is a concept that fits this idea perfectly. God is a collection of many different things, each of whom can potentially be infinite or finite. 'The totality of everything' is my definition of God. The entire universe, in bits and pieces makes up the whole of 'God'. Thus, in a sense we all are part of this universe, making us all a part of God.

If someone ever proves why an infinity can never exist, that could be used as a proof for atheism. God, if he exists, has to be infinite. If he is existing and finite, and an infinity can exist, that would make him less powerful as compared to the infinity which is existing. If God exists and he is finite, and infinity cannot exist, then it would imply that human beings were powerful enough to come up with a concept more powerful than God itself, meaning that the power of the brain, mathematics and abstract thought is greater than God, which would lead to a contradiction in the theory of theism. If God is finite, it would imply that he is not limitless. Thus, if God exists, he has to be infinite. Hence, I conclude : There is only one true example of infinity : The entire universe, the totality of everything. This is nothing but God. If there is no God, there is no infinity. Hence, it is an if and only if relation. $God \iff Infinity$.

Sources Cited:

- (1) 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' - Robert Kanigel.
- (2) 'INFINITY IN THEOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS' - Jill Le Blanc, Department of Philosophy, McMaster university, Canada.