

# THE SIGNATURE

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Back in April of 1961, the Russian cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, became the first human being to travel into space. It was the time of the Cold War, and the race was definitely on. The competition between the United States and Russia was fierce on multiple levels. And the anticipation of what we would see “out there” once man broke the space barrier was palpable. While soaring through the heavens, Gagarin supposedly commented back to his earthly comrades, “I don’t see any God up here.”

Notice the irony? On one hand sarcastic, and on the other, dead serious.

It’s interesting, isn’t it, that we as humans tend to think that if we can’t see it, hear it, touch it, smell it or measure it, it just isn’t there? And yet, we all experience the unseen all the time. I can’t see the radio waves that surround me, but I listen to the radio. We know, deep down, that there is more to reality than meets the eye.

I love science. There’s a security in “knowing” empirical facts. I can rely on things that are physical, on laws that are measurable. Gravity, for example. If I step off a cliff I’ll fall straight down to my death, so I avoid stepping off cliffs. Science offers me an extremely helpful grasp of the material world. In that sense, it’s RELIABLE, right?

But from that premise often comes an illogical leap that since we’ve explored the universe by spacecraft and telescope and God hasn’t “turned up,” well then He must not exist.

Really!?

Here’s the simple point Yuri Gagarin missed: If God DOES exist, we’re sure not going to find Him as a material, physical entity floating out there in space or hiding behind some distant nebula. To quote Jesus, “God is a Spirit” (John 4: 24). God isn’t a material part of His creation to be observed by microscope or telescope.

Think about it like this: If we represent the whole created cosmos with a circle containing all time, space and matter, and we ask, “Where is God to be found in the circle?” the obvious answer is, “Nowhere.” Nowhere, that is, as a material being or substance. Even if we could search every square inch of the universe with our scientific tools, we wouldn’t find God as an empirical discovery. The Bible

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poses the rhetorical question, “Can you by searching find out God?” (Job 11:7). The obviously implied answer is, No, not by physically searching at least.

What I’m suggesting is that the answer lies somewhere else in the signature.

Everybody knows Steve Jobs and the incredible Apple team that design “outside-of-the-box” products like the iPhone and the iPad. We all know who’s “behind” the Apple brilliance. But we don’t expect to find Steve Jobs inside the iPhone or the iPad. We wouldn’t look for him inside his creations. He exists outside of what he has made. And yet, the evidence of his artistic imagination is clearly detectable in his creation, so much so that we are certain we’re examining Apple products. The Steve Jobs signature is all over the stuff.

The same is true of God.

As the One who created the material universe, God must exist in a reality we can’t even begin to imagine or articulate, because it is literally outside of the parameters of all we know. Most of us believe we live in a four dimensional world. But what many of us might not know, is that many

physicists are telling us that at least eleven dimensions exist and probably more. Just because we don’t experience them with our senses doesn’t mean they don’t exist. So it’s really quite simplistic to say, We’ve searched the universe and God isn’t there. Of course He’s not. He made it, and therefore He transcends it.

And yet, God is knowable. As the Author and cosmic Artist, His signature is written on EVERYTHING that’s beautiful and good. God IS discernable in the form of design features, both in the world around us and within our own natures. Outside of ourselves, in the observable creation, we find beauty and mathematical precision. And within ourselves, we all have a desire for a kind of love that finds no perfectly satisfying match in this world. The signature of an infinitely beautiful designer is all over the universe.

Bottom line? The scientist in me will never find God beyond all shadow of a doubt. But the lover longing for love will.

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