

Re: Angels and photons (Related languages (Re: A China–Sumer connection))

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From: Jacques Guy (jguy_at_alphalink.com.au)

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Des Small wrote:

> *Jacques, look what you actually said: multiple angels in the same
> place at the same time. No heads of pins, in particular.*

Des, look what you wrote. What is a place? A dimensionless point? St Thomas writes that, for an angel, the head of a pin is like a continent. A continent can accommodate, vulgarly speaking, an _infinite_ number of pin heads. And a pin head, in turn, an infinite number of tiny little "places". So, you ought to be able to house an infinite number of angels on... anything whatever, as long as it has a physical reality. Like... hey man, like a pin head!

> *I would be very interested indeed to know the bibliographical details
> of this treatise*

I sympathise with you. It was in a coffer, in the unused room next to my mine in Port–Orly when I was a guest of Father Linossier, a PhD student trying to make sense of that horrid Austronesian language, Sakao, which had decided to turn itself into yet another holophrastic monster.

> *the "angels on the head of a pin" question is
> routinely used to mock scholastic philosophy*

That is not how I understood it then.

I am an atheist. Yet I was struck by the intellectual worthiness of that treatise, and that an infinite number and so on, follows beautifully from the nature of angels.

If, of course, and only if, you agree with that angel hocus–pocus. But, let's face it, it's not so very different from quarks.