

## Just a Thought

What happens when we focus on stars? When we focus on things that are far away? The further away we focus the lens of a telescope, the further into the past we can see.

For example, if our telescope pictures a super nova (an exploding star) that is 4 light-years away, it took the light of that explosion 4 years to get here. That means that if we see the explosion in our telescope today, the explosion actually took place 4 years ago. In essence, we've "looked into the past."

In fact, everything that we see is because "light" has traveled from "somewhere" to our eyes (then from our eyes to our minds) before our minds can process what we've seen. We are always looking at what has already happened.

So, how do we see what is "now"? In fact, where IS "now" (the present moment in time)? A place? Perhaps, a part of "who" we are? Is it somewhere within each of us? Every fraction of a minute our bodies change. Cells grow and die. Even our minds grow old...

But, what happens when we focus on cells? Recent science has shown "that mouse neurons, or brain cells, implanted into rats can survive with the rats into old age, twice as long as the life span of the original mice."<sup>1</sup> Everything that we've ever experienced has been stored in our brains. It's as if our brains are tiny, biological computers...like—what computer people call—"the cloud."

Doesn't that remind you of God? The "cloud" that led the people out of Egypt? The Spirit (i.e., the breath of God) that speaks to everyone in whatever way they can best understand?

Isn't it comforting to know that each of us might have a piece of God in us? Something in our minds that teaches us right from wrong? (Well, sure, some of us ignore that part of us, but...Free Will, ya know.)

But maybe, just maybe, when we die, that part of us that has always been a part of God will join him and live forever...while the stuff that wasn't a part of God will cease to exist. Somehow, I find that comforting...especially getting rid of the part of me I'd rather forget or, perhaps, wished hadn't happened. Maybe, there's hope for all of us...and that's why we shouldn't judge one another. But, then, (speaking of cells), it's just a thought...

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<sup>1</sup> Published February 24, 2020, in the journal "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" via "LiveScience".