

Announcement

Institute on Religion in An Age of Science

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Star Island Conference

Saturday, July 27, to Saturday, August 3, 1991

IRAS is an interdisciplinary and pluralistic society of pioneering scientists and religious thinkers, and other interested persons. The topic for 1991 is:

The God Question in an Age of Science

Developments in modern science have had a major impact on how people think about God. For some, these developments have called into question cherished traditional beliefs; for others, the scope of thinking about God has been expanded. As a consequence, there is increasing uncertainty and a diversity of viewpoints that many regard as destabilizing. Many Western thinkers have rejected the validity or usefulness of the concept of God altogether. There is also increasing interest in non-Western traditions wherein God does not play the same central role.

In this conference the concept/symbol/experience of God will be explored by theologians, scientists, and philosophers. Topics addressed will include the following: (1) *Meaning*. To what does the word "God" refer? For example: Is God an objective reality? A transforming experience? An internal mental construct? Or . . .? What, if any, is the action of God in the world? (2) *Functions*. What are the functions of the concept/symbol/experience of God? What role does it play in formulating, transforming, and transmitting our values, our ethics, and our identity? (3) *Methods*. How can we talk about God? How do we articulate, justify, and validate statements about God (including statements which reject the concept)? How do we evaluate the testimony provided by tradition, by personal or collective experiences, by reason, by scientific research, by prediction or prophecy? How do we know God—or can we? (4) *Alternatives/Equivalents*. What symbols/concepts/experiences are alternatives to God for individuals who are not theists and for religions in which God does not play a central role?

Speakers and workshop leaders will be announced later

Registration fees: Adults, \$95; young people between 5 and 16, \$60; children under 5, free. There will be a youth program for ages 5-16. Fees, less 20%, are refundable if registration is cancelled before June 1.

Registration forms and further information available from:

Mrs. Bonnie Falla, Registrar, 810-1/2 North 9th Street
Allentown, PA 18102. Tel: 215-432-8711