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The greatest mathematician

By Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

"God is really only another artist," said Picasso, "He invented the giraffe, the elephant and the cat." Einstein once observed that God was subtle, not malicious, and very clever. Sir Michael Francis Atiyah, the distinguished mathematician, said on a visit to Mumbai that God was a mathematician – not exactly a new idea, since Sir James had seriously put forward the idea half a century ago that the universe was the work of a mathematician, while centuries before that Pythagoras had come to the conclusion that all things were numbers. The greatest of the human mathematicians have come across such complexities in their subjects that they have finally understood the meagreness of their own grasp of the subject. Every kind of genius, in fact, is confronted with the awesome feeling that there is a Being greater than himself at work in the universe. It is a measure of his own greatness that he can bow to Another who is infinitely greater.

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