

Vincent ENGEL

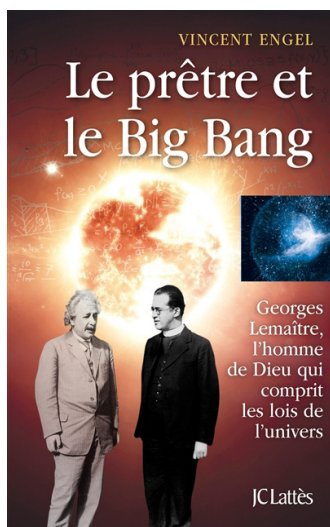
Born in 1963 Vincent Engel is a French speaking Belgian writer.

Professor of contemporary literature at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) and of contemporary history at the Institut des Hautes Études des communications sociales (IHECS), he wrote a large number of essays, novels, short stories and plays. He is also a literary critics and chronicler in the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir*.

Vincent Engel gives occasionally lectures around the world, as President of the Association of Belgian writers as well as a fervent defender of Belgian literature. His essays address mainly the question of the concentration camps and the influence of the World War II. His ambitious work has been build around three major topics: the Holocaust, the revolution and the history of Italy. **Les Absentes** and **Le Mariage de Dominique Hardenne** are two of his novels.



Le prêtre et le Big Bang



According to Vincent Engel, Georges Lemaître would not have been a good character for a novel.

This is why the author, professor at the University of Louvain as was Lemaître, chose instead the form of the essay. *Le prêtre et le Big Bang* is the biography of the astrophysicist, mathematician and canon, known as the founder of cosmology (science of the Universe) and father of the Big Bang theory. Around 1927, this scientist (1894 -1966) puts across the revolutionary idea of an expanding universe. Even Einstein, who was not the last of the pioneers, found that concept far too audacious as he was convinced that the universe was fixed and eternal.

The conjunction of the priest and the scientist also brings a light on the subject of faith. As says Engel: "The fact that Lemaître was both a priest and a scientist was a problem for the others, but not for him. On the contrary, he found this situation perfectly normal.

According to him, religion guarantees salvation and God's existence cannot be proved. Science, on another hand, must be demonstrated. For him, both fields coexisted without encroaching upon each other. He said they were the two paths towards the truth."

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