

The physicist and the theologian

by [Thomas Schmidt](#) in the [November 20, 2019](#) issue

Today a black hole swallowed Stephen Hawking.

By quark of fate or faith, infinity

Ago, I stood a Cambridge student gawking

As he rolled past me into Trinity.

Eternal verities awaited me

Across St. John's Street where my grad advisor

Dispensed divine research advice; whilst he,

The famous physicist, a quantum wiser,

Nudged joystick left, chose Newton over Knox;

What cosmic irony for us to place

His ashes in a dark Westminster box

Instead of shooting them out into space.

Both then and now, in time's Brief History,

I watched him pass into God's mystery.