

Atheist Prof. Peter Higgs: Stop calling Higgs boson the ‘God particle’

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Professor Peter Higgs said recently that there is no God and so people should stop referring to the theoretical particle that bears his name as the “God particle.”



Prof. Peter Higgs

In an interview with BBC Scotland, the 83-year-old atheist scientist explained that it was “misleading” to suggest that the Higgs boson, a particle that he theorized holds the universe together, was powered by supernatural forces.

The phrase was first coined in the 1993 book “God particle” by Leon Lederman and Dick Teresi.

“This boson is so central to the state of physics today, so crucial to our final understanding of the structure of matter, yet so elusive, that I have given it a nickname: the God particle,” Lederman wrote. “Why God particle? The publisher wouldn’t let us call it the Goddamn particle, though that might be a more appropriate title, given its villainous nature and the expense it is causing.”

But in an interview for an upcoming special on BBC One Scotland, Higgs strongly objected to the phrase.

“First of all, I’m an atheist,” Higgs told BBC Scotland, according to the *Telgraph*.

“The second thing is I know that name was a kind of joke and not a very good one,” he pointed out. “I think he shouldn’t have done that as it’s so misleading.”

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