

SPOTLIGHT

Knight speak: Number whiz talks on God

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Penrose cautious in view

By G. ANURADHA

Bangalore, Jan, 8: He is the creator of the famous Penrose staircase and the impossible triangle known as tribar. Meet Sir Roger Penrose in person who comes across as a disarming and forthright man.

A genius in recreational math and winner of the prestigious Wolf Prize for Physics in 1988 which he shared with Stephen Hawking, Sir Penrose was recently knighted by the Queen for his outstanding contributions to mathematics.

He would be more familiar through the work of Dutch graphic artist Maurits Cornelis Escher. The artist had used the Penrose staircase and the tribar in his work when he created structures such as a building with an impossible staircase which rises or falls endlessly yet returns to the same level and a waterfall where the water appears to flow uphill.

For the man behind the genius, the biggest puzzle is the question of "Consciousness," as he told *The Asian Age*, Sir Penrose was in the city to participate in the last of the series of International Symposia On Science and Spirituality Quest-II, a programme of the Centre for

Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley, USA.

Cautious is what would describe this brilliant mathematician's approach to the word spirituality. Confirming that he is an atheist, who does not believe in the word God, Sir Penrose is however willing to say that he does not disbelieve in the existence of a higher consciousness.

"These are deep issues,



Sir Roger Penrose

there are things way beyond the understanding of the physical world," he says.

Declaring that he does not follow any particular religion, he explains, "the word God conveys a meaning of a some kind of conscious being, it has an anthropomorphic connotation".

His approach to spirituality is that claims of phenomena

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