Science and Religion

O Timothy, be careful of that which is entrusted to you;

Flee from empty echoes and from the perversion of false science.

*(1 Timothy 6:20)*

Science cannot answer the deepest questions. As soon as you ask why there is something instead of nothing, you have gone beyond science. I find it quite improbable that such order came out of chaos. There has to be some organizing principle. God to me is the explanation for the miracle of existence – why there is something instead of nothing. *(Allan R. Sandage, cosmologist)*

I thought about the endless battle between religion and science. Most people believe the two are in constant conflict and only one can hold the ultimate truth. The problem with the conflict is that there is nothing in scientific theory that undermines the existence of intelligent design. All science says is how things physically happen. Science answers the how, not the why. There are a few scientists who believe there is a God and that he set up the universe like a set of dominoes to be knocked down in order to get to the place we are now. To say that these believers prove that science is wrong is to say that every priest who owns a cell phone doesn’t believe in God. If science is so evil and bad, why then throughout history is there growth and prosperity when science is revered? The Roman Empire, the Renaissance, and the Industrial Revolution all held science as a way to improve life. The Dark Ages, the witch trials, and the Spanish Inquisition pushed away the scientific knowledge we had gained and replaced it with religious fundamentalism. I do understand the basic process of science. Science always needs a conflicting view in order to ensure that its ideas and theories are as correct as they can be. Religion always seems to want a monopoly on knowledge and pushes away any dissenting view. Science betters everyone’s lives, not just those who believe in it. *(David Wells, in Rocky Mountain News)*

A Catholic priest came up with the Big Bang Theory. Georges Lemaitre, a professor of physics and astronomy at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, published his "hypothesis of the primeval atom" in the science journal, Nature in 1031. *(Harry Bright and Jakob Anser, in Are You Kidding Me?, p. 7)*

Your story explained that even though light was created at the Big Bang, there was darkness before stars formed. Likewise, the first chapter of Genesis states that God created light before he created the stars, and separated light from darkness in the interim. Not too many years ago, some people said the Bible’s account of the beginning could not be true because light comes from stars, which could not have been created after light was. Now your article has shown how it could be true. Science has once again caught up with the Bible. *(Sara Borden, in Time)*

When Christians understand the science of thinking, the power of thought to manifest itself, and how the manifestation of thought is accomplished, they will no longer fear material science; when material scientists have fathomed the real nature of the living force that they even now discern as ever active in all nature’s structures, they will have more respect for religion. *(Charles Fillmore, in Christian Healing, p. 30)*

One of the goals of Charles Fillmore’s writing was to show that science and religion are but two different approaches to the same Truth. He felt that modern physicists, with their theories about the ethers and energy, are approaching with a different set of terms the same truths that Jesus taught when He taught about the kingdom of the heavens and the power of faith and prayer. *(James Dillet Freeman, The Story of Unity, p. 189)*

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Science can only be created by those who are thoroughly imbued with the aspiration toward truth and understanding. This source of feeling, however, springs from the sphere of religion. Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.  *(Albert Einstein)*

The whole purpose of science is to awaken the Cosmic religious feeling. *(Albert Einstein)*

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Science can do everything for man except form him. What has always formed men has been the belief in an exemplary kind of character. And so the task of humanity at the present moment is to find a way to form men, and we know that science won’t accomplish this for us. This is the reason for the crisis of youth, their rebellion against scientific means of human determination. *(Andre Malraux, in Reader’s Digest)*

**Anyone who will search for the science in religion and religion in science will find that they harmonize and prove each other. The point of unity is the Spirit-mind common in both. *(Charles Fillmore)***

Published error is at the heart of any real science. We scientists love to do experiments that show our colleagues to be wrong and, if they are any good, they love to show us to be wrong in turn. By this adversarial process, science reveals the way nature actually works. Science differs from politics, or religion, in precisely this one discipline: we agree in advance to simply reject our own findings when they have been shown to be in error. There is no shame to this. The freedom to make and admit mistakes is at the core of the scientific process. If we are asked to forswear error, or worse, to say that error means fraud, then we cannot function as scientists. *(Robert E. Pollack, in New York Times)*

Nicolas Copernicus, the 16th-century astronomer who was posthumously branded a heretic by the Vatican for proclaiming shortly before his death that the sun, not the Earth, was the center of the solar system, has finally been given a Catholic funeral. Copernicus never achieved fame in his lifetime, and he was buried in an unmarked grave. Recently his bones were identified through DNA testing, and this week he was buried in a tomb in Frombork Cathedral, with a model of the solar system engraved on his tombstone. “Today’s funeral has symbolic value,” said Bishop Jacek Jezierski, “in that it is a gesture of reconciliation between science and faith.” *(The Week magazine, June 4, 2010)*

Only a rookie who knows nothing about science would say science takes away from faith. If you really study science, it will bring you closer to God. *(James Tour, nano-scientist)*

**The notion that science and spirituality are somehow mutually exclusive does a disservice to both. *(Carl Sagan)***

**Science is proving by experimentation that living cells have within them the elements of continuous life, and scientists are at loss to know why man’s body should ever die, if it were properly fed and cleansed. *(Charles Fillmore)***

The scientist has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries. *(Robert Jastrow, in God & The Astronomers)*

**A prominent Russian scientist, a specialist in the chemistry of the brain, discovered religion as an adult and was interviewed about how a scientist could suddenly accept religion. He said among other things, “I remember the first time I tried to pray, to probe the depths of my heart and reach God. My scientific mind said to me, ‘You fool, what are you doing? To whom do you think you're speaking?’ To this day, I have a great fear about what would have happened to me if I had not overcome my intellectual hesitation at that moment.” *(Dr. Bernie Siegel, in How to Live Between Office Visits, p. 169)***

There is a kind of religion in science, it is the religion of a person who believes there is order and harmony in the universe. Every event can be explained in a rational way as the product of some previous event; every effect must have its cause, there is no first cause. This religious faith of the scientist is violated by the discovery that the world had a beginning under conditions in which the known laws of physics are not valid, and as a product of forces or circumstances we cannot discover. *(Robert Jastrow, in God &The Astronomers, p. 123)*

**Let us explain that all creative processes involve a realm of ideas and a realm of patterns or expressions of those ideas. The patterns arrest or “bottle up” the free electric units that sustain the visible thing. Thus creation is in its processes a trinity, and back of the visible universe are both the original creative idea and the cosmic rays that crystallize into earthly things. When we understand this trinity in its various activities we shall be able to reconcile the discoveries of modern science with the fundamental of religion.** ***(Charles Fillmore, in Prosperity, introduction)***

At its root, the word “science” (scientia) is the same as the word “to scan”. As gunners say, it is to get the range of things, to measure, judge distances, estimate sizes. Science ranges and measures. The word “religion” (religio) means to “rebind, to collect together, to compose, to unite.” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 5)*

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