

Science – Religion Relationship, A Personal View

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For "SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY"
Course # TRT 2871 HF

September 19, 2012

This is not an easy relationship, yet very important one in this age that takes "science" as its religion. (The quotes is because that is perceived as science in popular culture is not really science, it's a dream of absoluteness that is under our control). The relationship between real science and religion is not as bad as that between religion and "science". It can be even friendlier between science and Faith (as opposed to religion).

First to **define** my understanding of the above:

- Faith to Religion is like a health club (of the soul) to an army that has a health plus other things.
- Science to "science" is like a wise man to a teenager.

I'm interested in Science and Faith.

Can the two help each other? Yes, but only after respecting their differences.

Where do they differ?

Loosely, **Science** starts from objective observation of nature and proceeds from passive observation into active and planned observation with invented tools (experimental science), and further into looking for rational relationships, preferably elegant and concise ones, between the observed data (theoretical science). Finally it triumphs when it makes predictions that would be verified objectively later. However, its objectivity and rationalism won't go anywhere if it wasn't for an inspiration directing the effort in a certain direction.

Faith starts from the need to connect with the infinite being, who is the ultimate parent, loving, caring and life oriented. Without that connection, we are lost in an abyss. For that, we start from Scripture (while considering its time frame with the help of Tradition) and construct our faith with the help of Theology. Faith triumphs when it leads to Grace, the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The two are **similar** only in that they build a structure of raw material: Observed data for science vs. Scripture/ Tradition for Faith.

They **differ** in their starting points: The miracles of the Scripture are not objective data for Science. And they differ in their purposefulness: It's a "how" in Science vs. "why" in Faith. Blind motion in Science vs. purposefulness in Faith.

They **complement** each other in that Science can provide results that show the shadow of God on the world; while Faith