

SCIENCE AND RELIGION ARE NOT ENEMIES

Science deals with the objective world. Religion is a science of the inner. The inner world is as vast as the outer. That is why in metaphysics they talk about the microcosm and the macrocosm. Religion at a superficial level is about outward behaviour and code of ethics. A set of dos and don'ts. But a religion which has depth and subtlety, deals with this inner world, the subject. Science deals with the objective world and it has no means of dealing with the inner world which is a manifestation of consciousness. Consciousness is a fact of this universe; a fundamental reality and science totally leaves it out of its domain because its methods are useless in dealing with consciousness. It uses consciousness to study the objective world but it cannot turn the focus on consciousness itself. This makes science fundamentally incomplete. In science, second hand knowledge is valid because we are dealing with the objective. But in religion, second hand knowledge is of no use. Buddha's truth is of no use to me. Each seeker has to delve into his own consciousness first hand. Each seeker has to realize the Truth on his own. Science studies the objective world and Religion deals with the subjective world. They are not antagonistic but complementary.

Science and Religion are not enemies - because their domains are different. It is only when each tries to encroach on the domain of the other that the conflict arises. As it happened in the case of the Papal Church Vs Galileo.

Galileo was persecuted because he wrote and made public that the earth revolves round the sun. The Church totally missed the point that the sphere of the Bible is religious and ethical living. Jesus taught about the 'kingdom of heaven' within man. If we bring religion into all the other spheres of life which are external and objective, then we would be stretching our faith too far. If we hold it to be an authority in

science/astronomy/physics/ecology and everything else, then it is stupidity. That is not the function of religion at all! Religion is not about the outer world. In what way should it matter to religion whether the sun goes round the earth or the earth goes round the sun? That's astronomy; not religion! Yet the greatest confrontation between science and religion took place exactly on this point!