

**Subject:** Science

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## **Science and Values**

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Science is the systematized knowledge of nature, based on mathematics and growing through observation and experimentation. It has developed from the human being's basic need of 'knowing'. The more the human being knows the more safe and secure he feels on this world.

But all knowledge is not external. Although one cannot deny the importance of external observation and experimentation one also has to accept that the awareness of our identity contains an intuitive characteristic that can be described as being of internal nature. It is this internal awareness that is called the spiritual aspect of the self. Without this awareness all ideas about Reality are fragmented constructs that miss the entire picture.

Science, whose main purpose is to deal with real things, is confused when questioned about the nature of Reality. Is there an absolute Reality independent of the human perception? Or is Reality a potential tendency for matter to exist? Can we claim that objects exist totally independent from each other, or are all things and events interconnected in such a way that only interdependence and co-existence is possible?

According to the classical scientific world-view everything is controllable by our problem-solving ingenuity or understandable by our analytic rational mind. Scientific positivism assumes that the universe and all phenomena within it are analysable, and that when analysis has succeeded in breaking down a phenomenon into its component parts reason and logic can then ascertain how the parts relate to each other or work together. This assumption was shared by Victorian intellectuals who accomplished a synthesis of scientific knowledge and formulated the scientific laws in terms of "local variables" which came to be accepted as a triumph of the experimental scientific method. With the development of physical theories such as Relativity and Quantum Theory flaws have been revealed in the assumptions and procedures of the classical scientific method.

The Theory of Relativity has shown us that there is no absolute space or absolute time. That both are interlinked and do not exist independently from

each other. Similarly Quantum Mechanics has undermined the classical scientific position that the world and the observing mind are separate entities. It now appears that such a dualistic approach is strictly untenable as a basis for the scientific method. Furthermore, we cannot even claim that cause and effect are locally interconnected. We can no more claim that for any effect that we observe there exist a corresponding local cause. It has been experimentally demonstrated that locality is no more a solid basis upon which we can build our arguments.

In every situation of life we are part of a certain physical and psychological set-up, which makes us participate in the phenomena of life. We assume that our decisions and behaviour are based on local information but we cannot say much about remote causes which may affect them. We constantly assume that our individuality has a free will and an independent existence of it's own. But both the concept of individuality and of free will are mere assumptions stemming from our cognition of "local causality"

We have presently reached a stage where we cannot exist without the benefits of scientific investigations, but we also need to understand that science, with it's analytical methodology, is limited and can only explain a rather small part of what Really is out there.

The modern science of Quantum Mechanics argues that one cannot anymore claim the existence of an absolute and totally independent Reality. Matter does not exist with certainty in definite places, but rather shows 'tendencies' to exist. If it's a fact that all things exist in connection to other things, then it becomes quite obvious that we are the co-creators of our own existence.

With this understanding we could move one step forward towards our true identity and realize that the entire universe exists within us. Such an understanding is beyond the mere capacity of observation but requires the activation of our spiritual capabilities. The universe is a web of interconnected energy patterns and each of us is a tiny hologram of this Whole.

As we increase our awareness by opening the "eye of the heart" we will feel spiritually connected with and responsible towards our friends, colleagues and surroundings. This will result in an increase in both the quality as well as the quantity of our work output. It is a known fact that a spiritually connected person becomes compassionate and shows concern about the welfare of his/her relatives and subordinates. This concern gradually extends beyond the narrow boundary of one's immediate surroundings and eventually comprises the totality of all existing things and entities. The ultimate consequence of such a level of awareness is living in a state of harmony where there is no separation or conflict between external behaviour and internal values.

Science, in general, does not provide us with an anchor in the external world for our internal values. *Out there* we seem to have no role; but *In here* we can find values. In the present world conditions one should be very careful to prevent falling into a set of self-centred values system.

We are constantly affected by our nearby surrounding that feeds us with existential values. Up to the present generation such values were filtered by the parents and by the teachers. This was because values had to be intrinsically correct and were supposed to be immutable. But this is not so anymore. The media in general and the TV in particular are now the main source as value creators and distributors. The main driving force behind the present-day values

is their "material benefit" and their "practicality". Most values are justified in utilitarian terms and "culture" is mentioned only apologetically.

Take, for example, the advertising strategy that insists that you buy something because "you deserve it" or "you owe it to yourself". Or, most perniciously, there is the widespread view that "looking after yourself" –by jogging or whatever- you are doing something "good and virtuous". From this point on, it is but a small step to believe that this is the *correct* way to live and that others should also follow the same route. A morality is deduced from the facts of materiality. The material guideline becomes the norm for the society.

Self-centeredness is maybe the oldest ailment of humanity, but classical science, which refuses to add any set of values to our existence, did not help at all to cure this ailment. The solution is, maybe, to return to become the old-style scientist, where one does not limit himself/herself to one specific field of knowledge but broadens his/her views with modern as well as ancient wisdom while at the same time one tries to cling to the '*good old*' values. This will hopefully bring a healthier as well as happier lifestyle to the future generations.