



TENSIONS BETWEEN **SCIENCE** AND SPIRITUALITY

with Philosophy and Logic as Referee

DICKSON OLABIYI ADELUSI

Tensions Between Science and Spirituality

with Philosophy and Logic as Referee

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DEDICATION

This book is part of my services dedicated unto the Spirit that I work for.

The same One seated on the right hand of the Sovereign Spirit. Son to the Supreme Being, with Heaven as His throne. The Source of life and all powers.

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INTRODUCTION

In our quest to understand the universe and our place within it, two realms of knowledge often seem at odds: science and spirituality. Science seeks to unravel the mysteries of the physical world through empirical evidence and reason, while spirituality explores the intangible aspects of existence—our connections to the world and science of the spirits, be it through religion, spiritual practices, or personal beliefs. At the intersection of these worlds stands philosophy and logic, a discipline dedicated to examining and reconciling the principles and implications of both.

Imagine science and spirituality as two grand, expansive landscapes. Science charts the terrain of the physical, mapping the vast stretches of space and time with precision and rigor. Spirituality, on the other hand, delves into the depths of human experience and the metaphysical, seeking to illuminate the shadows where the physical world fades into the ineffable.

But what happens when these two landscapes intersect? How do we navigate the tensions that arise when scientific discoveries challenge spiritual beliefs or when spiritual experiences seem to transcend the boundaries of empirical validation?

In this book, "Tensions Between Science and Spirituality with Philosophy and Logic as Referee," we embark on a journey through these contested territories. The goal is not to declare one side victorious over the other, but rather to understand how philosophy and logic—often seen as the mediator—can offer insights and frameworks that allow us to appreciate and checkmate the excesses of practitioners of both perspectives. Philosophy serves as

the referee in this grand debate, challenging assumptions, clarifying concepts, and seeking a common ground where science and spirituality can dialogue meaningfully.

We will explore how historical figures from different traditions have grappled with these issues, delve into contemporary debates that arise from recent scientific advancements and spiritual revelations, and consider how philosophical inquiry can help bridge gaps and foster a more nuanced understanding of our existence.

Whether you're a scientist curious about the spiritual implications of your work, a spiritual seeker questioning the role of empirical evidence in your beliefs, or simply a reader intrigued by the interplay of these profound realms, this book invites you to embark on an exploration where science, spirituality, and philosophy and logic intersect. Here, we will unravel the threads that connect these seemingly disparate domains, seeking not just answers, but a richer understanding of the profound questions that drive human curiosity.

Welcome to a journey where we will bridge the divide between the known and the unknown, the seen and the unseen, with the echoes of philosophy boldly campaigning for logic.

CHAPTER ONE – NAVIGATING THE DIVIDE

At first glance, science and spirituality may appear as contrasting forces, each vying for supremacy in explaining the mysteries of existence. Yet, upon closer examination, their relationship reveals a complex interplay of cooperation, conflict, and coexistence.

Whether science is considered superior to spirituality (or vice versa) depends on one's perspective and the criteria used to evaluate their respective merits. Some people may prioritize the empirical evidence and practical benefits of science, while others may prioritize the spiritual and existential aspects of religion and spirituality. Ultimately, both science and spirituality play significant roles in shaping human understanding, well-being, and hope of now and the afterlife.

In humans' fragile existence, to disregard the invaluable offerings and profound benefits bestowed upon us by the relentless pursuit of scientific inquiry is to perilously forget that we are mortals and risk ending our lives before our time. For it is through the workings of science that we have unlocked the secrets of medicine, thwarting diseases that once ravaged civilizations and extending the thread of life in our bodies. More so, the reach of science extends far beyond the realm of healing and healthiness alone. From the inception of the wheel to the wonders of modern transportation, science has been the architect of progress, propelling humanity forward on the chariot of innovation. It is through the ingenuity of science that we traverse vast distances in mere hours, communicating instantaneously across oceans, and harnessing the forces of nature to power the engines of industry. From the towering edifices of engineering wonders to the intricate networks of telecommunications that bind the globe, the

dividends of scientific inquiry enrich every facet of our existence, offering not just sustenance for the body, but nourishment for the soul and mind alike.

Yet, as we tread the course of our lives and existence, we must not neglect the spiritual realm of faith. To sever the ties with spirituality is to risk being adrift in the boundless expanse, barred from the sanctuary of the divine. It is through the prism of faith that we glimpse the promise of a new world, an eternal abode granted by the benevolence of God. With scientific ways, we become smart but with God we become wise, and is wisdom not superior to smartness? Perhaps, that would be a debate for another day!

But tread cautiously in religiosity, for in the realm of belief, the extremes of gullibility and destructive loyalty beget peril. To heed blindly the words of religious zealots is to court the erosion of reason, casting aside the compass of discernment in favor of blind allegiance. Conversely, to surrender wholly to the altar of science is to risk forsaking the divine presence, consigning the truths enshrined in sacred scriptures to the annals of oblivion.

Let us instead chart a course guided by the harmony of reason and faith, acknowledging the symbiosis between the empirical and the divine. For in this delicate equilibrium lies the fulcrum of enlightenment, where the revelations of science and the wisdom of spirituality converge to illuminate the path towards a transcendent understanding of our existence. In navigating the dark miseries of existence, the surest footing lies upon the intertwined paths of science and spirituality.

Let us recall philosophy and logic as the referee in this book, as it will help us counter the potential for insidious

brainwashing by scientists and religious adherents, and advise people to be cautious about the so-called 'free thinking'. Many people confuse philosophy with free thinking. It's important to clarify that philosophy is a structured and esteemed body of knowledge, unlike free thinking. Free thinkers should know that to stray from the well-trodden avenues is to risk wandering into the murky depths of uncertainty and peril. Free thinking, while alluring in its promise of unbridled exploration, is a treacherous path, devoid of the guiding rails of empirical evidence and spiritual insight. Indeed, it is a path fraught with danger, for it can lead one astray, alienating them from the comforting embrace of truth and understanding.

The consequences are dire, as deviation from the sanctity of these intertwined paths can imperil not only our well-being but also our spiritual journey. Even the most sophisticated of human minds are fallible, and thus, it is imperative to scrutinize the claims of influencers, motivational speakers, and even our neighbors against the litmus test of proven science and the wisdom enshrined in the scriptures. Myths and cultural claims, while steeped in tradition, often crumble under the weight of scrutiny, revealing themselves as unreliable guides in the quest for truth and enlightenment, especially, when its diversity mostly breeds supremacy battles. Though, we can cope with the diversity and supremacy battles of cultural claims because that is not much different from religions, however, the structured and age-tested scriptures of a few religions makes all the difference. The nature of oral narration and yet undocumented as at when fresh of the myths and cultural beliefs, passed down through generations makes it less reliable. This can often be manipulated to suit various situations, as if one is speaking different things from many mouths, while arguing that it is the same meaning.

Philosophy and logic, our officiating referee between science and spirituality in this book, the art of critical thinking and reasoned discourse, emerges as a beacon of moderation in the face of extremism. It serves as a bulwark against the overreaching arms of science zealots and religion fanatics, offering the masses a tool to checkmate fervor with reason and fanaticism with skepticism. Therefore, let us anchor ourselves firmly to the pillars of science, spirituality, and ethical philosophy and logic, for it is upon their sturdy foundations that we may chart a course towards an easier and advancing current world, and profound encounter with the divine. To this end, we all need to embrace, constructive science, knowing that there are destructive scientific moves, and also embrace the right spirituality which leads to the true God while using philosophy and logic to receive the messages of scientists and religion teachers, helping us to ask the right questions with skepticism rather than receiving messages at face value.

Refining the Context

Science and spiritual knowledge represent two distinct approaches to understanding reality. Science, grounded in empirical observation, experimentation, and rational inquiry, seeks to decipher the natural world through the systematic application of the scientific method. It strives to uncover the laws governing physical phenomena and illuminate the mechanisms underlying the universe, from the subatomic realm of quantum mechanics to the vast reaches of astrophysics.

In contrast, spiritual knowledge arises from the depths of human experience and introspection, offering narratives, rituals, and beliefs that imbue existence with meaning and purpose. Rooted in faith, tradition, and revelation,

spirituality provides answers to profound questions about the cosmos's origin, human nature, and ultimate destiny. Through the gate of religions, mythologies, scriptures, and philosophical reflections, spirituality offers frameworks for exploring the transcendent dimensions of reality beyond the empirical scope of science.

People often connect spirituality to either morality and behavior or to religious practice. In this book, spirituality is defined as the relationship between an individual and one or more spirits. This relationship is cultivated through rituals, sacrifices, fellowship, worship, and other personal practices required by the spirits. In return, these spirits are expected to provide knowledge—ranging from insights about the cosmos and personal purpose to revelations and guidance on surviving challenges such as healing, luck, miracles, and other supernatural phenomena. Additionally, this form of spirituality offers hope for an afterlife.

Religion is the most common pathway to spirituality in human societies. The spiritual knowledge often attributed to religions comes from the spirits associated with those religions, including revelations recorded in scriptures and historical accounts of significant events. Therefore, when religion is mentioned in this book, please understand it as a vehicle for spirituality.

It's important to note that many religious followers may adhere strictly to religious practices without experiencing a direct connection with the spirits behind their faith. Such individuals may be more religious than spiritual. Religion has been the face of spirituality for many ages in humans history, therefore, based on this context, science versus religion may still refer to science versus spirituality.

Historical Interplay

The historical relationship between science and religion is an architecture woven with threads of cooperation and contention. While popular narratives often emphasize moments of conflict, such as the Galileo affair or the trial of John Scopes, a more nuanced view reveals instances of collaboration and mutual influence.

In the ancient world, early scientific inquiry often flourished within spiritual contexts. Ancient civilizations, such as those in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece, intertwined their cosmological speculations with spiritual cosmogonies. Early scientists, such as Pythagoras and Aristotle, saw their inquiries into the natural world as consonant with spiritual pursuits.

During the Middle Ages, Islamic scholars preserved and expanded upon the scientific knowledge of antiquity, laying the groundwork for the European Renaissance. Figures like Ibn al-Haytham and Ibn Sina made significant contributions to fields ranging from optics to medicine, all while operating within a religiously informed worldview.

The Scientific Revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries witnessed a divergence between scientific and religious authorities, as new discoveries challenged established cosmologies. Galileo's telescopic observations and Kepler's laws of planetary motion presented a heliocentric model that contradicted prevailing religious doctrines. These conflicts, often exaggerated in retrospect, marked a turning point in the relationship between science and religion.

Methodological Distinctions

Fundamental differences in methodology and epistemology distinguish science from spirituality. Science relies on empirical evidence, testable hypotheses, and peer-reviewed experimentation to advance knowledge. Its conclusions are provisional, subject to revision based on new evidence or more robust theories. In contrast, religion draws upon revelation, tradition, and spiritual experience to articulate truths about the divine and the human condition. Its authority often derives from sacred texts, religious leaders, or communal interpretation.

These methodological distinctions do not necessarily preclude dialogue or cooperation between science and religion. While they may operate in distinct spheres, they often intersect in questions of ethics, meaning, and existential inquiry. Recognizing the limitations and strengths of each approach can foster a richer understanding of the complexities of reality.

In the chapters that follow, we will delve deeper into the nuances of the relationship between science and spirituality, exploring areas of complementation, conflict, ethical consideration, and the quest for harmony and integration. Through this exploration, we aim to shed light on one of the most enduring and profound dialogues in human history.

CHAPTER TWO – CONFLICTING VIEWS

While science and religion share common aspirations, their relationship is often characterized by tension and conflict. In this chapter, we examine the historical, contemporary and future sources of disagreement between these two worldviews, exploring areas where their paths diverge and the implications of these conflicts.

Contemporary Debates

In the modern era, debates between science and religion continue to shape public discourse on issues ranging from evolution to bioethics. The theory of evolution remains a flashpoint for controversy, with proponents of creationism and intelligent design challenging the scientific consensus on the origins of life. Scientists in their own world believe to have provided overwhelming evidence supporting evolutionary theory, but resistance to its acceptance persists in many religious communities with their own convictions and evidence.

If science were to confine itself to the realm of humanity and permit religion to extend beyond it, there might be less conflict between the two. Each side possesses ample evidence to support its claims, but they often exceed their domains: for instance, when a church promotes prayer over medical treatment for healing the sick, or when science attempts to explain or negate the Almighty God, frustrated by its perceived unreachability through scientific means.

However, there are areas of convergence. Some spiritual practices demonstrate the ability to heal the sick through prayer, charms, or herbal remedies, while science can

influence natural phenomena like rainfall, traditionally considered under divine control. Both disciplines should acknowledge and respect each other's spheres of influence.

Similarly, advancements in reproductive technologies, genetic engineering, and artificial intelligence raise ethical questions that intersect with religious teachings on the sanctity of life, human dignity, and moral responsibility. Debates over issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research highlight the complexities of navigating ethical dilemmas in a rapidly advancing technological landscape.

Epistemological Clashes

Fundamental differences in methodology and epistemology underlie many conflicts between science and religion. While science relies on empirical evidence and rational inquiry to discern truths about the natural world, religion often appeals to revelation, tradition, and faith as sources of authority. These differing approaches can lead to clashes when scientific findings challenge religious beliefs or when religious doctrines conflict with scientific evidence.

Historical, Recent and Future Conflicts

Throughout history, the dynamic interplay between science and religion has been marked by a series of conflicts, dialogues, and evolving relationships. From the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Greece to the modern era of globalization, tensions have often arisen as these two domains of human understanding grapple with questions of truth, meaning, and authority. These conflicts

have been shaped by differing epistemological approaches, societal norms, and the shifting boundaries between the sacred and the secular. Understanding the history of conflicts between science and religion provides valuable insights into the complex interplay of ideas, power dynamics, and cultural forces that continue to shape our understanding of the world. We shall briefly examine some conflicts between religion and science in history, recently, and possible conflict in future.

i. Galileo Galilei's Affair

Throughout history, moments of conflict between science and religion have arisen when scientific discoveries challenged established religious doctrines or authority. Perhaps the most famous example is the Galileo affair, in which Galileo Galilei's support for the heliocentric model of the solar system clashed with the geocentric cosmology endorsed by the Catholic Church. Galileo's advocacy for heliocentrism indeed led to significant conflict with the religious authorities of his time, particularly the Catholic Church. At the heart of the matter was the clash between empirical evidence, as demonstrated by Galileo's observations through his telescope, and the entrenched religious views of the Church.

Galileo's support for heliocentrism challenged the prevailing geocentric model endorsed by the Catholic Church, which held that Earth was at the center of the universe. This challenge was not merely scientific but also theological, as it directly contradicted certain interpretations of Scripture that placed Earth at the center of God's creation, for one example, as the Holy Bible mentions an hierarchy of heights like heaven, earth, and under the earth in Revelation 5:3. Galileo's ideas were seen as a challenge to the authority of the Church, which

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