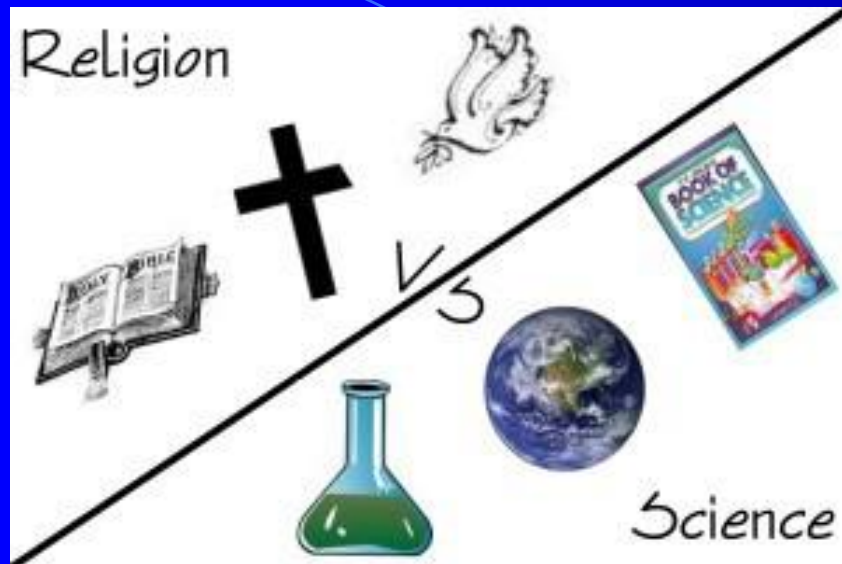


Possibility of Inclusion Science & Religion



Professor V. V. Raman

PWR: Toronto Nov 4 2018

MY RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE

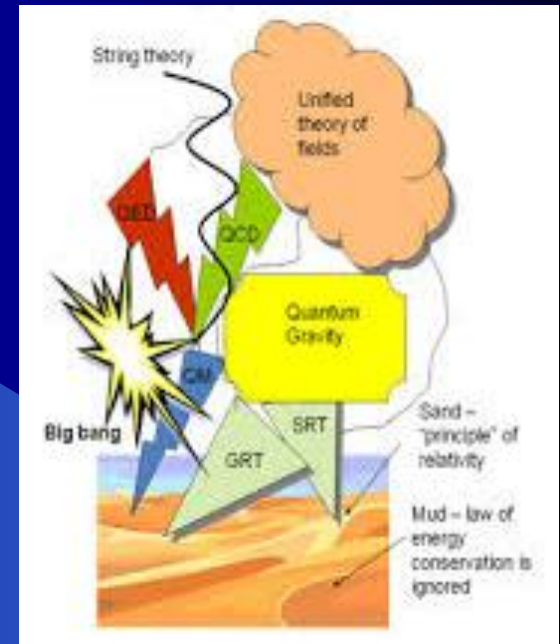
एकं सद्विप्रा बहुधा वदन्ति

I come from the Hindu tradition one of whose key tenets is that there is but one Ultimate Truth which is called by different names by knowledgeable people.



MY SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE

I have embraced and am immersed in the Modern Scientific worldview by which our understanding and appreciation of **Perceived Reality** should be based on careful observations and must be **coherent, consistent, and rational**.



ENLIGHTENMENT - 1

I come from the Eastern tradition where Enlightenment means merger with the Cosmic Whole, and Recognition of the seamless oneness behind the colorful variety in human experience.



ENLIGHTENMENT - 2

I also subscribe to the
Modern Worldview where
Enlightenment implies:

Freedom to think and speak.

Tolerance of divergent views.

Equal Rights for all races,
classes and genders.

Repudiation of theocratic
dominance in the political
arena.

VALUES
OF THE
ENLIGHTENMENT

REASON
SCIENCE
PROGRESS
LIBERTY
TOLERATION

Human Life

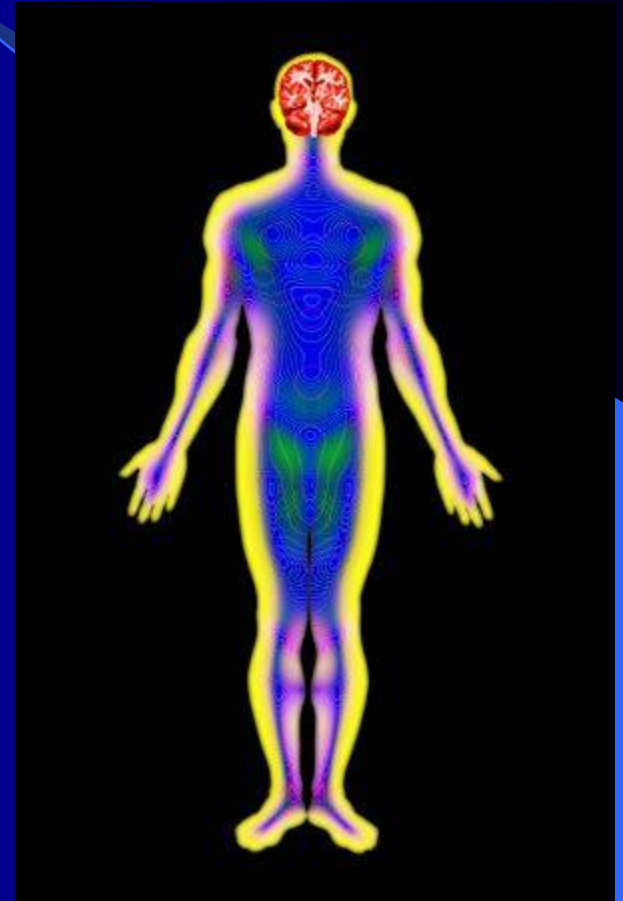
Human life is the experience of embodied consciousness for a bracket of time in the long stretch of cosmic history.

Humans explore the World and explain Perceived Reality.

So we have SCIENCE.

They reflect on Existence and search for meaning in life and the purpose of living.

So we have Religion.



Science & Religion

An important expression of the intellectual dimension of Homo sapiens is Science.



Major expressions of the spiritual dimension are the Religions of the human family.



TWO LOFTY EXPRESSIONS

Sc & Rel, two lofty expressions of the human spirit, have been intertwined since humans first exclaimed, "What a magnificent world this is!" And they wondered "What made the magical arc in the sky!"

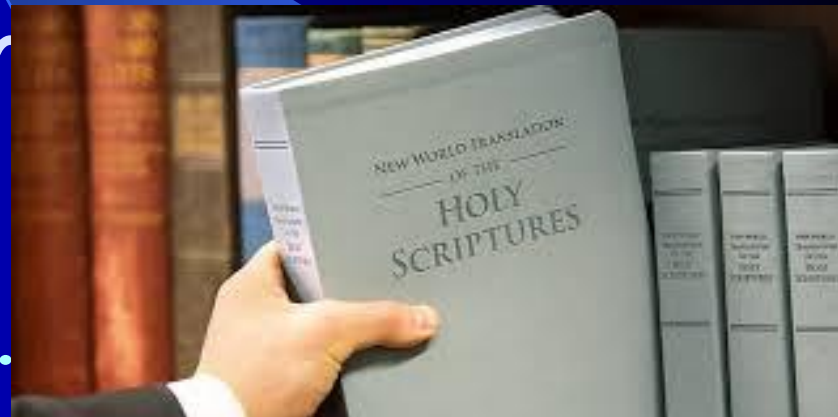


ANCIENT WORLD

Science and religion went hand in hand for many centuries.

The same sacred books: the Vedas, Zend Avesta, Dhammapada the Bible, the Qur'an: all spoke of God and Universe, about heaven and humans in & explained the genesis of the world.

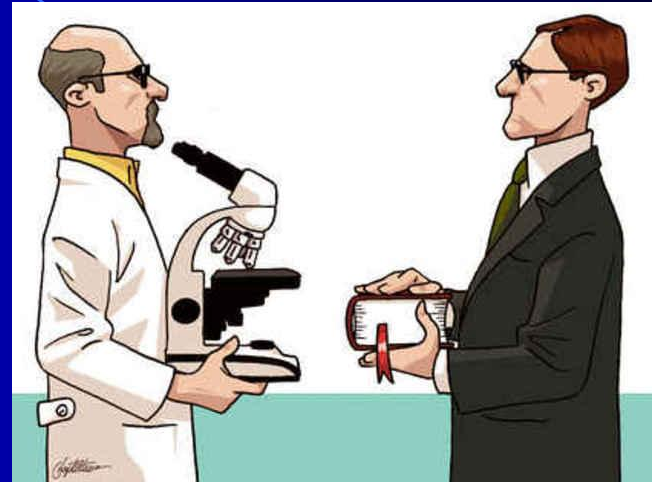
They all extol the Divine.



Divergence

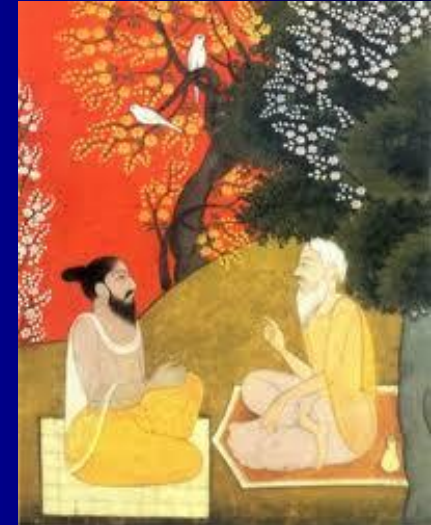
In the 16th & 17th centuries: Modern Science began to articulate worldviews at odds with long-held notions as to the nature of the physical world.

Science and Religion began to see each other differently.



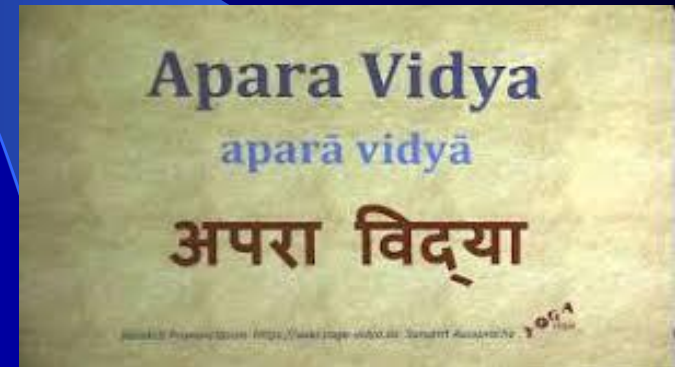
Apara and Para Knowledge

Upanishadic Thinkers
in ancient India
spoke of two kinds of
knowledge:



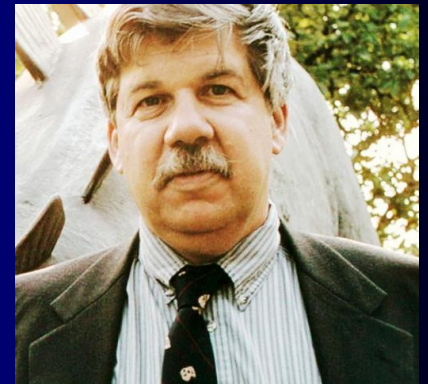
Apara: worldly

Para: transcendental



OTHER VERSIONS OF KNOWLEDGE DICHOTOMY

Al-Ghazali (12th cent.) argued effectively that logic and reason are inapplicable, even dangerous if applied to sacred scriptures.



Averroës formulated the **double-truth tenet**.

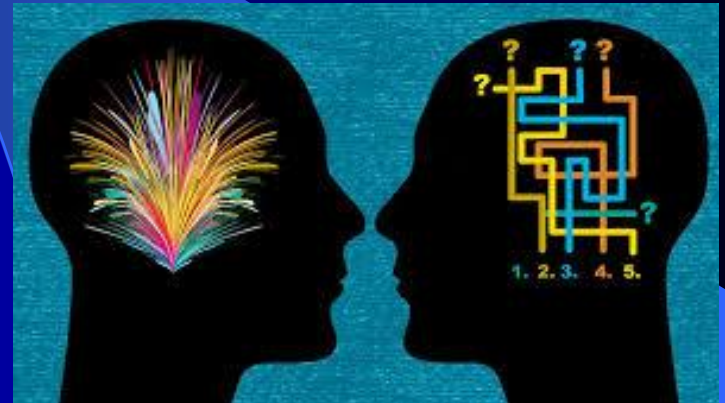
Gould's **NOMA** thesis is a modern re-casting of this.



Injection of Logic in Religion

In his attempt to refute Averroës, Thomas Aquinas thrust Aristotelian logical thinking into religion.

In the process he spurred the emergence of what was to become the intellectual field of Christian theology.



What is Science

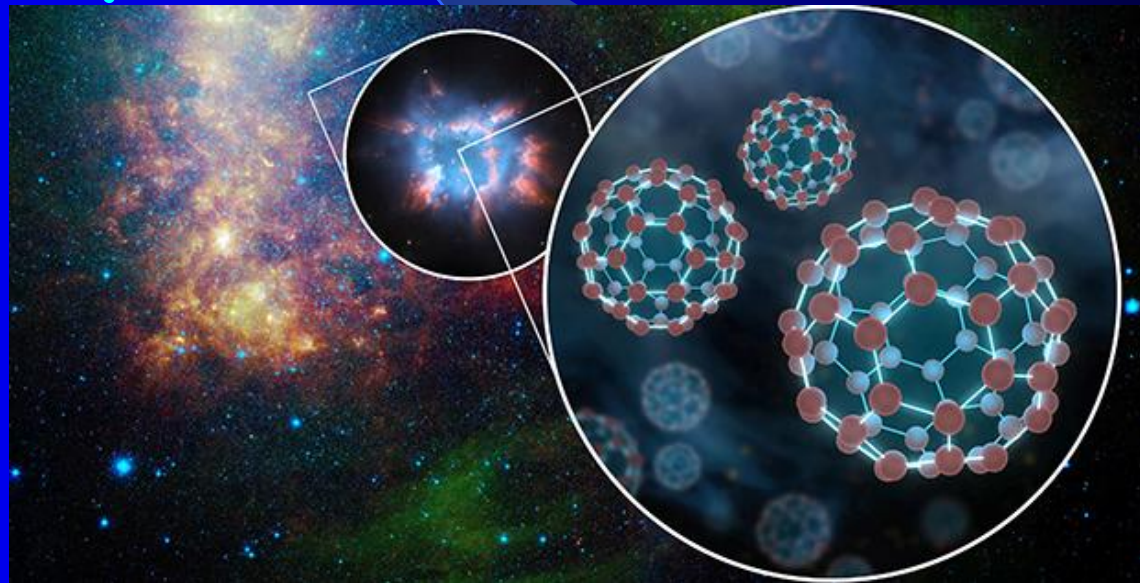
Science is a collective effort to grasp the world of perceived reality in consistent and coherent ways in the framework of reason, rationality, and empirical evidence, with mathematics when possible.

Science is culture invariant.



The Range of Science

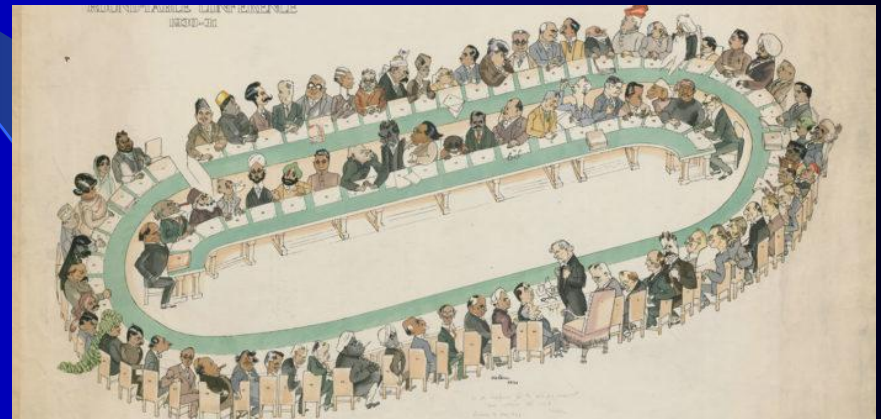
We live in an age rich in its knowledge of the world. We have come to know a good deal more about mute matter, throbbing life, measuring mind, and the expansive universe than ever before in human history.



The Internationalization of Science

The scientific revolution initiated a universality as never before.

That it had roots in earlier civilizations, from Hindu & Chinese to Greek and Islamic makes it all the more glorious as a momentous episode in human history.



Worldview of Religion

Like science, religion is also a collective enterprise. It invariably belongs to a community of people, not just to an individual and to his or her family. Its tenets have to be *accepted* rather than proved or confirmed.

Religion is culture-centric.



The Human Spirit and Communion

- The totality of human consciousness that experiences, reflects, and creates is the human spirit.
- Emerging from biology & physiology, it has dimensions beyond the material dimensions of life.



Yearning

- Religions are manifestations of a deep yearning. Many healthy human beings experience a profound need to reach out which is at the root of religious expressions



Uniqueness of Religions

- Doctrinally and in their historical course, every religion is different from the others.
- This is because they arose at different times, in different cultures, and in different historical contexts.



LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE

Skeptics don't recognize that the yearning for spiritual experience is not a quirk of the mentally challenged, but a deep-felt aspect of healthy human hearts.



SPIRITUAL LIFE

INCLUSIVE VISION FOR SCIENCE

The goal of Science is
To explore the phenomenal
World in coherent and
consistent ways.

In the process science must
learn to respect the ways
people find spiritual
fulfillment through meaningful
visions of the Beyond
as taught be the Religions of
the Human Family.



BRINGING INCLUSIVENESS

The PWR builds bridges of understanding, harmony, and mutual respect, and lessens the hurt, harm, suffering and pain from unpleasant inter-religious encounters.

In this project perhaps it can also strive to make Science and Religion mutually inclusive.



INCLUSIVE VISION FOR RELIGION

Leaders of all faith systems may collectively declare that while doctrinal truths and prophetic messages are true,

Their articulations in different cultures and resonances in different hearts must be respected as Will of the Divine.



POLYODOSISM

Es führen über die Erde Strassen und
Wege viel. Aber alle haben Dasselbe Ziel.

(Hermann Hesse)

Many paths and ways on earth
do lead: But all of them have
the same goal indeed.

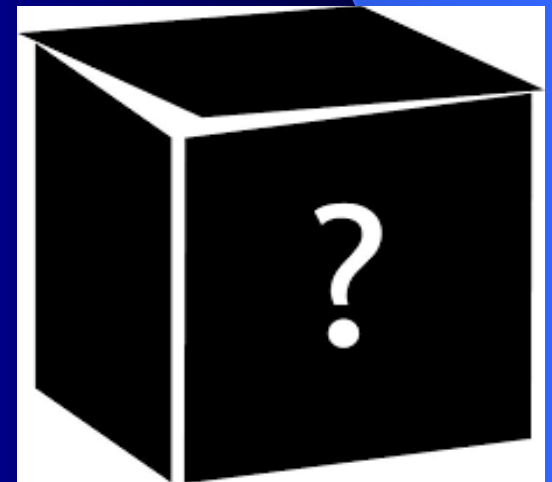
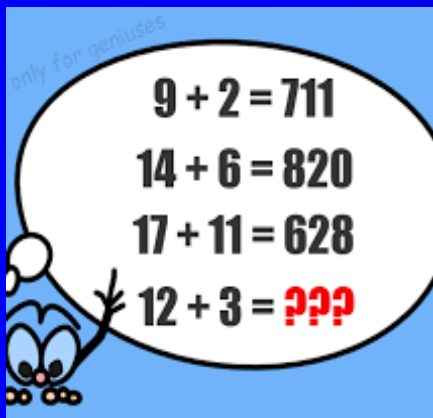
As Waters falling from the clouds
Return to the self-same sea,
Prostrations to all the gods
Go to the same Divinity.



MYSTERIES

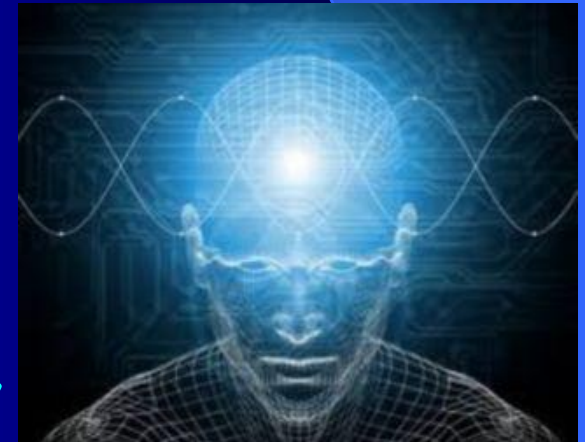
We are confronted with Mysteries in Life.
They are of three kinds:

1. Trivial: simple puzzles in everyday life that are easily solved
2. Significant; Occurrence of natural phenomena: Solved by Science.



GRAND MYSTERIES

- Underneath it all are some **Grand Mysteries**.
- The mystery of Existence: of a world with its stupendous range and richness in variety.
- Of a mind that reflects, a heart that rejoices.
- Above all the flicker of
- consciousness that is
- aware of and experiences it all, and the mystery of after-death.



Two Kinds of Reactions to Grand Mysteries

Spiritual fulfillment from answers of a Traditional Religious visions.



Contemplate on them with humility and Reverence, recognizing the limitations of the human mind.



REFLECTIONS

Cape of Good Hope - 1998.

In striving to recognize the primacy of Fire and Light.

I feel kinship with my Zoroastrian sisters and brothers.

In striving to respect the Ten Commandments, I feel kinship with my Jewish S & B.

In striving to be kind to neighbor and the needy,

I feel kinship with my Christian S & B.



In the recognition that religious wisdom
flows from the Masters,
I feel kinship with my Sikh sisters and
brothers.

In striving to surrender myself completely
to the Divine,
I feel kinship with my Muslim sisters and
brothers.

In striving to be compassionate to
creatures great and small,
I feel kinship with my Buddhist and Jaina
sisters and brothers.

In the recognition that serving fellow humans should be the goal of all,
I feel kinship with my Bahai sisters and brothers.

In my reverence for plants and trees,
for lakes and mountains,
I feel kinship with my Native American sisters and brothers.

In my respect for those who see the world only as natural phenomena arising from physical laws,
I feel kinship with my Religious Naturalist sisters and brothers.

In feeling that all these and more are
all paths to the same Unfathomable
Mystery,

I feel kinship with my Hindu sisters
and brothers.

In my love and laughter, joy and pain,
I feel kinship with all my fellow
humans.

In my need for nourishment and
instinct to live on,
I feel kinship with all beings on the
planet.

In my spiritual ecstasy
in this wondrous world,
I feel kinship with
the Cosmic Whole.



**Let us Pray for the
Knowledge that comes from
Science and for the Peace
and Compassion that come
from Awakened Religions**



