

# Perception in the Science/Religion of Religion/Science

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*“Your eyes can deceive you, don't trust them!”* Obiwan Kenobi

Do I really need a fictional character to tell me something that should be clear and obvious to everyone? Maybe I do, simply because what is supposed to be so clear and obvious, obviously is no such thing.

The vast majority of people are fooled over and over again by what they see. As the old saying goes, “seeing is believing.” Yet, ancient wisdom and modern science both agree on one basic thing, what our eyes see is very much indeed limited, and there is a whole lot more to see than what the eyes can see, and a whole lot more to understand than what we presently understand.

The foremost problem in discovering the unseen and the unknown is not human prejudice and fear, but rather human laziness and apathy. Frankly, not enough people care, not enough people want to see the unseen. Most are simply satisfied with their pitiful little pieces of life, doing mundane things, and living no different from animals, who eat drink and tomorrow die.

As long as human beings act like animals they will always be subject to the fate of animals. Only human beings who rise to the potential of being fully human ever achieve becoming fully human. And to accomplish this, one must look into the unseen, overcome apathy and laziness, and then venture into the unknown.

Discovery in religion follows the same path as discovery in science. The closed mind sees nothing, whereas the open mind can discover profound depths that have always been there, but until now remain unseen. Discovery is not creating something new. Discovery is finding out what already is there, but until now has gone unnoticed. Creativity is a great personality attribute, but curiosity and courage are traits far more valuable.

Most people follow their religions simply because they are there. They were raised in their religion, they are comfortable in their religion, so that is where they stay, and that is what they do. Most never bother to question, or even to think, does what my religion teach really make sense? Is what my religion teaches all there is to know about what religion is supposed to teach?

Most never bother to question. Most that do question may discover answers that they do not like, and then they stop asking any more uncomfortable questions. After all,

curiosity does have its price, and most are not willing to pay the price of their curiosity, and certainly, not the price of their convictions.

Because the majority do not budge from their places of mental comfort, the process of discovery moves forward with tedious slowness. While the lazy public moves at a snail's pace, and for the most part, lives no differently from any other animal here on Earth, there are those select few who brave to be fully human.

The brave and lonely few move forward by themselves, into the undiscovered country, that none less than God Itself has waiting for each individual to individually discover. As it is in the realm of science, so too is it in the realm of religion.

Here now is one revelation that should be clear and evident, but unfortunately, because of the laziness of the mind remains in clouded controversy and confusion. Know this then: **in the beginning, science and religion were one and the same, and in the end, science and religion will again be one and the same.**

Science and religion both point to the same ultimate and objective truths. Both might describe these truths using different forms of descriptions. Nevertheless, whether one uses prose or poetry to describe what one sees, that which is seen is what is there. How one perceives it and how one describes what one perceives, these are different. ***True science and true religion do not argue over the language of described perceptions, but rather, together, they seek to transcend the languages of personal perceptions, to get to the truths underlying them all.***

Religion is supposed to be the beliefs in universal truths. Yet, how can something be universally true, when the universe, nature, and common sense all combine to prove that certain beliefs are fundamentally far from any truth. Unlike with science, religion declares itself above the need of proofs.

Religion declares itself a matter of faith, and therefore views itself immune to scrutiny, and beyond any need to prove itself to anyone. After all, nonbelievers are either apostates, blasphemers or infidels, and why would be belittle ourselves to responds to the insulting denials of apostates, blasphemers and infidels? The faithful religious know well that, in the end, all those God-damned disbelievers are all going to suffer never-ending torments for their disbeliefs. So, why care about them anyway? It is attitudes such as these that are unnatural, abnormal and definitely dangerous.

It is attitudes such as these that are unnatural, abnormal and definitely dangerous. Yet, how many religious faithful believe them? The religious faithful may not express these words verbatim, but how many embrace these ideas in their hearts, and never seek to find common ground with those different from themselves? As long as world outlooks remain narrow, and remain limited by unnatural doctrinal faiths, how can we ever expect natural and spiritual discovery to ever move forward?

The human mind is relatively a lazy thing. **People would much rather just be told what to believe rather than have to think for themselves. This is why religions prosper.** Religions attract those who don't want to think objectively, but instead are willing to accept what it is that they are being told, regardless of how much sense such beliefs may or may not make.

Thinking independently means thinking individually. Individual thinking means leaving the pack behind, and to venture out on one's own, to "where no one has gone before." This is indeed frightening, but in the end, it is the most rewarding. For **discovery comes to the one who searches for it.** As it is in the realm of religion, so too is it in the realm of science. One has to be willing to challenge and change in order to manifest new discoveries.

Long ago an ancient Sage said with regards to the Torah, "flip it and flip it, for all is in it." Centuries later, Torah mystics declared that there are as many ways to understand the Torah, as there are people to understand it (shishim rabbo persushim latorah). This is not a recipe for anarchy. On the contrary, it is a recipe for tolerance and inclusivity.

Granted, with the applications of Law, there are specific parameters, but with regards to the discovery of universal truth, there can never be any man-made, artificially conceived boundaries. **The exploration of truth must be allowed to take us anywhere that truth is to be found, regardless if such domains are feared to be sacrilegious.** If something is true, then it can never be sacrilegious.

Religion in general needs to be confronted. While we affirm and laud the attribute of faith, we must never allow faith to be used as an excuse to justify a lazy mind that does not want to think. The truth is out there, for those who wish to open their eyes, and think about what it is that they are seeing.

Physical vision and internal insight might conflict, and when they do, the wise words of the fictional Obiwan Kenobi come to mind, "your eyes can deceive you, don't trust them. While your physical eyes can blind you from seeing the truth, your inner spirit that seeks discovery will show you things that your physical eyes cannot see, or are unwilling to see.

**When we apply scrutiny to religion, as we do with science, we will discover the truths that religion always seems to point to, but never seems to reach.** Learn to think! Exercise your minds and overcome the slumber of convenience and laziness.

**Torah is science and science is Torah. If this is not seen, then Torah is not known.** There are many realities hidden from our minds because we chose not to see them. Our self-imposed blindness does not make that which we refuse to see go away. The ignored is still there, regardless of our ignorant denial of it.

When we decide to awaken to a new world, then indeed, we will! There is so much waiting for the one willing to see the unseen.