

The Tyranny of Religions

Fideism is the offensive offspring of ignorance and arrogance, which is identified with religion. By themselves, ignorance and arrogance are seriously tyrannical, but together their malice is compounded. When cultures fixate belief in time-stopped intelligence, it creates "fideism." Fideism builds its own discipline of absolutism to justify fixation; it imposes social controls that presume divine blessing. The imposition of institutionally insisted religion is unbearable, even as Jesus found in his time.

The corrective of cultural/ religious ignorance and arrogance is *evolving consciousness* based on real-life experience and open communication that advance insights into errors of fixation and opportunities of change. Fixation of faith and intelligence in time-locked understandings can and does become tyrannical and culturally degrading, a condition prevailing in and underlying the crises of the day.

Fideism is idolatry for it fixates closed thinking that presumes to be absolute, and is used to identify and compromise divinity—an intrusion that puts self-arrogation on a par with God. Theism and atheism are equal opportunity idolatries, for both have self-determined fixations that are closed to common sense and experience.

The Second Vatican Council addressed the defect of cultural religions; its enduring gift is the illumination of a process that engages cultures to shift from fixation to process by letting faith and reason speak to the consciousness of evolving experience, that is, in admission of the reality that nothing in human experience is time-stopped, including faith and reason. The process is evolution. (Const. IV, Vatican II, "*Gaudium et spes*", Intro. 4)

The mutuality of faith and reason is the universal corrective to fixated belief/ intelligence. Tragically, old-guard religions do not admit to the deception in fideism, its ignorance and arrogance; nor do they accept the necessary evolution of faith.

Biblical history documents justification of wars and violence in divine electionism. People dare to put words in God's mouth and invoke self-justification for their violence in God's name. Wars are about access and control of people, public resources and nature. Wars work to the ultimate destruction of nature and people. As to the wasting of people and nature in our time nothing is of greater importance than shifting cultures from justifying wars to waging peace that heals relationships and restores nature.

The universal crises of today (ecological spoliation) also root in the idolatry of cultural self-electionism and presumption on God; this cultural insolence can and must change. Process-faith/ reason brings new insights to cultural experience and makes change possible away from violence to reconciliation and restoration — what is "intentional symbiosis", nature's pattern, God's plan.



Mitigating the Cultural Divide between Faith/ Reason

In my more than fifty years of personal commitment in the quest of reconciling religion and science, faith and reason, I've intentionally disengaged myself from dependency on institutions so as to freely speak truth to institutions, whether scientific, religious, academic or governmental.

Personal independence has been an asset but also a liability. To my advantage my objectivity isn't prejudiced by threats of recrimination, but as an outsider institutions mostly ignore me, so I have to rely on my own resources to win public acceptance, a price I'm willing to pay.

Institutions have to be self-serving to a certain extent if they are to survive and function, which is appropriate as long as their function validly works to the public good; but, when institutions lose their public service rationality, they become intolerable public burdens.

Institutions that have lost their sense of public service need to go out of existence. The public should tell institutions in no uncertain terms when they lose their sense of public service. People know that institutional insiders become self-serving and vitiate the altruism that justifies the institution. When institutions predominantly serve insiders, they become opportunistic and culturally invalid. Obviously, insiders who created the rationale that preys on the public are not going to help the public escape its predicament.

Nature's way is by way of consciousness that functions organically, that is, from the bottom up, not from the top down as patriarchal culture and dominion theology conspire to make us believe.



WISDOM as Process

Wisdom is the cumulative consciousness of self-reflective reason, of understandings acquired over time by process of reason that become sustaining grounds of faith.

Faith is the certainty of reason, the enduring confidence of intentional rationality, updated, analyzed and purposefully synthesized as new learning is acquired and requires.

Intelligence obtains in nature in purposeful outcomes, what is the tri-form process of harmonizing insight and experience; communication reconciles conscience, conscience reconciles consciousness, and conscience reconciles communication. Reconciled harmonics happen in all processes of energy/ substance accommodation.



Intelligent Design: Nature's Pattern, God's Plan

Intelligent Design obtains in nature by the cosmic process of purpose encoded in the complexities of reconfiguration and transformation — what is evolution. Social enlightenment is about the reflective sense of intelligence that obtains in the process of reason, what is “Trimorphic Resonance”

Earth/ cosmic “intelligent design” is the accommodating, patient process of symbiosis, the evolution of sustainable experience and self-reflection, nature's pattern, God's plan.