

Bridging Science and Spirituality – A Personal Voyage¹

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My dear brothers and Sisters.

My dear friends, it is a great pleasure for me to think and feel about brotherhood as I'm writing this text. Sharing... all that is dearest to me. My life's purpose has always been to connect with others, even when I didn't know that.

I had the good fortune of meeting the Theosophical Society when I was a teenager, before going to the university and before choosing a career, and I think that was of huge importance in how I always looked at science. It didn't stop me from choosing a career in science, and even a very specific and practical area of knowledge, chemical engineer. However, my vision of it was different from my colleagues' point of view... some of them even began reading Krishnamurthy later on. Not many, we must say. But it's not number that counts!

Most of the thinking that makes science grow happens with persons who escaped the conditioning at school, who escaped the "thinking inside the box" that school can induce. Newton, for instance, did his discoveries about gravity when the university had to close its doors because of the plague, and he saw himself with two years with nothing to do. He passed days and days in the fields, seating under the trees... and dreaming.

While looking at what surrounded me, I always loved to understand how things are. But I escaped the temptation to take the answers for good and reducing the complex to the sum of the parts, like a machine, or even thinking science was superior to all other areas of knowledge. I owe this to my first encounter with The Theosophical Society. It spared me [to] a lot of disappointments.

The dissociation of man from the whole and the principle of utilitarianism, developed in the 19th century, has conducted mankind to a dangerous path, the destruction of the environment and even of life on Earth. Utilitarianism that came as a consequence of the need of science to escape the domination of the religious dogmas, necessary for its development, unabled science to grow from its childhood, understanding that everything there is on Earth and even in the Universe has been placed here for our benefit. Positivists from the Vienna Circle, that counted mathematicians and physicists among them, had the dream of reaching the truth through science reducing every idea to small "atomic" parts, whose sum could describe the essence of everything and could help construct every scientific theory that could represent the most profound understanding of nature and man.

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However, Heisenberg, a physicist, with his Uncertainty Principle, in 1927, and Godel, a mathematician, in 1931, with his Theorem of Incompleteness, caused the collapse of this dream and the physicists of the 20th century finished the process.

The Principle of Uncertainty of Heisenberg introduced an unsolved problem to scientists. From that moment they knew they were not mighty, since they will never reach the Truth...

It has been very difficult to men and woman of science to leave the safety of determinism and positivism. Einstein, for instance, never accepted the Uncertainty Principle, since he thought [sought] "God doesn't play dice with the Universe...". And he believed, as many scientists do, that we all are part of something bigger than the sum of all of us.

These are some of his words:

"A human being is part of the whole, called by us 'Universe'; a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest -- a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

As I've read somewhere, one day he was interviewed by a journalist, and he had a book on his desk. It was *The Secret Doctrine*. I don't know if it is true, but I have no difficulty in accepting that he was influenced, as many scientists have been, by the secret doctrines of all times.

Human beings are used to establish a border between themselves and nature, between them and all the other human beings. We allow Some of them to come closer, children, lovers, but all the others usually stay out of this protection circle.

We are all different from one another. On the surface we are different. I have certain abilities that others don't have and I have certain difficulties that others don't. This makes each of us unique. However, diversity is what makes us complementary to each other. Just as if it was a vessel seen from different perspectives. But the whole is necessary to contain the water. Only by bringing the parts together and creating a unity which surpasses the sum of separate parts can it fulfill its purpose.

Each of us is trying to achieve peace and safety... and those states of security are totally denied to the majority of the mankind. And we forget that consciousness in human beings is only one, has been one since the very beginning, in spite of the physical separation. J. Krishnamurti said, during his talks with David Bohm, that once we capture the nature of thought, the structure of knowledge and how it operates, its origin, we have no doubt that we are one in our essence, because consciousness, unlike the body, is not an entity that is part of an individual, but it is shared by all individuals.

But we, that live our lives wanting to be different, wanting to act differently, have one principle to attend and to guide us, the First Principle of Theosophical Society. We know that nothing can be done to a nation that doesn't affect the other; nothing can be done to someone that doesn't

affect us. Let's not forget that our first and most important principle is to form a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or color.

Each of us is immersed in our little plans to save mankind. Sometimes only to save part of it, the part that concerns us the most...ourselves...

It is important that science, its study and its use, can serve mankind and not the opposite. Let's get together and work to achieve that.

So be it!

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