

Healing Materialism

*resolving the division in the psyche of Western Civilization that appears
in the surface conflict between Science and Religion over Evolution*

by Joel A. Wendt
social philosopher ... and occasional fool

introduction

Neither institutional religion, or institutional science, knows the truth about either evolution, or the relationship of the Divine Mystery to the question of human origins. The debate, from both sides, is superficial. Institutional religion, lost in a vanity of belief systems, which by the way seldom agree with each other, too often tries to force the facts into a preconceived rigid system of ideas. Institutional science, ignores their own history, wherein was left behind all kinds of unanswered questions that ultimately have become hidden, unjustified and illogical assumptions.

When the two sides to the debate talk, they have nothing real to say, and what is worse, the effect of their activity is harden the dialog, not soften it. Instead of both pursuing the truth in concert, each ultimately wants to assert a primacy of point of view. The general culture of modern humanity is then divided. People, who otherwise need their religious and scientific experts to help them understand the world, are more and more isolated into essentially war making camps.

The resolution of this apparent (illusory) conflict, attempted in this proposed book, will not please either side. But then this book is not written for either side. It is written for ordinary people who would like to be rational (scientific) *and* religious (freely spiritual). As a hint as to what is to come, the resolution (the re-integration) of Science and Religion is to be found through Art.

thematic outline

part one

the present points of view

Why we don't want to throw out either Science or Religion.

The Central Problem: an absence of a study of mind, *from the inside*. Properly done this study leads to an Art of Cognition, that in turn unites

Rationality and Religiosity in the individual out of the disciplined forces of the will as applied to the underlying practices and experiences of thinking, feeling and willing.

The Theory of Evolution as currently expressed by its most ardent defenders.

Creationism and Intelligent Design as currently expressed by their most ardent defenders.

part two

some unknown modern critics of the theory of evolution

Ronald Brady and his essay: Dogma and Doubt.

Don Cruse and his writings on the problem of language.

part three

some modern critics of institutional religious systems of belief

Sam Harris et al: the new atheists.

Rudolf Steiner and other modern heretical Christian thought.

part four

appreciating the past - questions asked and then left unattended

Owen Barfield's book: *Worlds' Apart*.

The wonderful examination of these problems by the novelist Neal Stephenson in his 6 novel, three volume work: *the Baroque Cycle*.

part five

Bringing the old questions alive once more into the present superficial debate - thus finding its true depths.

Individual free thought, and the end of the priesthoods of both religion and science - how to decide the truth here for yourself.

Carl Sagan's justifiable worry, as related in his book: *the Demon Haunted World*.

Healing materialism one individual at a time - the conscious, and scientific, re-ensoulment of Earth and Cosmos.