

H-9

## JUDIASM AND SCIENCE: A REVIEW OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

### I. Past relationships.

A. Religious attitude towards Science. Mostly negative, even oppressive, as Copercinus, Darwin. But these conflicts mostly with Catholics. Judaism always friendly.

1. Talmud: KI HEE CHACHMASCHEM U'VINASCHEM LE' ENEI HA' GOIM - T'KUFOS U' MAZOLOS.
2. Rav ( Abba Aricha): Animal anatomy, studied 13 years.
3. Shmuel (Yarchinai) Astromomy and medicine, autopsys.
4. Maimonides. Medicine, math, astronomy, physics.
5. Yehuda Ha'Levy. Medicine,
6. Vilna Gaon: Mathematics.

B. Sciences attitude towards Religion. In 19th century was usually foolishly anti-religious. Mechanistic philosophy. With maturity of Science, most great Scientists devout religionists. Betrand Russel last of great Scientific atheists, and even he writes differently nowadays.

### II. The conflicts.

A. Usually aggravated by people who know little about Science and less about Religion. But three major fields of irratation.

1. Geology. Earth millions of years old. Jewish tradition - 5713.
2. Evolution. Evolving forms and common descent of man and animal. Bible - full creation and separate lineage.
3. Determinism. Given all facts, mathematics could predict all future with certainty. Religion - free will.

### III. Attitudes towards conflits.

A. Religion and Science have nothing to do with each other. Religion deals with Spirit, quality, supernatural; Science with matter, quantity, natural. Jews cannot accept this theory, because Judaism is this-wordly and deals with

Man in relation to his natural environment. Examples: Kiddush Ha'Chodesh, Kosher Law, All of Halacha.

B. Religion and Science are in mortal conflict and every man must make his choice. Is equally un-Jewish. Jews have always believed in harmony between Reason and Revelation, Fact and Faith. Maimonides on Harmony between natural Science and Bible.

C. Religion and Science have different functions but they overlap. Acceptable.

Scientific advancement affects Man's welfare and thus his spiritual status; Its discoveries testify to an all-knowing Creator. Religion based on life, therefore must use and harmonize with Scientific fact. But Religion deals primarily with purposefulness of life. Bible not to be treated as Scientific Text. Story of creation intended for moral truths, not scientific cosmography. Primarily describes not what things are, but what they should be. (Story of Jew who complained against Bevin - that Torah says Israel belongs to Jews. Answer; Bevin an Am-Haaretz) At same time, deplore Scientism. Do not make religion of Science. Man is fallible. (Story of Darwin and humbug)

#### IV. The conflicts themselves.

A. Geology. Though there is no perfect Scientific proof, evidence is convincing.

But: 1. Tradition begins with first Historical man. Adam and HaAdam.

2. Zohar and Medrash Rabba on many ages. Bible discusses only our Historical age.

3. "Day" and "year" may mean Eons.

B. Evolution.

1. Is accepted as Scientific Gospel. But no Scientist ever saw evolution in a test tube. At best a good theory not law. (Experiment with Dean Isaacs on Bacteriol survival of the fittest.)

2. Even then; read Genesis - creation follows evolutionary pattern; increasing complexity.

3. Talmud on evolution: Adam had a tail (based on observation of vestigial organs) and birds once amphibious (webbed feet).

4. Evolution acceptable if we believe in divine creativity as causing evolving forms
5. Sages knew of species becoming extinct, as: TACHASH BI'YEMAI MOSHE  
And creation of new species in evolutionary pattern, as NACHASH HA'KADMON
6. Kinship of Man to animal physically not objectionable.

C. Determinism.

1. Religious view : Free Will
2. Mechanistic view: All facts known , future predictable with certainty.  
Hence, no freedom.
3. Modern view ( Quantum physicists)
  - a. Uncertainty Principal: Limit to Man's knowledge.
  - b. Laws of probability. Statistics replaces strict causality.  
Unpredictability. Example of Radium atom.

V. The situation as of today.

- A. The conflicts that do exist tend to broaden our experience and knowledge.
- B. Basically, Science can neither prove nor disprove Religion. But, as Scientists delve deeper into Science they incline to religion.
- C. And, as Religionists delve deeper into Religion, they come to appreciate Science which manifests the ordered handywork of G-d.
- D. The basic attitude of Judaism, its vitality and reasonableness, demonstrated by an organization as Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists.