

January 2012 The Science of Your Beliefs

I was taught that when Copernicus became aware that the Sun rather than the Earth is at the center of the solar system, he created an irreversible schism between faith and reason. Ever since, intellectuals have looked down upon those whose lives are based on faith, and the religious among us have fought back from a base of moralistic dogma.

Most of the educated and influential men in the 16th century were clergy. The “scientists” of that era were supposed to be finding ever-more clever ways to validate biblical verse. We have gone far from there, haven't we? Nowadays, it is assumed that to be a scientist requires a sort of atheistic worship of the primacy of reason. It is interesting to note, however, that Copernicus was a devout man. For him, the study of the cosmos was a path toward a deeper and truer alignment with God. For it is the part of man to perceive the beauty of what God hath wrought.

And it seems to me that for the common man in his daily life, whether the Sun or the Earth is the center of the Universe is inconsequential, and that really he enjoys a sense of wonder and awe at whatever view of creation he holds without losing any sleep, virtue, productivity or faith. We can simultaneously know of the existence of viruses and still believe strongly that prayer can summon protection against them.

It feels true to me that there is such a thing as a virus and it feels true to me that there is a God. In fact, I would like to propose that “knowledge” and “belief,” “reason” and “faith,” and many other similar words simply describe feelings. We use “knowledge” when we can reproduce measurable evidence in support of the feeling, and “believing” when we “just know.”

Copernicus completely changed the way we viewed the world around us. Or did he? Is it not possible that most of us – the 99%, to use a current term – live our lives somewhere between faith and reason?

2011 was all about stripping away the disguises. May I suggest what we are learning is to allow ourselves and others to listen to the inner self, the one that knows what feels true from what doesn't? Nobody can get away with ignoring the truth any more.

I believe the next Copernican revolution is underway, and that it has to do with listening to what your heart is telling you. And even more, that it has to do with the power of humanity to create from love rather than fear. What we are discovering now is that our hearts are the center of the universe.

As 2012 gets underway, make a resolution to keep track of all the ways you are listening to your heart instead of to your fears. Create a science of the ways in which faith works for you. Collect data on the power of love to better your world.

God bless you,

Jon