

SCIENCE & RELIGION

An Interfaith Dialogue

Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 142
The Urantia Book

Abdu'l-Baha : There is no contradiction between true religion and science.

The Urantia Book : True science can have no lasting quarrel with true religion. (P.2078 - §5)

Abdu'l-Baha : When a religion is opposed to science it becomes mere superstition: that which is contrary to knowledge is ignorance.

The Urantia Book : Science teaches man to speak the new language of mathematics and trains his thoughts along lines of exacting precision. And science also stabilizes philosophy through the elimination of error, while it purifies religion by the destruction of superstition. (P.907 - §7)

Abdu'l-Baha : How can a man believe to be a fact that which science has proved to be impossible? If he believes in spite of his reason, it is rather ignorant superstition than faith. The true principles of all religions are in conformity with the teachings of science.

The Urantia Book : In reality, true religion cannot become involved in any controversy with science; it is in no way concerned with material things. Religion is simply indifferent to, but sympathetic with, science, while it supremely concerns itself with the scientist. (P.2076 - §7)

Abdu'l-Baha : The Unity of God is logical, and this idea is not antagonistic to the conclusions arrived at by scientific study.

The Urantia Book : The discriminating study of science logically suggests the reality and existence of an Absolute. Religion believes unreservedly in the existence and reality of a God who fosters personality survival. What metaphysics fails utterly in doing, and what even philosophy fails partially in doing, revelation does; that is, affirms that this First Cause of science and religion's God of salvation *are one and the same Deity*. (P.1106 - §6)

Abdu'l-Baha : All religions teach that we must do good, that we must be generous, sincere, truthful, law-abiding, and faithful; all this is reasonable, and logically the only way in which humanity can progress.

The Urantia Book : Religion ministers to the progress of all through fostering the progress of each individual, and the progress of each is augmented through the achievement of all. (P.1094 - §1) Science vainly strives to create the brotherhood of culture; religion brings into being the brotherhood of the spirit. (P.1122 - §4)

Abdu'l-Baha : All religious laws conform to reason, and are suited to the people for whom they are framed, and for the age in which they are to be obeyed.

The Urantia Book : Religion is the most rigid and unyielding of all human institutions, but it does tardily adjust to changing society.(P.1004 - §4)

Abdu'l-Baha : Religion has two main parts:

(1) The Spiritual.

(2) The Practical.

The Urantia Book : The acid test for any religious philosophy consists in whether or not it distinguishes between the realities of the material and the spiritual worlds while at the same moment recognizing their unification in intellectual striving and in social serving. A sound religious philosophy does not confound the things of God with the things of Caesar.(P.1114 - §3)

Abdu'l-Baha : The spiritual part never changes. All the Manifestations of God and His Prophets have taught the same truths and given the same spiritual law. They all teach the one code of morality. There is no division in the truth.

The Urantia Book : ...these teachers were the temporal personality fulcrums on which the levers of revealed truth depended for the advancement of the morality, philosophy, and religion of mankind.(P.1009 - §1) Divinity becomes known by indivisibility, by oneness. "*The Lord God is one.*" (P.31 - §6)

Abdu'l-Baha : The Sun has sent forth many rays to illumine human intelligence, the light is always the same.

The Urantia Book : There really is a true and genuine inner voice, that "true light which lights every man who comes into the world."(P.1104 - §3)

Abdu'l-Baha : The practical part of religion deals with exterior forms and ceremonies, and with modes of punishment for certain offences. This is the material side of the law, and guides the customs and manners of the people.

The Urantia Book : Religion has always been largely a matter of rites, rituals, observances, ceremonies, and dogmas. (P.1005 - §4) Religion achieves its highest social ministry when it has least connection with the secular institutions of society.(P.1086 - §1)

Abdu'l-Baha : In the time of Moses, there were ten crimes punishable by death. When Christ came this was changed; the old axiom 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth' was converted into 'Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you', the stern old law being changed into one of love, mercy and forbearance!

The Urantia Book : The olden concept that God is a Deity dominated by kingly morality was upstepped by Jesus to that affectionately touching level of intimate family morality of the parent-child relationship, than which there is none more tender and beautiful in mortal experience.(P.40 - §6)

Abdu'l-Baha : In the former days the punishment for theft was the cutting off of the right hand; in our time this law could not be so applied. In this age, a man who curses his father is allowed to live, when formerly he would have been put to death.

The Urantia Book : Such beliefs are utterly repulsive to the celestial beings and the divine rulers who serve and reign in the universes. It is an affront to God to believe, hold, or teach that innocent blood must be shed in order to win his favor or to divert the fictitious divine wrath.(P.60 - §3)

Abdu'l-Baha : It is therefore evident that whilst the spiritual law never alters, the practical rules must change their application with the necessities of the time.

The Urantia Book : The spirit of religion is eternal, but the form of its expression must be restated every time the dictionary of human language is revised.(P.1087 - §3)
Religion must become a forceful influence for moral stability and spiritual progression functioning dynamically in the midst of these ever-changing conditions and never-ending economic adjustments.(P.1086 - §5)

Abdu'l-Baha : The spiritual aspect of religion is the greater, the more important of the two, and this is the same for all time, it never changes! It is the same, yesterday, today, and for ever! 'As it was the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.'

The Urantia Book : The goal of human self-realization should be spiritual, not material. The only realities worth striving for are divine, spiritual, and eternal. (P.1096 - §3)

Abdu'l-Baha : Now, all questions of morality contained in the spiritual, immutable law of every religion are logically right. If religion were contrary to logical reason then it would cease to be a religion and be merely a tradition.

The Urantia Book : Religion is the ancestor of the advanced ethics and morals of progressive social evolution. (P.1104 - §2) Modern religion finds it difficult to adjust its attitude toward the rapidly shifting social changes only because it has permitted itself to become so thoroughly traditionalized, dogmatized, and institutionalized. (P.1088 - §1)

Abdu'l-Baha : Religion and science are the two wings upon which man's intelligence can soar into the heights, with which the human soul can progress. It is not possible to fly with one wing alone! Should a man try to fly with the wing of religion alone he would quickly fall into the quagmire of superstition, whilst on the other hand, with the wing of science alone he would also make no progress, but fall into the despairing slough of materialism.

The Urantia Book : A logical and consistent philosophic concept of the universe cannot be built up on the postulations of either materialism or spiritism, for both of these systems of thinking, when universally applied, are compelled to view the cosmos in distortion, the former contacting with a universe turned inside out, the latter realizing the nature of a universe turned outside in. Never, then, can either science or religion, in and of themselves, standing alone, hope to gain an adequate understanding. (P.1135 - §7)

Abdu'l-Baha : All religions of the present day have fallen into superstitious practices, out of harmony alike with the true principles of the teaching they represent and with the scientific discoveries of the time.

The Urantia Book : The overstressed and isolated morality of modern religion, which fails to hold the devotion and loyalty of many twentieth-century men, would rehabilitate itself if, in addition to its moral mandates, it would give equal consideration to the truths of science, philosophy, and spiritual experience, and to the beauties of the physical creation, the charm of intellectual art, and the grandeur of genuine character achievement. (P.43 - §2)

Abdu'l-Baha : Many religious leaders have grown to think that the importance of religion lies mainly in the adherence to a collection of certain dogmas and the practice of rites and ceremonies! Those whose souls they profess to cure are taught to believe likewise, and these cling tenaciously to the outward forms, confusing them with the inward truth.

The Urantia Book : Sectarianism is a disease of institutional religion, and dogmatism is an enslavement of the spiritual nature. It is far better to have a religion without a church than a church without religion. (P.1092 - §1)

Abdu'l-Baha : Now, these forms and rituals differ in the various churches and amongst the different sects, and even contradict one another; giving rise to discord, hatred, and disunion.

The Urantia Book : In the spiritual fellowship of the believer-son with the divine Father there can never be doctrinal finality and sectarian superiority of group consciousness. (P.1965 - §2)

Abdu'l-Baha : The outcome of all this dissension is the belief of many cultured men that religion and science are contradictory terms, that religion needs no powers of reflection, and should in no wise be regulated by science, but must of necessity be opposed, the one to the other.

The Urantia Book : The materialistic scientist and the extreme idealist are destined always to be at loggerheads. This is not true of those scientists and idealists who are in possession of a common standard of high moral values and spiritual test levels. (P.1457 - §3)

Abdu'l-Baha : The unfortunate effect of this is that science has drifted apart from religion, and religion has become a mere blind and more or less apathetic following of the precepts of certain religious teachers, who insist on their own favourite dogmas being accepted even when they are contrary to science.

The Urantia Book : In every age scientists and religionists must recognize that they are on trial before the bar of human need. They must eschew all warfare between themselves while they strive valiantly to justify their continued survival by enhanced devotion to the service of human progress. If the so-called science or religion of any age is false, then must it either purify its activities or pass away before the emergence of a material science or spiritual religion of a truer and more worthy order. (P.1457 - §3)

Abdu'l-Baha : This is foolishness, for it is quite evident that science is the light, and, being so, religion truly so-called does not oppose knowledge.

The Urantia Book : Truth is the basis of science and philosophy, presenting the intellectual foundation of religion. (P.647 - §1) Man tends to crystallize science, formulate philosophy, and dogmatize truth because he is mentally lazy in adjusting to the progressive struggles of living, while he is also terribly afraid of the unknown. (P.1459 - §3)

Abdu'l-Baha : We are familiar with the phrases 'Light and Darkness', 'Religion and Science'. But the religion which does not walk hand in hand with science is itself in the darkness of superstition and ignorance.

The Urantia Book : The highest attainable philosophy of mortal man must be logically based on the reason of science, the faith of religion, and the truth insight afforded by revelation. (P.1137 - §5)

Abdu'l-Baha : Much of the discord and disunion of the world is created by these man-made oppositions and contradictions. If religion were in harmony with science and they walked together, much of the hatred and bitterness now bringing misery to the human race would be at an end.

The Urantia Book : Science sorts men; religion loves men, even as yourself; wisdom does justice to differing men; but revelation glorifies man and discloses his capacity for partnership with God. (P.1122 - §3)

