

Speak Your Mind

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A Toast to the Moment

by Diana Giesbrecht

This summer I attended The New Synergy of Science, Religion and Spirituality, a public lecture and workshop August 14 & 15, 1998.

The keynote speaker and facilitator was Brian Swimme, Ph.D, teacher, author, and mathematical cosmologist. Dr. Swimme's message is that "faith gives birth to new forms of humanity." He feels that the human task today is to consciously "orient ourselves in the world." To turn humans into consumers fits the idea that the universe is a machine which we can take apart and reassemble anywhere. Greed is a slide into this sub-(machine) religion.

"What is the role of humans in the universe?"

To the question, "What is the role of humans in the universe?", society's answer today is "be a consumer." But consumerism is a distorted focus on long-term human development.

Imagination, on the other hand, is courage. Science penetrates reality, but the shock of what we learn is too much for our consumer religion. For example, Copernicus' idea that the earth moved around the sun put humans at odds with their own sensory awareness. Society back then said the idea is ridiculous! Copernicus, however, found a way to recognize truth - his revelation deepened his religious sensibilities.

Dr. Swimme says that we have two stories - one from religion and one from

science - which we keep separate. Rather than question life's meaning - question how these two stories fit together - society shrivels to consumerism. Schizophrenia sets in.

Synergy, however, restores balance. Faith gives us the strength to explore possibilities. We work out that the sun is the centre of the universe. Courage of imagination moves people. We go through a change and develop more sensitivity to what we receive. The potential is for religion and science to come together in our understanding. The significance of synergy is a new understanding within the individual.

This task, to develop a new understanding, gives birth to wisdom: the moment of destruction turns into the moment of grace.

