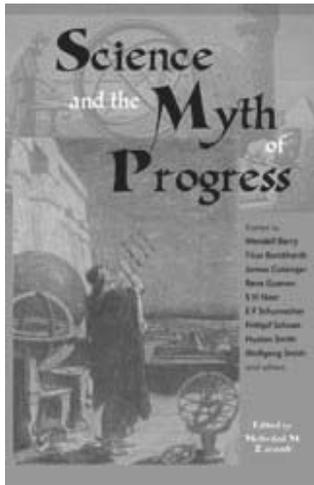


Science and the Myth of Progress



The scientific and technological marvels of today's world are generally viewed as evidence of humanity's advancement and as liberation from various forms of ignorance and prejudice—in short, as proof of human progress. Yet many of our most thoughtful and well-informed contemporaries are voicing second thoughts about this almost universally accepted notion.

For some, it is the ecological, social and human crises of our time that have led to this reexamination. For many scientists, however, the reason lies in the nature of the scientific discoveries themselves. Since the second half of the twentieth century, questions of how we know what we know—or what constitutes knowledge—have entered more and more into the realm of science.

The essays in this book show why this convergence is taking place. More importantly, they go beyond the practical problems and beyond conjecture to the very root of the issue. The core distinction is between a quantifiable knowledge about the “how” of existence and a qualitative Knowledge that perceives the “why” of existence. These authors share a clear consensus that the ground of this Knowledge is to be found in Traditional Wisdom.

What others have said about Science and the Myth of Progress

“Modern science believes—and fears—that by a kind of endless curiosity about the mechanism of material reality, we will eventually encompass—and thus exhaust—the enigma of existence in thought. The articles in this collection make it clear that the corollary is a vain effort to achieve a material utopia whose fulfillment always eludes us. In doing so, they bring a fresh enjoyment to the journey of discovery that science really is.”

- **Prof. M. S. Alouini**, University of Minnesota

“Here are essays from respected scholars, both inside and outside the scientific community, who share a clear consensus that physical existence can be understood adequately only as a manifestation of a higher, supra-formal reality which is spiritual. Those searching for an alternative to conventional wisdom that can stand up to scrutiny will be well pleased with these essays. Highly recommended.”

- **Dr. Fariba Bahrami**, University of Waterloo

“Dr. Zarandi's science training and teaching experience at Caltech has served him—and his readers—well. He has the gift of being able to describe the operating premises of modern scientific thought and their limitations. Whether you are a scientist, scholar or simply someone who takes life seriously, this book will encourage you to reexamine your most basic assumptions about life. Each reader's understanding of the human condition is improved by this thoughtful collection.”

- **Prof. A. Shakouri**, Quantum Electronics Group, University of California



*What issues are addressed in **Science and the Myth of Progress**?*

- ❖ Is material or physical reality the only form, or the central form of reality?
- ❖ Is the rational faculty the central form of human knowledge?
- ❖ Is the most profound and complete definition of human nature given by our knowledge of material reality?

What readers will be interested in this work?

Science and the Myth of Progress will interest a wide variety of readers:

- ❖ The relationship between science and faith is currently **one of the most widely-discussed social issues**. There are dozens of professional organizations in America involved in this ongoing debate in the form of conferences, lectures, workshops and publications, both at the popular and academic levels. This is in addition to the many new books by individual authors that continue to appear each year.
- ❖ The **scientific community** will be interested to see this analysis of the distinction between the practical aspects of research and the philosophical foundations of science.
- ❖ **Students and serious readers** of comparative religion, the history and philosophy of science, as well as a broad range of humanities and science fields, will find many valuable insights concerning how what we believe about science is related to our sense of values and what is ultimately important in life.

Additional publication information

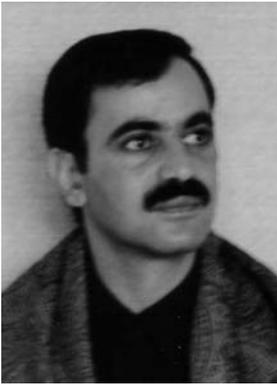
Science and the Myth of Progress contains a detailed index and biographies of the contributors.

Science and the Myth of Progress has an expected publication date of Spring 2003 and a price of \$19.95.

Editor of the new release by World Wisdom

Science and the Myth of Progress

Mehrdad Zarandi



Mehrdad Zarandi was born in 1963 in Kerman, Iran. From an early age, he had a keen interest in science and mathematics. His undergraduate studies brought him into contact with the works of contemporary Perennialist authors, whose perspective has had a profound effect on his intellectual formation. He earned Master of Science and Doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the California Institute of Technology, where he has continued to work as a research scientist in aeronautics and biomedical engineering. During this time he was adjunct professor of physics at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. In addition to his technical research and publications, he has enjoyed a wide range of teaching experiences with undergraduates in mathematics, chemistry, physics and the history and philosophy of science.

His interest in the correspondences between metaphysical principles and their expression within cosmology and science led to his collecting the essays for this anthology.

Contributors of essays in Science and the Myth of Progress

Osman Bakar is a former Professor of Philosophy of Science and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. He is one of the founding members and has also served as President of the Islamic Academy of Science of Malaysia. Dr. Bakar has written a dozen books and more than 100 articles on various aspects of Islamic thought and civilization, both classical and contemporary.

Wendell Berry is a conservationist, farmer, essayist, novelist, professor of English and poet. The *New York Times* has called Berry the “prophet of rural America.” He is the author of 32 books of essays, poetry and novels. He is a former professor of English at the University of Kentucky and a past fellow at both the Guggenheim Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. He has received numerous awards for his work including the T. S. Eliot Award. He was born in Kentucky, where he still lives on a farm with his wife.

Titus Burckhardt was one of the primary authors of the Traditionalist school of thought. He wrote on metaphysics, cosmology, art, architecture, alchemy, symbolism and traditional civilization. An anthology of his work, *The Essential Titus Burckhardt*, will be published by World Wisdom in Spring 2003.

James S. Cutsinger is Professor of Theology and Religious Thought at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of *Advice to the Serious Seeker: Meditations on the Teaching of Frithjof Schuon* (1997), and the editor of both *Reclaiming the Great Tradition: Evangelicals, Catholics, and Orthodox in Dialogue* (1997) and the recent *Paths to the Heart: Sufism and the Christian East* (2002).

William A. Dembski is a mathematician and a philosopher. He holds postgraduate degrees in philosophy, statistics, mathematics and theology. Dr. Dembski is the author of seven books and numerous articles on mathematics, philosophy and theology. He is an associate research professor at Baylor University and senior fellow with Discovery Institute’s Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture.

Charles le Gai Eaton was born in Lausanne, Switzerland of British parents in 1921. He was educated at Charterhouse and Kings College, Cambridge. After wartime services in the British Intelligence Corps, his professional life has included diplomatic service, teaching and journalism and has taken him to four continents. He currently works as a consultant to the Islamic Cultural Center in London.

René Guénon, born in France in 1886, is considered by many to have been the forerunner of the Traditionalist school of religious thought. His books, *The Crisis of the Modern World* (1927) and *A General Introduction to the Study of the Hindu Doctrines* (1921), have become classics in their field and continue to have a strong impact on intellectuals of both East and West.

Donald McLeod Matheson is best known as a translator for the works of the Perennialist authors Frithjof Schuon and Titus Burckhardt.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr is one of the world's most recognized authorities on Islam. He is University Professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University and the author of over 30 books and three hundred articles on topics ranging from comparative religion to traditional Islamic philosophy, cosmology, art, ecology and mysticism. His books include *Ideals and Realities of Islam* (1966), *Knowledge and the Sacred* (the 1981 Gifford Lectures), *Sufi Essays* (1991), and *Religion and the Order of Nature* (1996).

Michael Robert Negus is the former head of the science department at Newman College of Higher Education. He is the author of several articles on the interface of science and religion. In 1996, he was a joint winner of a Templeton Award for courses dealing with science and theology.

Lord Northbourne was a frequent contributor to the British journal *Studies in Comparative Religion*. Among his books, the most important are *Religion in the Modern World* (1963) and *Looking Back on Progress* (1970).

E. F. Schumacher was born in Germany in 1911. After WW II he worked as an economic advisor, and in 1955 he traveled to Burma as an economic consultant. This trip led to his development of "Buddhist economics." He was a pioneer of "appropriate technology," or technology matched to the scale of community life. His best-known work, *Small is Beautiful*, was first published in 1973.

Frithjof Schuon was the foremost expositor of the Perennialist perspective in the twentieth century. He is best known as a philosopher in the metaphysical current of Shankara and Plato, having written more than 25 books on metaphysical and religious themes. He was also a singularly gifted artist and poet, as shown in his books of selected paintings and mystical poetry. His analyses of the spiritual problems facing modern people and societies are unique in content and style and continue to influence a new generation of Traditionalist/Perennialist thinkers.

Giuseppe Sermonti is among the leading biologists in Italy. He is also one of the scientific community's leading critics of the theory of transformist evolution. Currently retired, he was formerly professor of embryology at the University of Perugia.

Philip Sherrard's works express a combination of metaphysics, theology, art and aesthetics. He was one of the founders of the British review journal *Temenos*. His works express an all-embracing vision, in which the natural and the supernatural come together in a wholeness that bears witness to the numinous wonder of life.

Huston Smith is widely regarded as one of the most accessible contemporary authorities on the religions of the world. He is currently the Thomas J. Watson Professor of Religion and Distinguished Professor (Emeritus) of Philosophy at Syracuse University. Dr. Smith's classic *The World's Religions* (1991, formerly *The Religions of Man*, 1958) continues to be standard reading in many university comparative religion courses. In addition to his many books, his film documentaries on Hinduism, Tibetan Buddhism, and Sufism have all won international awards.

Wolfgang Smith graduated from Cornell University at age 18 with a B.A. in mathematics, physics and philosophy. He has taught physics at M.I.T., U.C.L.A and Oregon State University. His dominant interest, however, is in metaphysics and theology. He is the author of three books, *Cosmos and Transcendence* (1984), *Teilhardism and the New Religion* (1988), and *The Quantum Enigma* (1995).