

Creating the Treasures of Your Truths and Mine

Science begins with ideas from observations:
builds scenarios that thrive on journalistic directness.
Its novelties are newly known theories and facts,
the best of them robust, unalterable,
crammed with promises of broad significance
for everyone, said to be valuable
because of objectivity.

Art begins with ideas from observations:
builds scenarios that thrive on metaphor and mystery.
Its novelties are sublime and outrageous:
take-it-or-leave-it, the best of them
boundlessly interpretable, accepted as subjective,
crammed with promises of personal meanings
for everyone, said to be valuable
because of subjectivity.

Science – formal and informal -- establishes
the successions and progressions of realities
on which the continued elaboration
of both science and the arts depend.

The mental capacities and tendencies that
facilitate the practice of art,
and render it joyous,
facilitate science as well,
and render it also joyous.

Realities deriving from use of the imagination
in either science or the arts -- or merely life --
may seem personal to the scientist or the artist
at every stage.

Realities derived from use of the imagination
in the arts are saved or accepted by personal choice
from the beginning,
can be rejected at will,
and also personally.

Realities deriving from use of the imagination
in science sometimes seem alien,
especially to the populace on which
they are necessarily imposed,
rather than merely invited or sought.

Science and the arts together
enrich the imagination,
imagination drives discovery,
discovery builds knowledge,
knowledge enriches lives.

Art and science each offer novel truths,
foster enthusiastic or fearful incredulity
over the richest of their contents:

one discovered via repeatable hence verifiable
procedures, a tearing down to rebuild further,
on more solid ground, the other on faith
via trust in unrevealed procedures, trust
imposed or accepted as a result of differentials
in the strength of human authority;

sets of truths valued either similarly by all
because they apply to interests common to all,
or offering diverse usefulnesses,
enhancing separately
the unique interests of individuals.

Science progresses with great difficulty
toward explanations of such as meanings,
emotions, likes and dislikes --
so far has tended to resolve problems
largely at physical or physiological levels,
through procedures thriving on reduction and
dissection, to levels conducive to analysis,
followed by slow reconstruction
toward admired and desired wholes.

Art exposes and creates novelty
in personal and emotional propositions,
often at their own level, seeking insights
more through sense-expanding meanings
than through sense-extending technologies.

The novelties of science and the arts
contribute to all our prospects,
adjusting physical and social possibilities,
extending personal and social meanings.