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Hope for Humanity: Science, Religion and Technology

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Abstract: Based on the hopes of the Nobel Laureate Anton Zeilinger, this article pleads for progress in science, technology and religion, which can make humanity a better and peaceful place. Affirming that there is no conflict between science and religion, the author pleads for an enriching and enhancing relationship between science and religion.

Keywords: Science-religion dialogue, hope for humanity, progress in science, progress in religion, progress in technology.

The Austrian physicist Anton Zeilinger one of the three Nobel Prize winners in Physics in 2022 “for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science”

The ability of two or more particles to coexist in what is referred to as an entangled state is one of the most amazing features of

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quantum mechanics. Even if two particles are far away, what happens to one of them in an entangled pair affects what happens to the other particle. Using entangled light particles, or photons, Anton Zeilinger carried out ground-breaking experiments in 1997 and 1998. These and other experiments support the validity of quantum physics and open the door to quantum networks, computers, and encrypted communication (Gregersen and Rafferty, 2022).

Zeilinger is a both a man of science and religion. "Some of the things we discover in science are so impressive that I have chosen to believe," stated the world authority on quantum speech.

Science, Religion and Technology

The fact that he is upbeat about the three most important facets of human life—science, religion, and technology—is astonishing. In a series of articles in *Edge* on what he is truly optimistic about, he mentioned these three things, already in 2007 (Zeilinger, 2022).

He has high hopes for the direction of science. Since only a few hundred years ago, science has been Humanity's deliberate effort to understand the natural world. It is either a show of arrogance or a lack of fantasy to think that we have uncovered the fundamentals of understanding Nature in such a short period of time. Science has so far been governed by the Cartesian distinction between *res cogitans* and *res extensa*, which Zeilinger believes to be false. It is untrue to think that the outside world exists without our ability to observe it. However, it is also incorrect to think that it only exists as a result of our observations. We must and will develop a brand-new perspective on reality that goes well beyond our current materialistic paradigm. After all, we have learnt from quantum physics that there is no such thing as a material existence. Probability fields, or probabilities of the outcomes of observations, are all that are left at the end. He firmly believes that science is at the beginning stages of its exploration. We shall have a fundamentally different understanding of the world than we do now (Pandikattu, 2022).

He has high hopes for the direction of religion. According to him, we shall learn to let go of the superfluous dogmas, regulations, definitions, and prejudices that many religions have amassed over the course of centuries and millennia. We will discover that they originated from human insecurities and the intrinsic desire of mankind to identify and comprehend even the indefinable and incomprehensible. He is certain that we shall find the fundamentals of what it is to be a human in this planet in all major religions. We will be successful in persuading religious and church leaders to be more adventurous, open to different points of view, and less reliant on what they believe to be their own access to the truth (Zeilinger, 2022).

One day, the current conflict between science and religion will be recognised as a conflict between opposing viewpoints, each of which is unjustified, even from their own point of view. Religion will discover that its essence is much deeper than fleeting problems like whether or not we were formed by evolution, and science will never be able to show that God does not exist. I think we'll eventually reach a coherent worldview that transcends both what we currently refer to as science and what we currently refer to as religion.

Further, he has high hopes for the direction of technology. Again, we haven't even begun to scratch the surface here. With quantum information technology, humanity is pioneering a technological area that, as far as we can tell right now, Nature hasn't employed in the course of evolution. He is certain that will be the case for the majority of future technology (Zeilinger, 2022). We will invent new concepts and new technologies that were only possible because we already had them. There is no other way to make things come to pass.

Conclusion

Zeillinger is optimistic about the future of humanity. He will remain upbeat as long as there are young people, individuals

who gaze up at the night sky in awe, music, poetry, the Mona Lisa, old monasteries, budding painters, beginning scientists, and all the other examples of human ingenuity. That brings to mind a statement made by Ravindra Nath Tagore: 'Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.'

Proper, integrated and adequate progress in science, technology and religion can save us. But not a one-sided growth. This is shown by this intellectual giant and faithful Christian!

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