

PERSPECTIVES IN PHILOSOPHY
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Noumenon and Phenomenon:
Rethinking the Greeks in the Age of
Science

by Edward Holloway

For over one hundred and fifty years the theologians have taken a lot of stick from the scientists, especially the physicists. Cardinal Newman warned them that it was coming. It did come, and they deserved it.

But now it is the scientists who are being thoroughly and stubbornly foolish. They must have the sense to realise that there can be no 'Answer', no final unity-law from physics. Whatever the ultimate vagaries of the embryonic universe - the quantum mechanics, the 'super strings', or what have you - if there is nothing more, the universe remains a primitive meaningless movement. Yet we know it did not so remain. The universe is an equation of forces and of beings mutually inter-defined from the first flash of evolution. It is ordered to higher intellectual unities, built upon basic forces, but never as unities, reducible to these.

If there is no God, no 'Logos', no *mind* principle responsible for the ever ascending unities of composite being, then science is intellectually unintelligible, and philosophy with it. *If intellect is not there in the beginning, it may not be slipped in afterwards.* The Greeks knew that. Do not cheat. Some scientists do cheat in this way. Some have been so minimally educated in the culture of man through the ages, that they do not know. Some simply do not want to know. They have been God for a long time, and they like it. Let us hear no more of 'Evolution' spoken of like a person: no more of 'Mother Nature'; there is no such fairy, except in the mythology of pseudo-science. If there is nothing more at the beginning than the probability amplitudes of quantum electro-dynamics, there will never be more than mindless movement - and therefore no personal mind.

And what about man? All that lives has its environment of life and law in the cosmos around. Man does not. Man transcends that order. Yet we all, and especially honest children ask questions of our local environers, mum, dad, teachers - *why? what for? why should I?* The very questions no scientist as such can answer.

The Millennium is a time when God should speak again. We think he has. It is a time to recall the lost legions of man back to know God and to love Him. There was One who said: "Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken; on whom Itself shall fall it will grifid him to powder." For the *Logos* is the Master of Science who as Master of Theology weaves without seam the meaning of Man.