

## Is Science the New Religion?

Are science and religion compatible? This is a question many of us may have asked ourselves, but it seems that, lately, science and religion are closer than ever, not only conceptually but also among their devotees. So it is more challenging to wonder beyond that irreconcilable idea: is science becoming the new religion?

Definitely, science's progress is astonishing. From the discovery of new animal species to the development of artificial intelligence or robotics (if we consider technology as part of science). Thus, the presence of science around the world is increasing significantly, making it easier to trust in it rather than in something which existence hasn't been proved. Currently, regardless of the possible compatibility of religion and science, it seems natural to choose between them. Statistics reveal that the number of atheist population is rising year by year, especially in Europe, North America and South-Asia. Is it a coincidence that these regions are the most advances in science, technology and innovation?

On the other hand, the trust and positive opinion of science is at one of its best ratings. So, could this mean there is a substitution happening? Religion isn't "appealing" anymore, some of its moral precepts, such as not lying, keeping chastity or the traditional family model, seem to be old-fashioned and even controversial for some people nowadays. We live in a new world where religion is associated with archaic traditions and beliefs. Furthermore, the multiple crises, violent conflicts and natural disasters that we have been witnessing during this century seem to make it even more difficult to believe in a good God. Some people, many of them, believers, feel like that they have been "abandoned" by their celestial father in such a cruel and violent world, and that increases the despair, disbelief and loss of faith.

However, science provides the contrary: hope, progress, comfort. Although true believers would agree that a good relationship with their God or deity also provides these things. However, science is meant to improve people's lives in a pragmatic, visible way. From google maps to a range of several robots who clean your house for you. Given that, how could not it be easier to have faith in what science can do for you if science itself foresees better and bigger improvements? There are people dreaming of driving a flying car, living on Mars or choosing their unborn baby's eye color, and it isn't surreal to think we could do any of these things some time. That is why people invest a lot of time in buying, comparing and using scientific inventions. Not only do they bring comfort and make life easier, they are also a good way to spend time, discovering new ideas, concepts and possibilities. Science allows us to "escape" from this reality, making us crave for a better world, or a better life.

And, after all, isn't this the same religions do? Science isn't just "taking over" the the time our ancestors dedicated to reach God through praying, praising or reading the

Bible (or any equivalent); science also makes people believe there is something more to come. There is something better waiting for us around the corner. A worldly Eden, comfortable, sustainable and accessible.

There was a time when all of this was God, and his heaven on Earth, but now, this could be comparable to the new Apple's invention.

**Susana Matondo Muñoz**