

CHAPTER 3

How futile the old arguments seem in view of these astonishing developments in scientific thought. It is time we brought our minds into line with the progress of science and gave up the meaningless controversies of an age gone by. It is true that science changes, and there is nothing dogmatic or final about it. But the method of science does not change, and it is to that we must

adhere in our thought and activities, in research, in social life, political and economic life, in religion. We may be specks of dust on a soap bubble universe, but that speck of dust contained something that was the mind and spirit of man. Through the ages this has grown and made itself master of the earth and drawn power from its innermost bowels as well as from the thunderbolt in the skies. It has tried to fathom the secrets of the universe and brought the vagaries of nature itself to its use. More wonderful than the earth and the heavens is this mind and spirit of man which grows ever mightier and seeks fresh worlds to conquer.

That is the task of the scientist, but we know that all scientists are not fashioned in the heroic mould, nor are they the philosopher kings of whom Plato told us in the days of old Kingliness might not be theirs, but even philosophising is often lacking, and the day's task follows a narrow sphere and dull a routine. As they specialise and specialise they must, they lose sight of the larger picture and become pedants out of touch with reality. In our country the political conditions under which we have had the misfortune to live have further stunted their growth and prevented them from playing their rightful part in social progress. Fear has often gripped them, as it has gripped so many others in the past, lest by any activity or thought of theirs they might anger the Government of the day and thus endanger their security and position. It is not under these conditions that science flourishes scientists prosper. Science requires a free environment to grow. When applied to social purposes, it requires a social objective in keeping with its method and the spirits of the age.

Questions

1. What must we adhere to in our thought and activities? Why?
2. What is the most wonderful thing in the speck of dust known as man?
3. What factors have prevented scientists in our country from being useful to society?
4. Under what conditions science can flourish?

Q What must we adhere to our thought and activities and why?

It is agreed upon that sciences ~~changes~~, and there is nothing fixed about it. However, the method of science does not change; therefore, we must adhere to the scientific method in our thoughts and activities.

Q What is the most wonderful thing in the speck of dust known as man?

Man is like the speck of dust on a soap-bubble universe. However, this speck of dust has a wonderful thing which is the spirit and the mind. This has made the man 'master of the earth'.

Q What factors have prevented scientists in our country from being useful to society?

The political condition in our country has prevented scientists to be useful to the society. They are reluctant in ^{even the} taking positive steps which may cause the government to be upset.

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They may lose their jobs or security if they committed something 'unliked' by the government — even if that action is useful to society.

Q Under what conditions science can flourish?

Science cannot flourish in a restricted environment in which every step in the forward direction is susceptible to being stopped by the political authorities. Rather, it grows in a free environment where the scientists are not concerned about ~~losing~~ ^{losing} their positions or security. Moreover, a social objective and spirit of the age are essential to use it usefully for the welfare of the society.

satisfactory

8/20 be careful about basic grammar