UICI 2022: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MANKIND

ISLAMIC SCIENCE Vs WESTERN SCIENCE

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A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE

- Faith in rationality
- Science for the sake of science
- One all-powerful method, the only way of knowing reality
- Emotional neutrality as the key condition for achieving rationality

ISLAMIC SCIENCE

- Faith in revelation
- Science is a means for attain the pleasure of Allah; it is a form of submission which has a spiritual and social function
- Various method including reason and revelation, objective and subjective, all equally valid
- Emotional commitment is essential for a spiritually and socially uplifting scientific enterprise
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE
• Impartiality – a scientist must concern himself only with the production of new discovery and not with the consequence of its use

ISLAMIC SCIENCE
• Partiality towards the truth: that is, if science is a form of worship (*ibadah*) a scientist has to concern himself as much with the consequences of his discoveries as with their production; worship is a moral act and its consequences must be morally good; to do any less is to make a scientist into an immoral agent
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE
• Absence of bias- the validity of scientific statements depends only on the operations by which evidence for it was obtained, and not upon the person who makes it

ISLAMIC SCIENCE
• Presence of subjectivity: the direction of science is shaped by subjective criteria: the validity of a scientific statement depends both on the operation by which evidence for it was obtained and on the intention and the worldview of the person who obtained it; the acknowledgement of subjective choices in the emphasis and direction of science forces the scientist to appreciate his limitations
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE
• Suspension of judgment – scientific statements are made only on the basis of conclusive evidence

ISLAMIC SCIENCE
• Exercise of judgment – scientific statements are always made in the face of inconclusive evidence; to be a scientist is to make expert; as well as moral judgment, on the face of inconclusive evidence; by the time conclusive evidence has been gathered it may be too late to do anything about the destructive consequences of one’s activities
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE
• Reductionism – the dominant way of achieving scientific progress

ISLAMIC SCIENCE
• Synthesis – the dominant way of achieving scientific progress, including the synthesis of science and values
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN

• Universalism. Although science is universal, its primary fruits are for those who can afford to pay, thus the secrecy is justified.

ISLAM

• Universalism. The fruits of science are for the whole of humanity. Knowledge and wisdom cannot be bartered or sold; secrecy is immoral.
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE
• Neutrality. Science is neutral, neither good nor bad

• Absolute freedom. All restraint or control of scientific investigation is to be resisted

ISLAMIC SCIENCE
• Value orientation. Science, like all human activity is value-laden; it can be either good or evil; “praiseworthy” or “blameworthy”. Science of germ warfare is not neutral, it is evil

• Management of science. Science is an invaluable resource and cannot be allowed to be wasted and go towards and evil direction; it must be carefully managed and planned for. It should be subjected to ethical and moral constraints.
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE

• Individualism – which ensures that the scientist keeps his distance social, political and ideological concern

ISLAMIC SCIENCE

• Community orientation; the pursuit of science is a social obligation (fard kifayah). Both the scientist and the community have rights and obligations on each other which ensure interdependence of both
## A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

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<th>WESTERN SCIENCE</th>
<th>ISLAMIC SCIENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Fragmentation. Science is too complex an activity</td>
<td>• Holistic. Science is too complex activities to be</td>
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<td>ant thus has to be divided into disciplines, sub-</td>
<td>divorced and isolated into smaller and smaller</td>
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<td>disciplines, and sub-sub-disciplines</td>
<td>segments. Science is a multi-disciplinary,</td>
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<td>interdisciplinary and holistic enterprise</td>
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A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE
• Group loyalty – production of new knowledge by research is the most important of all activities and is to be supported as such

ISLAMIC SCIENCE
• Loyalty to God and His creations – the production of new knowledge is a way of understanding the ‘signs’ of God and should lead to improving the lot of His creation – man, wildlife and legitimacy for this endeavor and therefore it must be supported as a general activity and not as an elitist enterprise
A COMPARISON BETWEEN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE

WESTERN SCIENCE
• Ends justify the means – because scientific investigations are inherently virtuous and important for the well being of mankind, any and all means - including the use of live animals, human beings and foetuses – are justified in the quest of knowledge.

ISLAMIC SCIENCE
• Ends do not justify the means – there is no distinction between the ends and means of science, both must be permitted (*halal*), that is, within the boundaries of ethics and moralities.
BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUSLIM SCIENTISTS

• To God – whose pleasure they must seek at all times

• To the Ummah – whose needs, requirements and problem must be the focus of their attention

• To themselves – for making the best of his life in this world and the hereafter
Reference: