How Science and Witchcraft Affirm One Another

The Good, the Bad, and the Magickal
By Anjel and Enku
Mystic South, 2023
OVERVIEW

Personal Introductions:
Anjel and Enku

Overview:

Overcoming historic and unnecessary antagonisms between science and spirit.
Think, Pair, Share

1 minute to jot down ideas:

1 minute to share with a partner (choose your partner now)

Some volunteer share-outs

Question:

To you, what is “science?”
Science is...

- The careful collection and analysis of data (observations) to make theoretical and empirical generalizations
- A growing body of knowledge and theory
- A community of practice and discussion
The Scientific Method

1. Observe natural phenomena
2. Formulate Hypothesis
3. Test hypothesis via rigorous Experiment
4. Establish Theory based on repeated validation of results
5. Modify Hypothesis
WHAT IS SCIENCE?

- **One powerful way of knowing about the world**
- **Using the scientific method in community**
- **Science is constantly, and collectively, evolving**
Tensions between Science and Spirituality

“Pseudoscience” - Fraught term

Science dismissing and overlooking people

Science does not address the big questions, because these are ineffable

Separation is a construct due to unexamined bias, but we’ll get to that.

Fundamentalist suppression of science

Evolution not being taught in school
It is difficult to get a man [sic] to understand something when his [sic] salary depends on his [sic] not understanding it.” - Upton Sinclair
Challenge #2: SCIENCE IN THE NEWS
The Importance of Scientific Literacy

We need to be able to assess the value of science.

“Performing science” vs. science

Conspirituality and Grifters using “science” to legitimize the grift

Turmeric will KILL YOU ALL (jk)
Confirmation and Zombie Statistics

HA! I KNEW IT!

CONFIRMATION BIAS

ALERT!

BE AWARE OF THE EARLY WARNING SIGNS:

* A FREE PASS TO A STUDY YOU AGREE WITH
* FATAL FLAWS ONLY IN STUDIES YOU DISAGREE WITH
* EASY RECALL ONLY OF DATA THAT PROVES YOU ARE RIGHT

A public service announcement brought to you by Absolutely Maybe at the Public Library of Science (PLOS) Blogs.
Scientific Paradigms:

Paradigm Shifts: Kuhn (1964) - what is a germ?

Spiritual roots of Science and the “roundup” of modernity

Science and colonialism - the false theory of “progress”

Paradigm examples: POSITIVISM, POST-POSITIVISM
The Promise of Science and Spirituality

Placebo effect and Unverified Personal Gnosis (UPG)

Archaic Revival

Animism and Shamanistic ecstatic practice is the oldest form of spirituality if we look at humans in evolutionary time scales

Episode 40: Paleolithic Magick with Leah Walden-Hurtgen
Syncretism with Science and Spirituality

Example 1: Mushrooms will save the world
- Mycorrhizal Fungi
- Mushrooms eating plastic in the pacific trash vortex
- Psychedelic therapy

Example 2: Humans
What we don’t know about ourselves
The necessity of art, magick, and science to the human experience
Interaction Ritual Chains (Colins); Emotional Energy (Durkheim)
Social science is everything we do, believe, and value
Topics from the podcast:

**Natural Science:**
- Botany - flowers, big trees
- Human evolution
- Elements: Fire, Water
- Mushrooms, psychedelics
- Crystals
- Flower Essences
- Magic of Breath
- Sourdough and Fermentation
- Lucid dreaming

**Social Science:**
- The history and practice of astrology
- Sacred pornography and sexuality
- Gender Render
- Survivalism and “naked and afraid”
- The troubled social science of Arbor Day
- Theurgy and deity devotions
- Magick and reproductive justice
- D&D and the Satanic Panic
Witchcraft is Adaptive

Witchcraft is adaptive and has the functional capacity that allows us to human better, survive, thrive and connect to each other and our environment.

Synchronizing science and spirituality is the pathway to continuity of humans as a species on this planet and as an exo-planet species.

Humans in evolutionary time: Archaic revival but also Star Trek

That’s why we always sign off with our Live Long and Prosper and Blessed Be.