

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

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Rezumat. *Lucrarea abordează o temă de interes contemporan – relația dintre știință și religie. Această relație este astăzi abordată din diverse perspective, cele mai interesante specificând întotdeauna complementaritatea dintre o relație a competiției și conflictului și una a toleranței reciproce și a dialogului.*

Abstract. *The paper approaches a theme of great interest in contemporaneity – the relationship between science and religion. This relationship is investigated nowadays from several diverse perspectives, the most interesting among these capturing always the complementarity between a relationship of competition and conflict and one of mutual tolerance and dialogue.*

Keywords: science, religion, dialogue, tolerance, conflict

I have chosen, as a general theme of this session, a theme widely debated: science and religion.

Some people may ask themselves questions regarding the reason why we are debating this strategic theme about which an extraordinary amount of literature already exists, now at the beginning of a new millennium and of a new century. Indeed, hundreds of thousands and millions of books and scientific studies have been written about the relationship between science and religion. Some were burnt in public squares; however, most of them are carefully preserved on book shelves in libraries and made available to everyone who takes an interest in them.

Now, the interest in such topics has invaded the virtual media at a speed that is in full accordance with our times, so fast in all respects. Thus, an interested website searcher was able to find no less than 833,000 sites on this topic, mid April this year. These sites provided information on books and reviews, articles, lectures, master degrees or Ph.D.s, conferences, seminars, news or comments. On the other hand, on the topic of the relationship between religion and civilization, the reader was able to get no less than 40,800,000 data. So, there is a wide and vivid interest on the issue of the existing relationship between religion and science, and this justifies our interest in this topic. Others, may as well, have doubts on our choice regarding the theme of this session.

Given some delicate aspects regarding the circumstances where the relationships between science and religion were not always governed by

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