

# Reflection on the Nature of Science: A Critical View

Patrick Neil M. Santiago

**Abstract:- People are delighted by scientific discoveries and inventions. However, absurdity occurs through man's extremities and discontentments. The inquiry and excessive activities of man depleted nature leading it to a devastating end. Man has been enslaved of his illusion and has become a victim of his futile ambition. This paper will investigate the nature and discoveries of science, a clash on man's methodologies, proof of God's existence, and consequences of man's activities that contain absurdity. The inquiry and excessive activities of man are found absurd. Man is really enslaved by his illusion and has become desirous of his endless ambition. The will of man tends not only to create his own image but also threatens the condition of humanity.**

**Keywords:- Absurdity, Ambition, Illusion, Reason, Science, Will.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Science is seen as the opposite of art. These two fields of disciplines are perceived rivals with respect to their value, artistry, and intellectual content. Regardless of the irrational perception that formed, the clash between them is deluded into judgment. Art and science complement each other as one cannot stand alone in the absence of the other. Neither artists nor scientists infer both values. They employed both as ingredients and interventions to research for the most possible outcomes of the universe such as crafts, discoveries, prediction, or inventions. Each substantially needs the existence of the other and never dominates one as they are both placed on a balance scale. Everyone delves into science and art as balanced elements and with equal importance. In the end, science and art never contradict each other; in fact, they strengthen the bonds of both sides of the coin.

Focusing on science, the reason is commendable but the excessiveness occurs into futility. The rise of science is indeed a mere response to the curiosity of man in his existence. It is the intention of the man to understand the mysteries of life and the magnificence of God's creation as he intends to search for reason. Regardless of responsibility, it is the duty of a man to acquire knowledge and find meaning or purpose about the extremities of man's action that could lead to some consequences. Although man has his freedom, his actions should be accompanied by responsibilities. This simply means that man can reason out but he should put into account the consideration of his reason and accept his limitations. Unfortunately, in the present condition, the aim becomes obsessed and perverted as it focused on man's desire, his will, and his ambition to rule. In this regard, the question falls into: What is the nature

of science? How far can the human reason be extended? What is the very aim of man's inquiry?

## II. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized a critical analysis method of understanding, analyzing, and synthesizing issues about science to explore and affirm its present notions, facets, and effects on humanity. This method was adopted from J.L. Beyer. According to [1] "a critical analysis is subjective writing because it expresses the writer's opinion or evaluation of a text which was broken down into parts". The chief intent of this paper is to identify and explain the problem on the very aim of man's inquiry that appears absurd and to provide substantial insights, inspirations, and illumination to its readers.

## III. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

### A. Time

Time limits man, ages him and enslaves him. It is the explicit responsible element in the realization of his absurdity. It is the root of many contradictions and widening dilemmas of human beings on their existence. Apparently, the clash between theologians and scientists concerning man's origin is skeptical and will ever remain unsolved. One of the brilliant minds of contemporary science was Stephen Hawking (1942-2018). His theory was discussed in the book that St. Augustine (354-430 BCE.) accepted stating that the date of the creation of the universe started during circa 5000 BCE. [2] According to the book of Genesis; the earth began its existence with the first mankind, Adam and Eve. Meanwhile, the end of the last Ice Age circa 10,000 BCE gave a conclusion about archaeologists' assertion that civilization really began during such an era. This clearly shows, as stated by Hawking that the assumption in the book of Genesis is not so far from the archaeologist's conclusion [2]. Accounting these two views, it doesn't matter which one is correct, but the point is that time really matters in explaining the beginning of man. However, the dilemma between the two varies on the significance of time. Without an assumption to the beginning, time is meaningless. The beliefs of beginning is intended to set boundaries, a short cut in a way in order to cohere or build strong foundation that will support or constitute more accurate theory about the universe. Indeed, time reshapes everything. The civilization, phenomenon, knowledge and even the present condition or state of society are caused by time. One cannot predict the future due to continuous expanding of the universe and he cannot hide the fact that the time passes and memory fades. Time is possibly infinite from past to future as long as universe exists. Time may only exist through the existence of substance and without it, then it does not exist.

Nevertheless, time also causes the unstoppable and increasing levels of absurdity. Once a man falls into his death, everything stops and fades such as knowledge, memory and consciousness. Only his name and legacy shall remain but still time depends and dictates the existence of it because of the problem of forgetfulness that exists as time passes by. The mystery of time still draws an incomplete puzzle in the minds of those who can perceive it. Although discovered and identified by all, it remains the only substance until now that has never provided any lucid evidence of its beginning and its power remain uncontrollable by man. Once it passes by, it can never be brought back. Like a dream that has been failed to achieve, like the water that once touches the flowing river, it can never flow back again. Therefore, time really matters in the existence of humanity. The time and its limits is the sum of all dilemmas, anxiety, frustrations, and failure in this physical world.

### **B. Greatest Discoveries of Man**

Today, science has achieved its heights in this present human civilization. Man continuously explores to discover the depths and breadths of God's creation. Because science has some limitations and incapability to extend far knowledge towards the targeted prediction, man remains discontented. Instead of satisfying God's creation, man stipulated to reveal the mysteries of life and the world. To further its excellence, widen its intricacies and extend its extremities, the succeeding discussions will deal more of its beauty and balance the absurdity on certain phenomena.

In response to the long quest of inquiry and endeavor of science, one greatest discovery that has been recently made is the quantum theory. It is a branch of physics that depicts physical substance in a very small-scale which describe the so-called scalar energy. This energy can be traced to the Shaolin masters who developed a superhuman ability. This shaolin master aimed at achieving the heights of self-mastery of their spiritual power, a master that has the capacity to control. For instance, in a community one may commonly encounter the belief that majority of the people call *usog*. The people who experience this irregularity seem like they are having energy loss. Intense head ache, paling of lips and vomiting are some of the symptoms. It is hypothesized as a sort of substance or energy that has been transferred to a person by an individual that causes disharmony in the body composition. This energy is known as the scalar energy, a substance that causes the *usog*. Science reveals that human body is constituted of a very large voltage of energy [3]. Hence, the superstitious belief and metaphysical ability of man is said to have possessed a supernatural power.

Indeed, one cannot perceive the real framework or picture of nature to fully comprehend and describe the real forms of nature such as trees, mountains, animals, and seas at the smallest length-scale of the naked eye. For instance, the *identity* of self, the contours, colors or any physical form that can be seen with natural eye is nothingness as it appears to quantum's small-scale. Everyone marvelously wonders about how things exist, how they are made, and why they

are made. Due to man's limited thinking capacity [4], things around him have gone beyond unfathomability and erudition he could ever imagine. As he becomes more astonished and amazed of creation, the greater he realizes that God is revealing Himself through such wonderful craftsmanship.

Time is the properties of the universe that man is incapable of controlling. Time remains the most controversial substance in this world. The eagerness of man to understand the existence of life and the possibility of prediction in breaking the natural fate of death is the very aim of science.

James Clerk Maxwell, (1831-1879) a mathematical genius whose work led to the development of quantum physics attributed the discovery of scalar energy [3]. Followed by his descendant, the notable figure Albert Einstein, (1879-1955) a well-known physicist whose work on Maxwell's findings and discovered the general theory of relativity [3]. Einstein then, attempted to break the time using his formula. Since time is the very factor of the existence, then he believed that time is responsible for the terminal ending of beings. If the substance of time would be broken, then man will achieve immortality. But unfortunately he failed to finish the study and time limited him in fulfilling it when he reached his final end.

Most scientists and scholars today describe and attempt to devise the general theory of relativity which is about large-scale structure and quantum mechanics that pertain to extremely small-scales to describe the universe and obviously aim to predict the dilemma on existence. However, according to Hawking, an author of the book, *A Brief History of Time* states that these two theories are known to be inconsistent with each other – both of them cannot be correct [2]. Accordingly, the two existing model theories, *the general theory of relativity* and *quantum mechanics* were both unable to supplement the desire for prediction and that no one had the power to reveal the mystery of time. Hawking regretted to talk about the failure to achieve the very aim of prediction and fall into the conclusion that we don't have such theory at present and it may possibly still be a long way to find one [2]. He expresses in his book the eager aim, a search for the new theories which included both models that postulate the needs of the said new theory in which he suggested the *quantum theory of gravity* [2]. Moreover, it is through time that caused many scientists like Einstein not to finish the study; source of long-awaited development and discovery from primitive to contemporary and from traditional to modern that has gone through centuries to millennium. Hence, if man had found answers in this puzzle of life, then it would have been the greatest fulfillment of humanity to achieve immortality and would give him greatest success in his unending attempt to know the deepest mind of God.

### **C. Modern Method vs. Primitive Method**

The modern science today has successfully developed medicinal substances that cure physical illnesses of beings. These medicines come with synthetic substances. The chemists continuously enhance medicines and aim to

discover more advances in the field of biochemical and medicine. Modern doctors have strongly declined the effectiveness and potency of primitive medicinal practices due to their lack of conclusive evidences, scientific bases, scholar experimentation and in-depth findings. An example of this is the consumption of herbal medicines such as oral medication and the traditional healings called *tapal* or bandaging of leaves. Another one is the so-called *hilot* which is a very effective therapy to those who have severe fever and cough. The concept of *pasma* is one illness which the modern doctors cannot explain the proper treatment. The superstitious belief called *atang* is such unbelievable but does cure peculiar illness. Indeed, one cannot hide the fact that the primitive medicine or ancient healing system was remarkably practiced by many genius ancestors who made important contribution in the development of human civilization and preservation of cultures [3]. Our genius ancestors discovered and developed peculiar methodologies that this present civilization cannot produce and provide such as the art of mummification of Egypt, medicinal acupuncture technique of Chinese or even the healing method of the witch doctor- Shaman of Navajos.

Today, modern science does not believe in the primitive method. They never support the use of any medicinal method or any technique that lacks scientific basis or conclusive evidences to be practiced. Modern doctors rely on the accounts that they have just recently discovered. Beyond the present scientific accounts is nothing but absurdity. Most of these modern doctors belittle the old doctors who have been called primitive and are only part of the vanishing history.

The weak capability of human mind is not the parameter of accuracy or efficiency of theories or inventions. The prediction or revelation of science is not the parameter of truth. Knowledge is transcendental and unknowable [5]. If science does not provide substantial evidence that supports the theory, then it does not mean that it will not work out. Knowledge is too large to be contained in the human brain. Due to its colossal dimension, the faculty of mind is limited [6]. Hence, the primitive method cannot be despised in comparison with the modern method.

The precursor of primitive medicine does not deserve such discrimination that is more deeply knowledgeable than the modern civilization. Considering such dilemmas, time is the quality that initiates the conflict. The distance of time dictates the difference that creates discrimination. The period of civilization is the distance-time that made a competition. Does this mean that the past civilization is at average level? But how does the called primitive civilization develop or produce such inventions and methods that until the present time cannot achieve and even understand or identify?

#### **D. Dilemmas on Proof of God's Existence**

The core of humanistic impulse with regard to science is grounded on the reason of single inquiry which is the proof of God's existence. Most scientists intend to discover more evidences that can strengthen the preeminence of God,

but unfortunately they have failed to provide proofs. Berkeley's idea postulated that God's ideas constitute the regular sequence of nature, and these ideas that exist in the mind of man are God's ideas that communicate to everyone [7]. Berkeley emphasized that the object that man perceived is not caused by matter or substance but by God [7]. This is to say that even with or without evidence about God's existence, it can strongly stand as it is. Even no efforts have to be made or done, His sovereignty prevails. In other words, the language or the concepts that we have in mind is not an individual thing but a natural thing which is *universal*[8]. This simply means that the existence of God appears to be "given" as it speaks itself[9]! With this argument science can be said to have not established its foremost evidence of the divinity of God, and that it postulates its very basis to form a sound conclusion and that is to see in order to believe. Berkeley further elaborated that matter, being the basis of science cannot really supplement the existence of God. From this viewpoint, it can be extrapolated that man is the summation of God. This acclaim may conform to the philosophical theory that reality is a unified whole and is grounded in a single basic substance or principle called Monism. As the rationalists fostered that everything imaginable or perceivable is real, and that the real point is simply how one is capable to know God. When this point of reality and imagination has been fulfilled, then God exists.

On the contrary, for Immanuel Kant(1724-1804), science is possible because man has the same structure of mind, given by the sense of experience with the capability of organizing faculties of understanding. But in the course of metaphysics, science does not have the same thing wherein metaphysics extended far beyond sense of experience, widening man's variety of events. What Kant meant in regards to science is that, we can have a scientific knowledge of phenomena but appears the impossibility to have scientific knowledge in a purely intelligible or nonsensual reality. In this condition, human knowledge appears the limit of reason.

A proof concerning the concept God seems transcendental. Kant had seen the error of rationalist though in treating the ideas as actual beings, whereas for him it is pure reason alone. Thus, Kant exhibits the limiting scope of science into the phenomenal reality or the world as we experience. Kant demonstrates the pure reason or regulative principle to emphasize the impossibility of proof of God's existence.

Kant had rejected traditional proofs and argues concerning the impossibility of proof through pure reasoning on the existence of a transcended Supreme God by his theological dialectic. This may simply respond to the dilemmas in regards to the notion of God's existence. Kant enumerated the three kinds of proofs for the existence of God possibly from speculative reasons such as the *Physico-theological, Cosmological* and *Ontological proofs*[5]. The ontological proof begins with ideas-*a priori* pure concept. Whereas cosmological proof stands from the general nature of the empirical world of experience-*a posteriori* and

*physico-theological proof* is based on persuasiveness-natural phenomena.

In his ontological argument demonstrating a proposition, “God exists” he made clear that God is the *subject* and existence is the *predicate*. Kant supported that all statements of real existence are taken synthetic and *a priori*, wherein inferring this as just a mere reasoning in the condition taken of “judgment” and not from existence of things. Kant rejected ontological proof for the reason that one cannot derive actual reality to pure concepts- *a priori* that describes actual proofs of God’s existence.

Similarly, he rejected the cosmological proof for being unable to accurately lead us to the cause of all things wherein what we can just infer from our experience is just the regulative idea about God. Even *physico-theological* evokes as orderer; however, the natural sequence in the world does not demonstrate that the material substance of the world would not exist without an orderer. Accordingly, *physico-theological* proof of the existence of Highest being is grounded on cosmological and ontological bases [5]. Thus, Kant says “these three paths are no more open to speculative reasons, the ontological proof from pure concepts of reason is the only possible one- if one’s proof of a proposition elevated so sublimely above all empirical use of the understanding is possible at all [5].” Apparently, this exhibits the impossibility of prediction, if so, we just only have speculative ideas that almost likely a verbal thing. Kant falls into the conclusion that the existence of God remains merely speculative use of reason [5]. Accordingly, the pure transcendental ideas cannot be used to demonstrate God’s existence, wherein concepts are not applicable beyond the area of sense experience. Relative to *proofs*, it is ultimately unquestionable that God exists and one cannot refute nor explain how He exists [5]. Thus, the existence of the unknown Highest being may only be possible for transcended wings of pure reason alone known as regulative idea.

The scientific prediction and explanation of knowledge are grounded on physical world known as *a posteriori*. It is the sense experience or empirical knowledge that nature may correspond to its certainty. Apparently, this means that to see is to believe. Since the idea of God is transcendental that senses cannot perceive, the dilemma concerning God is not resolvable and cannot be predicted by science unless God himself descends from above and walks on this physical world.

#### **E. Impulse and its Consequences**

Reality has shown that theories cannot be certain nor remain forever. This situation leads to the questions, what is the deepest aim of science? What is its significance beyond prediction? Nature is like a phantom that will revenge to all that is made. The law of nature reacts in everything. The damage had been caused by its depletion that has causative effects like the Chinese formula of *Yin* and *Yang*. Man is held responsible for all of his actions. The impulse of man can be seen in three consequences: a) man is dominated by nature, b) nature is conquered and dominated by man, and

then, c) man can destroy everything. At first stage, man lives in accordance to his nature. Man follows the flow of nature and enjoys what the nature can only provide. Secondly, man dominates the nature, conquering all natural resources and the things that sustain his pleasure. He then becomes the master of his own self as god. However, as he achieves the heights during the second stage of manhood, he then makes a realization of absurdity. In the third stage he eventually sees his crimes and this awakens him to reality and pushes him to destroy everything that he has made ridiculous. Unfortunately, time cannot be turned back. In this stage everything is deliberately done and occurred too late to recognize as natural resources are depleted and holistic aspect is devastated.

To some extent, in this present civilization, technology is the main focus of man. Science began to flow into futility of inventions causing too much destruction in this physical world including the destruction of human race. As it builds the present society, it also breaks its future. Perversion of truth and abuse of human capacities are some of the causative effects of technology.

The book of American historian Lewis Mumford (1895-1990) shows the tragic consequences brought by the impulse of man. In *The Myth of Megalopolis*, it discussed the uncontrollable sprout of organism into gigantism. A metaphor illustration to a gigantic city, picturing the phenomenon in which there is demonstration of the rage impulse of man to his nature. This exhibits the continuous and uncontrollable habit of human excessive potentials that resulted to bursting capacity of humankind. The excessiveness and eagerness for innovation or swift transformation -development of a city induced a tragic and devastating outcome. In the long run, this simply means that what man does at present will be echoed in the future. Mumford has established a sound cycle of a city. This pictured the *megalopolitan* phenomenon wherein the rise of an empire is fated with a consequence, the fall of the city [10]. As man aims for progress, he sacrifices his environment while ignoring the lethal consequences of his own will. His aims are mostly accompanied by his own destruction. The invention of man is produced by the companies, manufacturers and other sectors are totally disposable and are very temporal and easy to become obsolete. Such establishments undermine the meaning of standard and quality as they produce products that never provide excellence. In this phenomenon, the ruthlessness to natural resources rots the environment, the waste materials are continuously escalating, toxins that never stop spilling, and gasses have never run out of emissions. All these factors threaten the health of humankind and contribute to the worsening effects of global warming [11]. These waste products are secretly transported to the third world countries in which people are unaware of their harmful impact. The absurdity is found in patronizing massive surpluses and other sub-standard products that give temporary pleasures to the consumers but leave lasting and detrimental effects. The industrial and technological revolution extremely devaluated the quality and harmonious living of humanity. Moreover, the eagerness for economic development of developing and

least developing countries continue to struggle and suffer the consequence of congestion.

The entirety of this argument can be summarized in one point, it is about man's will. The impulse of man is analogous to a balloon. Man follows his absurd aim. As long and as large as possible, he eagerly blows out a balloon although he precisely well conscious that it will burst and can be pinched by one single needle. The allegorical picture of *megalopolitan* cycle begins within and goes towards the lethal consequences that occur as devastating end.

#### IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In the first discussion, time appears to be the causal element of man's impulse. The time that occurs temporality at mortal being creates the sum of all dilemmas, anxiety, frustrations, and failure in this physical world. This led to be the main issue about science which man had a serious and in-depth inquiry. Man's search for understanding the causality of his surroundings will give him a hint that breaks the puzzle of his being.

Man aims for a prediction to resolve the many contradictions and widening dilemmas of his race on the temporality of his existence. Hence, if man had successfully found a possible answer in this prospect, then it would have been the greatest fulfillment of humanity in search for immortality and would give greatest success in attempt to know the deepest mind of God. Unfortunately, this is quite impossible at the present time and perhaps it may possibly remain irresolvable.

The distance of time was seen to dictate the difference that creates discrimination. Regardless of which one is more capable, modern or primitive, it does clearly exhibit that the *modern* method despises the other method. The term "primitive" apparently evolves its definition into more political concept. The primitive occurs to be soundly impotent in which we have stressed as unfair. If so, the impression goes wrong as unreasonable to be assumed. In defense for primitive, a retrospection of the past, the mysterious structures like the pyramids of Egypt, the Stonehenge of England and other structures which were built with exquisite beauty that even modern scientists were amazed of their sophisticated function wherein the modern man cannot do the same at present. Hence, the respect for the genius ancestors deserves to be acknowledged because we deeply indebted from them the knowledge that we have today.

To some extent, understanding the concept of cosmos is leading to an inquiry of the Creator. Obviously, the proof of God's existence is the core of human exploration. Both empiricist and rationalist provide a cue that God really exists; however, Kant had seen the error on potential proof on the existence of the Highest Being. He rejected the traditional proof and demonstrated the impossibility of proof which he suggested that the only three kinds of proofs for the existence of God are from speculative reasons to regress the queries on his existence. On the other hand, Kant concluded that the transcendental idea is inadequate to demonstrate God's existence because the concept is not applicable beyond the area of sense experience. In the long run, to the course of inquiry we cannot prove or refute the existence of the Highest Being. If there is possibility that one can use empirical use of understanding, Kant suggested that, it is the ontological proof from pure concepts that appear to have transcended wings of a pure reason that may occur to be a regulated idea but not in a manner of phenomenal reality. This simply means that God's existence remains merely speculative use of reason, thus, it remains to be a mystery and irresolvable.

This paper had explicitly shown the limits of human reason. The rhetoric questions remain the same, what is then the deepest aim of science; to understand the notion of existence of humanity or ambition of man to rule? The discussion exhibited that the excessive impulse of man is accompanied by tragic consequences. Man then abuses his potentials. Man is extremely obsessed in acquiring knowledge to the extent of sacrificing the future of nature. Regarding the impulse of man in the pursuit of science, Hawking stated that the greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance but the illusion on it. People are delighted by scientific discoveries and inventions. This obsession of man leads to a dangerous outcome. Man's activities can be viewed on the metaphorical story of "gamo-gamo" and fire. Man is like a *gamo-gamo* wherein he is delighted by the light of fire. The nearer he gets to the fire, the closer he brings himself to ensuring destruction. Although man knows perfectly well about the possible danger still he keeps on moving closer to it.

One must not ignore the consequence of every action as it has boomerang effects to his nature because someday it will backfire to the entire humankind and the melancholic effects that may come as a surprise to every living creature that can be jeopardized and perished forever. The law of nature must not be opposed to circulate the flow, if not, then everyone shall feel the destroying and devastating effects of *Yin-Yang*.

After all, it is said that the futile inquiry of man and his excessive activities depleted nature leading to the devastating end in which we found absurd. Absurdity occurs not in the manner of acquiring knowledge but due to man's extremities and discontentment. Hence, the investigation falls on the conclusion that man is really enslaved by his illusion leading him to become a victim of futile ambition. Nevertheless, the will of man is not just created by his own image but consequently threatens the condition of humanity.

**REFERENCES**

- [1]. Critical Analysis. Retrieved on December 31, 2020 from:<https://www2.southeastern.edu/Academics/Faculty/elejeune/critique.htm>.
- [2]. Hawking, Stephen. *A Brief History of Time*, New York: Random House Publishing Group, 2011.
- [3]. Poobalasingam, Siva and Nisha Lakshmanan. *Optimum Energy for Peak Performance: with Scalar Energy*, Selangor Darul Ehsan: Fusion Excel International Sdn Bhd, 2009.
- [4]. James, William. *Energies of Men*, New York: Moffat, Yard and Company, 1907.
- [5]. Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. and ed. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- [6]. Santiago, Patrick Neil M., “Knowledge: A Basis of Will or Reason”. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science (SSRG-IJHSS)*, 3, no. 7, (2019): pp-38-45.
- [7]. Berkeley, George. *Principle of Human Understanding and Three Dialogues*, ed. with an intro. and notes Howard Robinson, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.
- [8]. McCabe, Herbert. *On Aquinas*, ed. and intro., Brian Davies, London: Burns & Oats, 2008.
- [9]. Marion, Jean-Luc. *In Excess: Studies of Saturated Phenomenon*, trans. Robyn Horner and Vincent Berraud, New York: Fordham University Press, 2002.
- [10]. Mumford, Lewis. *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects*, San Diego: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1961.
- [11]. Watson, RT and AJ McMichael. “Global Climate Change- the Latest Assessment: Does Global Warming Warrant a Health Warning?” *Global Change & Human Health* 2, (2001):64-75.