Agnosticism

A philosophical theory of the limitations of knowledge, professing doubt of or disbelief in some or all of the powers of knowing possessed by the human mind.

(4) Modern Agnosticism differs from its ancient prototype. Its genesis is not due to a reactionary spirit of protest, and a collection of sceptical arguments, against "dogmatic systems" of philosophy in vogue, so much as to an adverse criticism of man's knowing-powers in

answer to the fundamental question: What can we

know

2

Kant

, who was the first to raise this question, in his memorable reply to Hume

, answered it by a distinction between "knowable phenomena" and "unknowable things-in-themselves". Hamilton soon followed with his

doctrine

that "we

know

only the relations of things". Modern Agnosticism is thus closely associated with Kant's

distinction and Hamilton's principle of relativity. It asserts our inability to know

the reality corresponding to our ultimate scientific, philosophic, or religious ideas

.

(6) The extreme view that knowledge of God is impossible, even with the aid of revelation, is the latest form of religious Agnosticism. The new theory regards religion and science

as two distinct and separate accounts of experience, and seeks to combine an agnostic intellect

with a

believing

heart. It has been aptly called "mental book-keeping by double entry".

Ritschl

, reviving

Kant's

separatist distinction of theoretical from practical reason, proclaims that the

idea

of

God

contains not so much as a grain of reasoned

knowledge

; it is merely "an attractive ideal", having moral and religious, but no objective, scientific, value for the believer who accepts it. Harnack locates the essence of

Christianity

in a filial relation felt towards an unknowable

God the Father

. Sabatier considers the words

God, Father,

as symbols which register the feelings of the human heart towards the Great Unknowable of the

intellect

.

(7) Recent Agnosticism is also to a great extent anti-religious, criticizing adversely not only the knowledge

we have of

God

, but the grounds of

belief

in Him as well. A combination of Agnosticism with

Atheism

, rather than with sentimental irrational

belief

, is the course adopted by many. The

idea

of

God

is eliminated both from the systematic and personal view which is taken of the world and of life. The attitude of "solemnly suspended judgment" shades off first into indifference towards religion, as an inscrutable affair at best, and next into disbelief. The Agnostic does not always merely abstain from either affirming or denying the

existence of God

, but crosses over to the old position of theoretic

Atheism

and, on the plea of insufficient evidence, ceases even to believe that

God exists

. While, therefore, not to be identified with

<u>Atheism</u>

Agnosticism

Written by Bhavesh Zaveri

, Agnosticism is often found in combination with it. (See ATHEISM
.)

In order to save one's family from the adverse news, and broad casts, that are being beamed into our homes, we should equip ourselves with true knowledge.
☐ The Faith should not be BLIND. ☐ It has to be supported by REASON. ☐ This is the GIFT God gave us to defend ourselves from the snares of the Evil One. ☐ Currently there seems to be a warfare between God and his Fallen Angels, who have used humans with vested interests to do their job. ☐ God on the other hand trips them, every one and then, and they seem to be mesmerized, and try to explain everything through Science, being Agnostics and Atheists themselves.

To acquaint yourself on this subject click here