Walter Proulx
September 8, 2017
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Science is Like Falling in Love Forevermore

Author's Note:

It's easy to throw out a definition of science but defining it in such a way that anyone can understand at the most fundamental levels is hard. Therefore, it will be easy to explore the relations of science through the scope of something most humans have experienced: relationships. Think about the propositions of this statement and how science can be explained as a belief system that can be misleading but is built upon the foundation of skepticism and questioning. In the end science embodies what good research and solid, long lasting conclusions look like.

Starting the Relationship: Exploring the Scientific Method

Note:
Look at how the student doesn't trust science, just as a true scientist does. When questioning what science is it is important to go back to the fundamentals. Science at its basics is skepticism and the scientific method which makes all this possible.

Put plain and simple, science is exactly like falling in love forevermore. The first moments are questionable at best. Introducing a person to science is introducing them to a long and rigorous process. It is almost guaranteed that when the Scientific Method is thrusted into someone's face, that person isn't almost immediately repulsed by the look of it. Whether it be a flow chart or small list, it looks unattainable. Even if you can comprehend the words on the page, it is hard to see the whole picture. Due to academic circumstances, students are paired with the scientific method whether they like it or not.

The first experiment is extremely awkward. It is imperative to read the words on the page and look no deeper. Trying to appreciate and truly understand the work of art is a little too serious for just

meeting a new idea. Despite the differences between student and method, they still get along. Before the day is over the method starts to be ingrained in the student's brain. No amount of talking or physical activity will get your mind off that stupid method. It's not that the method seems particularly appealing, it just keeps popping back into the student's mind for some reason.

Learning Tradition: Science Mimics Religion

Note:
There is an important part of science often overlooked. While religions often embed traditions as a part of practice, so does science. The comfort of the scientific method creates a belief system that if the method was followed, you can trust the result regardless of your own comprehension of the subject. This is much like the traditions found in relationships.

Trying to act like they don't care, the student doesn't even mention the method for a week. Unfortunately, the teacher assigns another lab the first day of the next week: a forced second experiment that the student wants no part of. It was already uncomfortable enough performing the first experiment. This time things go a little smoother. Since the student has already memorized the method (not because they wanted to) the student finishes faster than expected. Somehow science has just given back. A complicated process was made easier. There are snapshots of data from the experiment written in the student's personal journal. This snapshot will help the newly appointed science student memorize complex details of science and be prepared for the third experiment. Meanwhile they will most certainly pretend that the second encounter wasn't much better.

When the third experiment hits, the science student is starting to get comfortable with science and its methods. One might even say that they have become friends. At this point it might dawn on the friendly student that science is a long-term relationship. With this relationship brings some comfort. Weeks start to fly by as experiment after experiment is performed together. As the experiments progress so does the understanding of the intricacies of science. Eventually realizations come easier as the intimate, scientific student relies on fact after fact being true. The student after the first couple of

months having been with science has developed a deep trust for the equations science provides. Although the student can follow the proofs of science, they don't truly understand what they mean. Trust builds up more as science builds up a vast wealth of knowledge.

Building Faith: Science is Faith

Note:
Also like religion, science has scientists holding much faith in their methods like they would a significant other. This relationship is so well mimicked with falling in love it is easy to see how a relationship parallels and outlines what science is.

After several of years of experiments the student hits a bump in the road. The relationship between student and science is shaky at best. Science lies. Apparently, a theory that was being used is wrong. The unconditional trust of science ends up being broken. Going back, the student checks all those equations used before. It appears that these equations are all right, so where did science go wrong? It appears that the student took the unequivocal, absolute knowledge of science for granted. It turns out some of the theories can be disproved! This dirty little secret creates a crack in the relationship. Due to distress and anger the student takes a break from science. Over time the student realizes how much they appreciate science. So much societal structure and technology is provided by science!

Panicking, the student quickly goes back to science. This small misunderstanding is quickly overlooked. Student and science go back to back fighting all the big hard questions. In the end, the core of science, the scientific method, never fails. Although the new realization that science may be wrong weakened the relationship, the faith in this method keeps this relationship going. Argument after argument ensues, but despite all the disagreements and bickering the student and science keep working on the newest problem at hand. When they finally solve a problem revolutionizing the world they live in, they never take a break. Instead, they go onto the next problem. Even if the student and science are proven wrong, they persevere through the criticism together.

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Science is Commitment: So is your Relationship

Note:
Scientists are often devoted to their work. If a scientist doesn't commit a large amount of time to their work, then they can't conduct research. Obviously, relationships also take lots of time and consideration. This is part of what science is.

Most rewarding of all are the new perspectives gained from the relationship. So many people benefit from the student's and science's research. Although people don't know it, science and the student have benefited a majority of the world, as well as hurt some of it. Despite the people that get hurt from this relationship, the student and science keep going for their work creates progress. Advancement trumps all outcomes as the student and science are stuck together, forever in love.

What is science? Science is learning about the world from considering multiple perspectives. At first it might be a shock, but eventually people realize theories are well proven. This creates the comfort to believe in science even if people doesn't understand it. Misinterpreting this lack of knowledge as a truth that science is shallow can't be more off. Science is complex and it takes time to get to know it. Science is an emotional roller coaster.

Science is like falling in love forevermore.