

# How to address the faith's fight against the science

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## WARNING

The following content could hurt your believes. Thus, feel free to abandon here at the beginning!

Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric.  
Most people would sooner die than think; in fact, they do so.  
If an opinion contrary to your own makes you angry, that is a sign that you are subconsciously aware of having no good reason for thinking as you do.  
The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts.  
Whoever wishes to become a philosopher must learn not to be frightened by absurdities.  
I would never die for my beliefs because I might be wrong.

## Introduction

To get into the topic, it is useful to briefly summarize this story which has been reported and investigated many times since 1930:

*Shanti Devi (1926 – 1987) was born in Delhi, India. As a little girl in the 1930s she began to claim to remember details of a past life. The case was brought to the attention of Mahatma Gandhi who set up a commission to investigate; a report was published in 1936. Two further reports were written at the time.*

[...]

*At the begging the little girl was not believed and the first investigation was negative. However she did not surrendered and she made her point, later.*

[...]

*The commission traveled with Shanti Devi to Mathura, arriving on 15 November 1935. There she recognized several family members, including the grandfather of Lugdi Devi. She found out that Kedar Nath had neglected to keep a number of promises he had made to Lugdi Devi on her deathbed. She then traveled home with her parents. The commission's report concluded that Shanti Devi was indeed the reincarnation of Lugdi Devi.*

## What can we learn from this story

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Some exceptional circumstances and facts happened but even in a culture in which reincarnation is a religious acceptable belief, they were sceptic about it.

- Being sceptic is a good approach when it matches with mind openness: curiosity instead of judgement.
- It is important to cultivate the doubt about what it seems improbable and what we are used to, both.
- In fact, used-to-be could be wrong while the unexpected could be true even when it seems unacceptable.
- Cultural biases deeply affect our perception in such a way we are pretending to see things which are not and we are blind to those are real.

Whatever the conclusion anyone could reach, the undoubtedly best part of this story is the way in which they investigate the matter.

Trying to find evidences and trying to find falsifications, as well.

## Instead of fighting about opinions, investigating

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This is the same approach used by CIA to investigate: staying open to every alternatives, collecting reliable information and organising a matrix in which all the information cross-correlated in favour or against the one hypothesis or another.

By the way, falsified a single case of hypothetical reincarnation would not add information. Verified a single case of reincarnation, brings more information but do not set a new standard.

Even accepting the reincarnation in one single verified case do not grant us that it happens on the regular basis nor that it is an option or a destiny for all the people.

## A broader picture

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Almost all the religious believe pretend to be universal. In such a way, they define the truth for all. Even the assumption that all the humans are equal in front of the death (or in front of the God) is possibly wrong. In fact, almost all religious set some kind of moral laws in order to separate the good from the evil, the salvation from the condemnation.

A more general approach - in its simplicity - comes from the Australian Aboriginal population which define the life as a travel in which we learn to be brought at home, at the end. This matches also with Buddhism which sees in the life a path towards enlightenment.

In the belief of the existence of a spiritual path, there is embedded the chance to go up and return back, as well.

Spirituality and faith are two very different ways of thinking.

- The faith does not admit exception while spirituality is open to every exception.

There is another fundamental point in which faith and spirituality separates each other, is the ability to deal with critical thinking.

- The faith pretends to have the truth while the spirituality is in search for the truth.

This explains very well the reason because faith and science are antagonist ways of thinking. The first set an arbitrary answer and unfortunately in many cases try to impose it, while the second poses questions.

Instead, spirituality and science are similar but they are searching for different kinds of truth.

## The main pillars remain untouched

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It is quite obvious that it is easier to accept a statement which is commonly shared instead of living cultivating doubts about almost everything. The latter choose implies to deal on every-day basis with the third dimension of knowledge: "*we do not know what we do not know*". Which is the base of

wisdom, as Aristotle stated about 2.500 years ago.

The other great pillar set on this way was "*do not judge others before judging yourself*" about 2.000 years ago or the equivalent "*beware before judging others because you will undergo under judgement, as well*". In both cases: "*judging is not good for humans*".

In the judgement is embedded the assumption of full knowledgeably of something by humans.

It emerges that taking decisions or actions without judging is quite difficult because each statement and action satisfying this rule inherently contains a contradiction.

- In the same measure a faith do not tolerate the doubts or the mistake, is against the human incompleteness nature.

It is not surprising that most faiths embrace the ideas of the *sin* → *condemnation* and the opposite about *forgiveness* → *salvation*. Dealing with this contradiction is easier than accepting the truth exists but it is not fully acknowledge at the human level.

- The truth exists but we do not know it. No one knows, yet.

Yet!?

## There is no any elevator to the heaven

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The word "yet" underlying the third main difference between faith and spirituality.

Faith contains the hope that we might be brought in safe by the compassionate will of a superior entity.

While spirituality is focusing on the hope that our salvation is related to ourselves and the way in which we are embracing our unique enlightenment path.

## Conclusion

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In the end, we have just two choices in front of us:

- dealing with incompleteness and contradictions at fundamental level

or

- blindly ignore any doubts and banging our heads around the maze wall.

It is just our choice to engage the stairs for ascending or bouncing against the walls, as we wish, as we like.

## A rule of thumb

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- Faith without tolerance is fanaticism, without critical thinking is stupidity.

## Discover more in the related linked below

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- [Creatività e pensiero laterale](#) (28 marzo 2017, IT)