
Ammonia

Lindsey Rosin

This spoken word poem was performed by Lindsey at the Excelano Project's Spring 2007 show, entitled Alchemy.

There is and always has been a conflict between science and religion

It's a give in that religious faith never fails to believe in the absence of fact,
sensing sense is unnecessary,
instead gleaming meaning from a higher power
while science stands alone as its own higher power
using its discipline as validation for the physical

These two diametrically opposed ideologies
draw a line of separation
thick as scripture's parchment,
through the sand of a desert that was once
marched through by generations of wanderers
seeking their promised sub-sis-tence, a land
watched now as the ticking time bomb
of the middle east's co-habitual existence

The conflict between religion and reason runs back to Genesis
when God promised Abraham a division of land
a pledge, based on faith, a seed planted in devotion
is now wedged in conflict asphyxiated by a notion
that separates not just faith from reason but religion from itself

Science teaches that two pieces of matter cannot occupy the same space at the
same time
and this scientific standard is now
illustrated by religions at variance placed in the desert
clashing principles and pink slips for grains of inheritance

two sides feeling too wrong
to rewrite the current state of each others currency
so instead they rewrite each others psalms
and whore them as battle cries of urgency

But each side lacks evidence in the eyes of the other,
choosing only the most convenient facts to support their case
but the problem isn't mutual misinterpretation
the real problem, scientifically, is space

Since two beings can't define the same place
their essence must be realigned when they reach conflict
leaving both compromised, neither satisfied
and a world of wide eyes watching the temperature rise
in the middle of the middle of the holy world

The desert heat rises along with kinetic energy
producing an acidic synergy
a creation that was never meant to be
but forced with unbridled certainty
is the creation of Ammonia

Ammonia is formed from an increase in pressure
it is colorless, lighter than air
contributing to the nutritional needs of the planet
while fully aware that its path is entirely toxic

Ammonia forms in the atmosphere when it fears that
Nitrogen and Hydrogen can no longer habituate,
forcing an unnatural bond between these two elements
nitrogen and hydrogen
two elements comparable only on a superficial level
or in silhouette
its far too complex to get lost in their intricacies
like trying to see the point of stalemate
between religious ideologies now hijacked by extremity

Ammonia may be a compound but
like the city of Jerusalem
it is smaller than the parts that live with in it
with only so much room to give its inhabitants
fights flourish over occupation, recognition,
and thousands of years of tradition

But this is not just a fight about religion
it's about history books
latitude lines
oil wells, mined for profit
minds at odds over numbers
that don't fit in equation
fear manifest in hate
it's not just about the chemical components
but the science of it *all*
the intrinsic ebb and flow of it all
and all the ways of life
every day of life
as all of life is
felt on the front lines
and in the head lines
rooted in the deepest religious minds
that you can only find in a state of faith

There is and always has been a conflict between science and religion
but now we want both of the best without the price of the worst,
but we can't just pick and chose,
we want stem cell research to active the hand of God in the name of science
We want to cheer on science's strides and still humble ourselves on the
Sabbath.
We want access to both MRIs and miracles.

We hope to credibly argue that science and God are in harmony
that science is *of* God.
that God can be science

that something makes sense
the we sense deeper meaning
that life is a literal promise of biblical proportions

but faith is inherently maintained through faith in itself

while science says that two substances can never dwell in the same space
this double occupancy can't just be a mistake unless we mistake the work of
god
the middle east doesn't leave us at odds between human rights and religious
ideology
because I have faith that there is a human right to religious ideology
and the real fight is with ourselves
and with our faith
and the rest is the work of the world

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