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"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." "And God saw all that had been made and indeed it was very good." These two statements from the opening of the book of Genesis convey a timeless message of God's presence in, and attitude toward, creation. This narrative has been passed down to us from a time before recorded history and continues to offer us a timeless perspective on the relationship between creator and creation. Unfortunately there has been an effort in recent years to undercut this eternal story by reducing it to the status of scientific theory, and thus to destroy its eternal truths. So called "Creationist" or proponents of "Intelligent Design" have tried to force the Epic of Geneses into categories of the physical sciences. This is bad for science but it is worse for religion. By trying to make an eternal saga nothing more than a scientific theory, well meaning people of faith are not only harming scientific thinking, they are undermining the message of all the Genesis' stories; stories which tells of God's love and compassion for all creation.

The world of science operates by principles which change over time. Look a science tests from 50 or 100 years ago and their messages are very different than those of today— science is alive and growing and –dare I say– evolving. Science gives us discoveries, religion gives us revelations; science answers specific questions, religion answers timeless questions; science tells us when and how, religion tells us who and why. To use one field to try to discredit another undermines the credibility of both. The theory of evolution is not a threat to faith, nor do the creation stories discredit science. Both are valid in their own right.

This is not to say that there cannot be a mutual benefit through dialogue. I believe that we can come to know aspects of God by understand and appreciating God's handiwork. I believe that we can more fully appreciate scientific study when we perceive it as a revelation of God. There is a great deal that we can learn through an honest sharing between the natural sciences and religion. But first, both must come to recognize the contribution of the other and respect the integrity that each discipline brings to the table.

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