



Albert Einstein's Perception of the Divine: Its Implication in Promoting Science, Religiosity and Values Formation in the Tertiary Christian Education

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Abstract

The religious views of Albert Einstein posted varied claims among atheist, theist, philosophers, and religious men and women. Questions and assumptions on the possibility of religion and science influencing and intersecting each other, plays a vital role in promoting science, religiosity and values all together among the youth, particularly within the tertiary Christian setting. This paper is an attempt to clarify and analyze the belief of Albert Einstein towards the existence of the Divine by examining his life, writings, contribution, as well as commentaries of scholars who had an in-depth study on Einstein's religious views. Einstein's religious views is compared and contrasted with existing religious views or the established religions in order to identify similarities and nuances. Constant elements and attributes (Bevans & Schroeder, 2004, p. 1) of God are drawn from this comparison to identify the implication of Einstein's belief to the tertiary Christian education within the three areas of science and religion, religiosity and values formation. The paper is limited only in the discussion of Einstein's belief on God, comparison of his views to different religions, analysis of constant elements, and identification of implication to the tertiary Christian education in the fields of science and religion, religiosity and values formation. It does not attempt to promote or reject a single religion based from Albert Einstein's perception of the Divine. The study discovered that the major implication of Albert Einstein's perception of the Divine to science, religion, religiosity and values formation of the youth in tertiary Christian education is the cultivation of a well-rounded person, using science, religious feeling, Superior Intelligence and discipline of research as tools. The findings of the study suggest that awe, and reverence to the Divine [whom Einstein refers to as: "the Superior Mind," "Cosmic Religious Experience," and "Mysterious", not necessarily obedience to the perceived existence of God, or to a personal God (Jammer, 1999, pp. 75, 80, 82, & 100)] have a corresponding effect on the person's desire to search and find truth and meaning of existence, to leave a mark to the world and to form a sound religious and value system as a person, regardless of one's spiritual preferences. By these results, the realization that new perspectives of the Divine especially from noted scientists, whose views are distinct from customary could lead into something noble and fruitful not only for themselves, but for the rest of the world.

Keywords

Albert Einstein, Divine, Superior Intelligence, cosmic religious experience, science and religion, religiosity, values formation, youth, tertiary Christian education