

RELIGION WINS OVER LEARNING

Dr. Mendel Silber Shows Its Triumph In Sermon At the Temple.

Contrasting science and religion Dr. Mendel Silber, rabbi of Temple Emanuel, addressed a large audience at the temple last night, showing the triumph of religion over scientific learning. He said in part:

"'The astonishment' says a leading exponent of scientific materialism, 'with which we gaze upon the starry heavens and the microscopic life in a drop of water; the awe with which we trace the marvelous working of energy in the motion of matter; the reverence with which we grasp the universal dominance of the law of substance throughout the universe—all these are part of our emotional life that fall under the head of natural religion.'

"But science can do no more than observe and classify. Science teaches us astronomy, facts, truths, phenomena and laws relating to the solar system and the heavenly bodies; but who is it that built the universe; ordained the sun's motion; projected the comets and placed the moon and stars in their orbits?

"Science teaches botany; but who gave such wondrous beauty to the herbs, shrubs and flowers? Science teaches geology; but who created the rocks that have endured throughout the ages? Science teaches zoology, but who gives the young raven his provision when he cries for food? Science must leave to religion what belongs to religion.

"Like the ocean which restores to the land what it has stolen from it in a different place, physical science diminishes the empire of religion with one hand only to extend it with the other. We may have lost some of the child-like trust that distinguished the men of old; but we have gained in reasoned faith. We know more about the laws that govern this mighty universe and our knowledge fills us with deeper awe of the Power and Wisdom that ordained them.

"Mere thought and research, and even the triumph implied in knowledge do not suffice to satisfy the scientific investigator. There are deep seated yearnings instinctive in humanity whose claim is imperative. Reverence and awe springing from a sense of majesty of the universe are emotions that dominate the man of science no less than the unlettered savage, and the one can no more successfully stifle them than can the other.

"Science can neither explain the meaning of life nor mitigate its sorrows. That task belongs to the human heart itself with its elementary emotions which make the whole world kin."