

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

**THE MAGICIAN'S TWIN – C.S.  
LEWIS AND THE CASE  
AGAINST SCIENTISM**


# WHAT IS SCIENTISM?

ACCORDING TO THE FILM, SCIENTISM IS DEFINED AS “THE EFFORTS TO USE THE METHODS OF SCIENCE TO EXPLAIN AND CONTROL EVERY PART OF HUMAN LIFE.”



# HOW IS SCIENTISM RELATED TO “TECHNOCRACY”?

ALONG A SIMILAR VEIN, TECHNOCRACY IS DEFINED AS “A SYSTEM IN WHICH PEOPLE WITH A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SCIENCE OR TECHNOLOGY CONTROL A SOCIETY.”



# WAS CS LEWIS AGAINST SCIENCE?

CS LEWIS WAS NOT AGAINST THE SCIENCES PER SE; RATHER, HE WAS CRITICAL OF THE IDEOLOGY OF SCIENTISM. HE DID NOT SEE THE SCIENCES AS BEING IN A PRIVILEGED POSITION ABOVE OTHER FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE, EXEMPT FROM CRITICISM. FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COULD PROVIDE CRITICAL INPUTS, THEY WERE NOT SUFFICIENT BY THEMSELVES AS BASES FOR DECISION-MAKING.

THE VIDEO CONTENDS THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MAY BE GAINING INCREASING CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES, POTENTIALLY TO THE DETRIMENT OF SOCIETY. DO YOU AGREE? DOES THIS MATCH YOUR OWN OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES?

- PRODUCTS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ARE UBIQUITOUS AND SO DEEPLY INTEGRATED INTO THE WAY WE LIVE AND WORK THAT WE ARE PRONE TO INDISCRIMINATE AND SOMETIMES UNETHICAL USE (E.G. CYBER BULLYING, GAMING ADDICTIONS).
  - GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES ARE STILL A HOTLY DEBATED TOPIC.
  - RESEARCH PRODUCED BY CLIMATE SCIENTISTS IS STILL BEING QUESTIONED BY CERTAIN SECTORS OF POPULATIONS.
- THERE ARE PEOPLE – DECISION-MAKERS, EVEN – WHO DO NOT “BELIEVE” THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING DESPITE THE EVIDENCE.
  - THIS IS FAR FROM THE SCENARIO DESCRIBED IN THE FILM ABOUT POLITICIANS BECOMING SCIENTISTS’ PUPPETS.”

# ACCORDING TO THE FILM, HOW IS SCIENCE BEING LIKENED TO A RELIGION? WHAT WERE EXAMPLES OF MOVEMENTS IN HISTORY THAT BECAME CAUSE FOR CONCERN THAT THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD WAS BEING APPLIED BEYOND ITS APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES?

- THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD, AS A FORM OF RATIONAL INQUIRY, IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL; HOWEVER IT CANNOT BE GLORIFIED AS THE SOLUTION OR THE APPROACH TO EVERYTHING, THE “SAVIOR” OF SOCIETY. EVEN TODAY, WE ARE CONFRONTED BY THE DOCTRINE OF “TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIMISM”, WHICH IS THE BELIEF THAT WHATEVER THE PRESSING ISSUES WE CURRENTLY FACE IN SOCIETY (E.G. ENERGY CRISIS, FOOD INSECURITY), TECHNOLOGY WILL DEVELOP SO AS TO REMEDY THESE PROBLEMS. MOREOVER, SCIENCE SHOULD NOT BE MANIPULATED SO AS TO PROVIDE THE RATIONALE FOR EVERYTHING.

- MOVEMENTS SUCH AS THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM OF THE MARXISTS, AND THE SOCIAL DARWINISM AND RACIAL SCIENCE IN NAZI GERMANY ARE CITED AS EXAMPLES OF WHEN SCIENTIFIC TERMINOLOGY AND APPROACHES WERE USED TO JUSTIFY RADICAL, CONTROVERSIAL SOCIETAL BELIEFS, POLICIES AND TRANSFORMATIONS.
- AS GALILEO IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ASSERTED, “THE BIBLE TEACHES US HOW TO GO TO HEAVEN, NOT HOW THE HEAVENS GO.” SCIENCE AND RELIGION HAVE DIFFERENT PURPOSES, AND TO EXPECT THEM TO OFFER ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT ARE PERHAPS NOT VALID TO ASK OF THEM CONSTITUTES AN ABUSE. THIS ABUSE OF BOTH SCIENCE AND RELIGION THUS CREATES THE FALSE DICHOTOMY OF REASON VS. FAITH, OF SCIENCE VS. RELIGION, WHEN REALLY, THESE ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.

# SCIENCE IS SUPPOSED TO PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING. ACCORDING TO THE FILM, HOW MIGHT SCIENCE ACTUALLY BE PROMOTING CREDULOUS, GULLIBLE THINKING?

- THE FILM CONTENDS THAT “PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE ANYTHING IF DRESSED UP IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE.”
  - THERE ARE ACCEPTED THEORIES/APPROACHES TODAY THAT, UPON DEEPER ANALYSIS, ACTUALLY RAISE PROVOKING QUESTIONS.
- A CASE DISCUSSED IS THAT OF FREUD’S PSYCHOANALYSIS, AND HOW A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THIS ACTUALLY LEADS TO THE ”DESTRUCTION OF FREUDANISM” ITSELF AND ALL OTHER FIELDS OF INQUIRY.
- ANOTHER CASE DISCUSSED IS THAT OF DARWIN’S EVOLUTION.
  - CS LEWIS ASKS, IF OUR MINDS, AND HENCE OUR REASON, WERE DEVELOPED THROUGH RANDOM AND UNGUIDED PROCESS, HOW CAN WE TRUST OUR OWN INTELLECTUAL CAPACITIES TO KNOW TRUTH?

THE FILM CONTENDS THAT MUCH OF MODERN SCIENCE IS ABOUT EXERTING POWER OVER THE WORLD. IS THIS A VIRTUE/ADVANTAGE OR A LIABILITY/DISADVANTAGE?

ON THE ONE HAND, IT IS BECAUSE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT WE ARE ABLE TO THRIVE, INSTEAD OF MERELY SURVIVE, EVEN IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS. SCIENTIFIC UTOPIANS ASSERT THAT SCIENCE CAN BRING SOLUTIONS FOR PEACE. HOWEVER, WITHOUT ANY LIMITS OR ETHICAL BASES FOR THE USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THIS POWER TO CONTROL MAY BE ABUSED (I.E. TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE, TO SELECTIVELY BREED THE HUMAN SPECIES AND STERILIZE THE “UNFIT” AND “UNDESIRABLE”, TO EXPERIMENT WITH PEOPLE AND ANIMALS).

WHY IS THE TITLE OF THE FILM “THE MAGICIAN’S TWIN”?  
(WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF S&T? WHAT ARE THE LIMITS?  
WHAT MUST COMPLEMENT S&T TO ENSURE ITS PROPER USE  
AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?)

CS LEWIS COMPARED SCIENCE, SOMETHING WE THINK OF A MODERN INVENTION, TO MAGIC, SOMETHING THAT IS A MORE ANCIENT NOTION. THE COMPARISON IS MADE ON 3 POINTS: SCIENCE AS RELIGION, SCIENCE AS CREDULITY, SCIENCE AS POWER. MAGIC CREATES AWE AND WONDER. SCIENCE CAN ALSO GIVE ONE A SENSE OF WONDER ABOUT THE WORLD, A SENSE OF SOMETHING GRANDER. IT IS IN THIS SENSE THAT SCIENCE CAN BECOME A SUBSTITUTE FOR RELIGION, LEADING TO ITS POTENTIAL ABUSE. MAGIC PROMOTES A LACK OF SKEPTICISM. INSTEAD OF ENCOURAGING CRITICAL THINKING, OVER-RELIANCE OR FAITH IN SCIENCE MAY LEAD TO BLIND ACCEPTANCE. LASTLY, MAGIC IS ABOUT HARNESSING AND CONTROLLING THE POWER OF NATURE. SCIENCE, LIKEWISE, SEEKS TO CONTROL NATURE, AND CAN BECOME DANGEROUS WITHOUT ETHICAL AND MORAL FOUNDATIONS.