

HOLMES ROLSTON III

Science & Religion

A CRITICAL SURVEY

WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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This acclaimed book is back in print with a new introduction by its award-winning author. An interdisciplinary approach to the central themes of scientific and religious thought, it uses the scientific method of inquiry to distill key issues from science. These issues are then integrated in a study that highlights crucial issues in a logical and historical analysis that begins with matter and moves through life, mind, culture, history, and spirit.

"Never in the histories of science and religion have the opportunities been greater for fertile interaction between these fields, with mutual benefits to both," states Holmes Rolston. The re-publication of this book provides current researchers and students in the field an invaluable, timeless methodological resource.

HOLMES ROLSTON III is a world-renowned philosopher, widely recognized as the father of environmental ethics as a modern academic discipline. The winner of the Templeton Prize in 2003 and the Mendel Medal in 2005, he currently holds the position of University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Colorado State University. He is associate editor of the journal *Environmental Ethics* and the author of six books that have won acclaim in both academic journals and the mainstream press.


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Selected critical notice of Science and Religion: A Critical Survey

Langdon Gilkey (Theology, University of Chicago Divinity School), says of *Science and Religion*, "It is, I think, the finest volume in this field to date." "Rolston is one of three "impresarios of religion-science events" whose "example and organizing talents have encouraged a great deal of my work in the field." In understanding the "four major categories in terms of which nature has been experienced and known, ... I am especially and vastly indebted to Micea Eliade, Lawrence Sullivan, and, for modern science, Holmes Rolston, III." Rolston makes a "fascinating, perceptive and (to me) very original exploration of the theme of the intertwining of energy and pain, life and suffering (and their common result: more life, new life, and new life forms)." "The great Dying yields the great Renewal." "No one has made this point more perceptively, clearly, and profoundly than Rolston." In *Nature, Reality, and the Sacred: The Nexus of Science and Religion* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993), citations passim.

Donald Musser (Philosophy, Stetson University), in a critical review for *The International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, says, "Rolston ... has produced a book that rivals Ian Barbour's *Issues in Science and Religion* as the best in the field. ... I highly recommend this book ... it will become the standard in the field." (*International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 26(1989):185-192)

John J. Compton (Philosophy, Vanderbilt University): *Science and Religion* "marvelously combines the elements

needed for any thoughtful examination of the intersections of science and religion today--it is comprehensive ... it is rich in scientific and theological detail, it is methodologically self-aware and circumspect at every point, both in respect of the sciences and religious thought and in respect to its own developing argument, and it has a developing argument, inspired by a powerful constructive vision of the wholeness of the human endeavor to understand, of which, it is argued, the sciences and religious reflection form complementary parts. And as sheer grace for the reader, the book is engagingly and trenchantly written, perfused with insightful epigram, a text to delight as well as to illumine. ... This is a robust challenge (made) with rare erudition and skill." (*Critical Review of Books in Religion: Annual Supplement to the Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 2[1989]:425-427.

Frederick Ferré (Distinguished Research Professor, Philosophy, University of Georgia), says, "This book is a delight. ... It is up to the minute on methodological developments, ... clear and responsible.... Everyone in the field will need to work with this text." (Book endorsement)

Robert J. Russell (Physics, Theology, Director of the Center for the Study of Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley), says, "I value this work greatly for attempting and, by and large, succeeding at bringing science and religion into a meaningful and creative relationship." (Book endorsement)

John F. Haught (Theology, Philosophy, Georgetown University, says that *Science and Religion* is "a monumental work, one deserving of widespread usage by theologians and scientists alike. Carefully organized and beautifully written, ... the book is truly outstanding. One may safely predict that it will enrich discussion of science and religion for many years to come." (*Theological Studies* 49(1988):368-370)

David Foxgrover, in a review for the *Christian Century*, says that *Science and Religion* is "a superb and subtle book that will become a standard in the field. ... It stands on its own as a creative attempt to deal with one of the 20th century's central theological issues." (*Christian Century* 105, no. 4, 1988, pages 132-133)

Ian Barbour (Physics, Theology, Carlton College), the leading world authority in science and religion) says, "This is a remarkable book and I predict its widespread use. ... This first rate book can be highly recommended to anyone seeking access to the best of recent thought." (Book endorsement)

Karl Peters (Religion, Rollins College, former editor of *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*) says that Rolston's is "the best current comprehensive treatment of science and religion," written with "particular genius," "an excellent text that should be studied by every seminary student and graduate student in religious studies who wishes to relate religious thinking to the contemporary sciences." He adds that it "is to be placed alongside Ian G. Barbour's *Issues in Science and Religion* and A. R. Peacocke's *Creation and the World of Science*." (Book endorsement)

Donald W. Shriver (President, Union Theological Seminary, New York), says that *Science and Religion* is "one of the most important books I have read in years and absolutely the best on science and religion that I have ever read."

Joseph Pickle (Religion, Colorado College): *Science and Religion* is "notable for its breadth and depth ...filled with admirably argued and powerfully presented treatments of critical issues. ... the most substantial argument for a position on the relationship of science and religion that is eminently worth arguing ... finely nuanced and carefully developed." *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 23(1988):203-205)

Charles Birch (Biologist, University of Sydney, Australia, winner of the Templeton Prize), says that *Science and Religion* is "quite the best on that subject." (Personal correspondence)

James W. Jones (Department of Religion, Rutgers University), in a discussion of systems theory, cites *Science and Religion* as providing "stunning examples of the theological use of such a systems perspective." (*Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 27[1992]:201-202)

Jeff Astley (School of Education, University of Durham, England): *Science and Religion* "is likely to become the standard text on this subject: a valuable source of information and reflection ... containing an up-to-date, large-scale map. ... The arguments are clearly presented and the language is often pithy and memorable. ... The theist will welcome

the depth of the author's spirituality as well as his learning, and relish his out-flanking attacks on scientists, and their camp-followers, who have overreached themselves in their claims for the explanatory power of the theory of natural selection, the adequacy of certain psychological models of the mind, and the possibility of value-free social science." (*British Journal of Religious Education* 11[1989]:49-50)

S. Mark Heim (Philosophy of Religion, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts) says, "Science and Religion is ... conceived on a very broad scale and carried through across a wide range of disciplines, from physics to psychology. The apparent superficiality of such a massive project is avoided by an impressive marshalling of specific cases, and by sustained attention to a few crucial questions. Since its publication in 1966, Ian Barbour's *Issues in Science and Religion* has served as a standard textbook in this area. Rolston's work provides a first rate alternative and supplement. ... The distinguishing feature of Rolston's book is the way in which he has organized the material around a sustained and nuanced argument. ... Rolston's study is careful, and yet freshly suggestive in the manner it probes the nature of scientific theory. ... The book deserves and will find wide use." (*Christian Scholar's Review* 17(1988):490-491).

Harold H. Oliver (Philosophical Theology, Boston University School of Theology) says that in the contemporary dialogue between science and religion, "Any list of the most notable contributors in this field would include the names of Thomas F. Torrance, A. R. Peacocke, Ian Barbour, Ralph Burhoe, Stanley Jaki and Holmes Rolston, III." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 60 (No. 3, 1992):379-404, on p. 390, p. 403)

John H. Wright (Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley) calls *Science and Religion* "an extraordinarily complete basic treatment." in "Theology, Philosophy, and the Natural Sciences," *Theological Studies* 52(4)(1991):651-668.

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