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[Subject]

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"Rocks and Ages" is written by Stephen Jay Gould in which he describes his views "NOMA". NOMA stands for non-overlapping magisterial, which means that both science and religion are separate ideas. They are like two separate entities that don't mix, they are like water and oil. He creates the idea of demarcation between these two entities by implying that science is the study of facts while religion is the study of values and morals. Does human's resemblance with apes is because of our common genetic ancestry? And why the structure of our DNA changed? These are questions that come under the umbrella of science. The questions like are we on the same level as bugs or bacteria because we are just an evolution of genetics? And what gives us the right to eliminate other species habitats? These questions are moral and ethical and come under religion (Gould and Gould).

I do not agree with Jay Gould views that science and religion are separate entities if viewed separately. Science is the study of nature while religion is the study of morals and supernatural. Many religions believe in life after death and it is also scientifically proven that even after death if the body of a human being is practically dead his mind is still active and can sense and feel things. This is an example of science and not just values. Religion does involve itself in science and natural experimentation. Religion thinks of nature in a more instinctive style while science looks at it with analytical style. The best way to evaluate science and religion as entities is by evaluating the religious beliefs of scientists. Which shows that there are conflicts between the two, for example, if science and religion were separate entities it should have held a greater value in many scientists and researchers’ personal life. The case is extremely opposite in reality. A survey among National Academy of Sciences members resulted that 72.2% of scientist don’t believe in the presence of God, 7% recognize themselves as atheists while 20.8% are uncertain (Larson and Witham). The number has increased since then.

**Work Cited**

Gould, S. J., and Stephen Jay Gould. *Rocks of Ages*. Random House, 2011.

Larson, Edward J., and Larry Witham. “Leading Scientists Still Reject God.” *Nature*, vol. 394, no. 6691, 1998, p. 313.