

contemplation of certain divine beatitudes and provisions that were supposed to save men without much effort on their part, just as the newer science (or the newer popular science) has gone too far in the direction of the deification of an unconscious nature which has evolved man and left him to the same animal struggle that supposedly gave him birth. Sometimes, of course, we are led to believe that the teaching of evolution is all to the effect that man has won his place in the cosmos by endless struggle and effort, and by the risks of endless free choice—with the inference that his future evolution will doubtless continue to be dependent on the same heroic attitude that has always been the key-note of survival and success.

The one thing, however, that is most needed by the morality of to-day is just as firm a repudiation of the supposed dogmatic certainties (they are really highly hypothetical constructions) of science in respect of man's essential nature, as the earlier repudiation of supposedly absolute religious systems and dogmas by the Protestants and the humanists of modern times. All scientific morality is vitiated by the fundamental fallacy of what we may well call the "spectator" view of the universe, the view that forgets the fact that nearly everything that we know about the world is seen through our own experience and through the categories and points of view that we devise to make it intelligible to ourselves. And this is the case apart altogether from the confessed failure of the ethics of evolution, either (1) to prove a coincidence between moral actions and life-giving actions; or (2) to invent any satisfactory description of the characteristics of morality in terms of merely natural processes. Ethics, in short, as we would express it, rests *not* upon the fact of our being understanding beings with views and sentiments about things that fall below the dignity of our own nature, but upon the fact of our being active beings with an initiative and a guiding power that we cannot for one moment consciously surrender—upon the simple fact that it is quite meaningless for us