

FAITH AND BELIEFS IN SCIENCE

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I beg your permission to briefly divert the topic into a philosophical discussion that distinguishes between two different aspects of human mental characteristics. This issue has an important bearing on the progress of scientific development as well as human knowledge and welfare in general. The concept of *faith* is based on *invariable*, subjective mental and *private personal trust* of communal and religious indoctrinations and teachings while the characteristic mental state of normal *belief* rests on the *variable and conditional trust* of scientific and mathematical discoveries that are backed-up by systematic experimental research though still remain subject to falsification. It is very unfortunate, that despite Einstein's, numerous and original contributions to science, his *Special Theory of Relativity (STR)* ended up in the *faith* group as a result of the reluctance of most establishment scientific publications to allow alternative challenging views and theories. Presently, there is a red demarcation line that prevents any changes whatever to the original treatment of the theory as laid out by its original author. This had led us to a serious state of stagnation where there is no longer allowance, acceptance or encouragement for new interpretations of experimental findings or the introduction of fresh logical deductions that seriously question the *STR* physics. I do not think this is what Einstein aimed at though his followers still refuse to concede that there may be other alternative solutions that are probably more commonsensical and logical which try to avoid the controversial issue of the yet unproven hypotheses of *intrinsic dilation of time and contraction of length*. As an example, we can now precisely pinpoint our global positions on Earth using orbiting satellites with synchronised clocks (*GPS*) which indicate that time must be *common* for our calculations to be exact thus encouraging us to accept time as a *common parameter* on all inertial frames of reference by proper synchronization of clocks that normally tend to run slower or faster due to physical changes that influence their mechanisms. Another example is that the unit of mass that remained a constant parameter since Galileo and Newton era but which was subsequently falsified by canal ray experiments involving high velocity electrons and other atomic particles. Thus our "scientific" beliefs must remain versatile to the arrival of new ideas and novel ways of thinking.

Unfortunately, we had consequently developed a latent tendency to avoid discussing the basic foundations of our physical theory while encouraging wild hypotheses to flourish and dominate our theoretical treatment of the subject. It is indeed not a very happy situation as it is presently carrying us far away from reality and a commonsensical view of the universe. With the intervention of the mathematicians, the physical issues were transformed into a complex and incomprehensible subject that few of us can follow up. We are no longer swimming in the calm sea of physics but fighting to survive the turbulent waves of a mathematical tornado.

E.M. Forester said: "I don't believe in Belief", as for myself, "I do not believe in faith, I place all my trust on commonsensical Beliefs."