

We are living a period of crisis, whether we like to attribute to the difficulties in tackling financial, societal or climatic challenges. In times of crisis, such as in the Middle Age, the individual worries and weaknesses often found certainty in religion. From the Middle Age to today, we have faced the shift of scientific thought from the religious one and a growing impact of technologies on social and economic life. Globalization and the web, to some extent, have also reduced the role of the nations and the unprecedented access to a huge amount of information, able to greatly influence opinions and behavior.

Truth and beliefs are often not closely related to each other, and social behaviors are not always driven by rationality or reasonableness. If the humans are said to be usually motivated by incentives, penalties, habits or religious/ethical beliefs, it seems that laziness, greed and fear are still the dominant feelings of the *homo sapiens* in its historical path of survival of the species. Nevertheless, what could distinguish the *homo sapiens*, in addition to the language, is a conscious reflection on its existence.

Science, like religion, is a "methodological approach to life" but has always put a lot of attention in avoiding to explicitly deal with topics considered by the scientific community itself as "dangerous". Science has always been assigned to itself the role of explaining "how" nature works, not why, and this distinction has always been critical to avoid overlaps and frictions. Sometimes in history, as recently, some conflicts have been driven, or rather justified, by beliefs rarely supported by knowledge and transparency. Indeed, the basics of the philosophical thought, and which result in a few essential questions, are those that faith and rationality have been facing for centuries and should inspire the evolution of human kind.

Meetings between different cultures and disciplines to reflect on the meanings and the fundamental aspects of human existence can allow shared reflections on thoughts perceived as opposite. These opportunities are needed for building citizens able to adequately tackle future challenges, and should address the fundamental questions, such as: where we come from, where we go, what we are. These questions, which are very rarely addressed both by media or training, might stimulate reflections on the roles of individuals in society, indicating the priorities of a common coexistence.

These questions, from a scientific point of view, are related to the origin of life, the definition of consciousness, the theory of chaos and quantum mechanics, the concept of time. These questions, from a point of philosophical and religious views, are linked to the problem of creation / evolution, life after death, centrality of the human kind, free will and so on.

Some scientific aspects are often marginally known or rarely interconnected as they should: if addressed without prejudice but with rigor and simplicity, they could suggest routes between cultures and different conceptions of the world. Here are some examples from biology: the evolution according to Darwin, the appearance of the ribosome, genetic sequences and functionality; from mathematics: the Mandelbrot ensemble, artificial intelligence, Godel's theorem, the tessellation of space, the golden ratio; from psychology: the acausal connecting principle, from physics: the theory of chaos, the indeterminacy principle, the entanglement, the anthropic approach, the concept of time, the Minkowski diagram, the big bounce, the black holes.