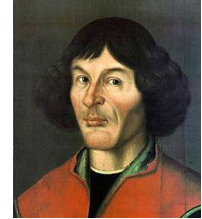


Central Historical Question:

If religion gave man “a complete explanation of how the world came about and of how it works” were scientists committing a crime by arguing against it?

Nicolaus Copernicus, dedication to Pope Paul III in his book, *On the Revolution of the Heavenly Spheres 1543 (edited)*

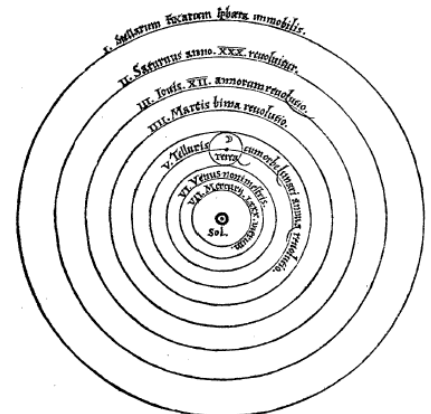


Copernicus was a Polish mathematician and astronomer who developed the heliocentric theory of the Universe. His heliocentric theory placed the Sun at the center of the universe, as opposed to the Earth, which followed Catholic doctrine.

Pope Paul III was the Pope who created the Church of Trent and began the “Counter-Reformation.”

The learned and unlearned alike may see that I shrink from no man’s criticism. It is to your Holiness that I have chosen to dedicate these studies of mine. In this remote corner of the Earth in which I live, you are regarded as the most eminent by virtue of the dignity of your Office, and because of your love of letters and science. You, by your influence and judgment, can readily hold the slanderers from biting. Math is for mathematicians, and they, if I be not wholly deceived, will hold that my labors contribute even to the well being of the Church.

To the right is Copernicus’ depiction of the Universe from his book, with the Sun placed in the center.



Vocabulary: Merriam-Webster

Eminent: 1. Standing above others in some quality or position.

Virtue: 1. Conformity to a standard of right, morality. 2 Manly strength or courage.

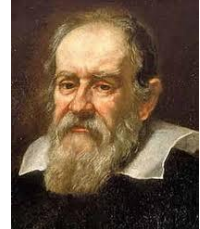
Slander(ers): 1. The utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage another's reputation. 2. A false and defamatory oral statement about a person.

Central Historical Question:

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Galileo Galilei, A Letter to Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany, 1615 (edited)

Galileo Galilei was an Italian scientist, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher. His contributions greatly improved early telescopes. He is most known for his book on Heliocentrism as discussed by Copernicus.



When answering problems we should begin with observations and demonstrations, not scriptural passages. The Bible, in order to be understood by every man, says things that differ from the truth. But Nature can never break laws imposed on her and won't care if she is not understood by men.

For that reason nothing which demonstrations prove, ought to be called in question, or condemned, because the Bible says something different. I do not mean to infer that we need not have an extraordinary esteem for the passages of Holy Scripture. On the contrary, having arrived at any answers, we ought to use these as aids in understanding the Bible. I do not believe the same God who gave us senses, reason, and intellect has intended for us to not use them.

Vocabulary: Merriam-Webster

Imposed: *a* : To establish or apply by authority *b* : to establish or bring about as if by force.

Condemned: 1. To declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil. 2. To pronounce guilty.

Infer: To come to a conclusion based on facts.

Esteem: 1. The regard in which one is held; *especially* : high regard. (To think highly of)

Central Historical Question:

If religion gave man “a complete explanation of how the world came about and of how it works” were scientists committing a crime by arguing against it?

Giovanni Ciampoli, letter to Galileo, 1615 (edited)

Ciampoli was an Italian monk who was both a friend of Galileo and an advisor to the Pope. He encouraged Galileo and his work while also assuring the Pope Galileo’s work was not damaging to the Church.



Your studies of the Moon show similarities between the Earth and the Moon. Someone adds to this and assumes the Moon is inhabited by humans. Another discusses how they could be descended from Adam or how they could have gotten out of Noah’s ark, and many other extravagant ideas that you never even dreamed of. So it is important for you to remove the possibility of rumors by showing your willingness to defer to the authority of those who have jurisdiction over the human intellect in matters of the interpretation of scripture.

Vocabulary: Merriam-Webster

Assumes 4: to pretend to have or to be. 5: to take as granted or true : suppose

Descended 5 *a* : to originate or come from an ancestral stock or source : (you descended from your parents)

Extravagant 2*a* : exceeding the limits of reason or necessity <*extravagant* claims>

Jurisdiction 1: the power, right, or authority to interpret and apply the law 2*a* : the authority of a sovereign power to govern or legislate *b* : the power or right to exercise authority

Central Historical Question:

If religion gave man “a complete explanation of how the world came about and of how it works” were scientists committing a crime by arguing against it?

Galileo's First Deposition before the Roman Catholic Church, April 1633 (edited)

In 1633 the Roman Inquisition ordered Galileo to come to Rome for a trial on if his book could be considered heresy (which means to go against the Church's interpretation of the Bible).



Q: Explain the character of the book you are on trial for.

A: It is a book written on the constitution of the world, that is, of the two chief systems, and the arrangement of the heavens and the elements.

Q: Why did you come to Rome in 1616?

A: I came to Rome in 1616 because I heard there were objections to Nicolas Copernicus's opinion on the earth's motion, the sun's stability, and the arrangement of the heavenly spheres. I came to hear what was proper to believe according to the holy and Catholic Church.

Q: What did they decide in Rome about this matter in 1616?

A: It was decided by the Holy Congregation that this opinion, taken absolutely, is against Holy Scripture and is to be admitted only suppositionally.*

I am saying this freely because I do not claim not to have held or defended at all the said opinion of the earth's motion and sun's stability.

*This means the idea could be discussed as an idea, but not as a truth.