

Dearest Colby,

In you I see two men.

Coby who is brave, protective, curious, generous, and kind.

Dr. Slater who is rational, discerning, and seeks scientific explanations.

I find myself colliding with you at the center of these two vertices.

In the former I am drawn to you, feel safe beside you, and want to foster a deep friendship of mutual regard.

In the latter however, I find you as unbearably close-minded as the prisoners of Plato's cave. Your reason is hindered by the belief that only existing scientific models have merit, and that if great minds (including your own) have not found a rational explanation for something, any other understanding is primitive, incomplete, or misguided.

You respect Newton for his laws of physics, but Newton was an also mystic who sought sacred wisdom in scripture and practiced alchemy to understand the divine. Einstein's theories are brilliant, but he also speaks openly about his deep spiritual conviction to the harmony of nature.

Many great minds have sought truths not because of scientific advancement but because of faith and curiosity. They have a willingness to entertain multiple conflicting ideas without ascribing a hierarchy to them. Their proofs come AFTER their revelations.

The field of advanced mathematics requires a willingness to take one thing as a given to explore what that might imply, EVEN if it given cannot be proven. Is time infinite or finite? Is the growth of the universe linear or logarithmic? By holding these different possibilities in our minds, we have the opportunity to explore their implications.

Like yourself I seek logical explanation, but where we differ is that when logic cannot be ascertained I inquire, while you dismiss. My methods are not to seek out flights of fancy as an end in and of themselves, but stepping stones along the way to finding greater truths.

Newton did not fully understand the laws of gravity when the apple struck him. Galileo was dismissed when he suggested the earth orbits the sun. You know I am a brilliant woman, so I ask that you give me the benefit of the doubt and give my discoveries the same space and time needed to develop as you would for another man of science. In turn, I will do all that I can to ground my hypotheses in as much of the known natural world as possible.

Evidence is to science as logic is to mathematics. When we entertain new logical hypothesis, we able to create new mathematical models. When you encounter new evidence, I ask that you expand your science, not deny what you have perceived.

I've seen a future where we are well regarded peers who sharpen their intellectual blades against each other. That is a future I would very much like to aspire towards. Will you join me?

Yours,

Catherine