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Foreword

History of Science: Its Necessity and Benefits

History of science is an account of the emergence and development of the human scientific thought and experience, and tries to find answers to questions such as:

- How and in which ways have human beings acquired their scientific knowledge?
- Which conditions have helped the promotion of such knowledge?
- How scientific knowledge has been applied?
- Which factors have led the human efforts for obtaining science into dead-end or off-road?
- Which connections exist between the living environment and the advancement of science?

Scientific ideas and formulation are the most universal elements of the human civilization. Scientific facts are described in the same way all over the world. Consecutive generations of many nations have contributed to the development of science. Many discoveries and inventions were forgotten where they first appeared and later reappeared somewhere else. The present human civilization is a common heritage of all human beings and its history should be narrated to the young generation of all nations.

History of science is the story of human beings' efforts to know the natural phenomena, the rules governing them, and the means to apply these phenomena for their wills.

For encouraging the young generation to defend peace and brotherhood on the earth and to assist maximum flourishing of science and culture, the young people should be acquainted with all the efforts of their predecessors among all nations.



Familiarity with history of science promotes interest and sympathy towards humanity and causes recognition of the value of civilization.

Sometime in the past, an individual was able to acquire all the existing knowledge in all fields. However, with advancement and specialization of science, this is no more possible. Many scientists are working in their own exact narrow field of work, not well recognized by other scientists. History of science helps to evaluate the position of one's research in the scope of the whole corpus of the scientific achievements and to acquire not only scientific enthusiasm, but also humanistic ideas and desires.

One may ask: why, in the age of nuclear chemistry and cosmic spacecrafts, should we spend time on readings stories about alchemy and astrology? This may first seem a reasonable question. But in fact, any advancement is possible based on recognition and evaluation of what has already been done. A knowledgeable architect never judges a building merely on the basis of its outer view or its height, but looks at its drawings and checks its materials, foundation, security, efficiency, economical value and technical expertise used in it. A similar role is played by history of science in its subject field.

History of science is not a means to establish the national or racial superiority, but a way of encouraging friendship and cooperation between different nations.

Gholam-Hossein Sadri-Afshar

