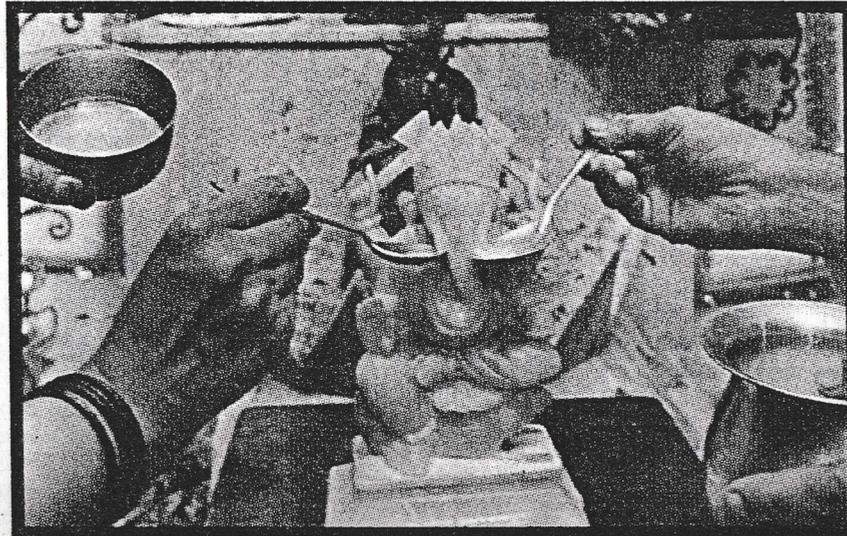


QED

FAITH IS STILL A WINNER

Presented here is an excerpt of the proceedings of a debate between a serious student of science and a gentleman who believes in God, spirits, astrology, psychokinesis and Ganesh idols drinking milk.

The scientist was confident that her opponent must lose the debate against her clear logic based on objective data. But the 'anti-scientist' took the lead and stole the show. The scientist, busy defending her position, failed to ask her opponent to prove his point, and lost the debate. Here is how it went:



The audience wonders why scientists are so dogmatic.

■ *Science does not know what happened before the creation of the Universe, now how it will end.*

The scientist admits, that is precisely the limit of science, not weakness. However, science does **not** consider such questions as the state of matter before the Big Bang, but does not expect any final answer to those speculations from the data available now. Finally, the concept of linear time itself is challenged by modern physics, but when she tries to explain these abstruse concepts to the audi-

ence, nobody understands.

The audience clearly sees the futility of scientific exercise.

■ *Science has given us nuclear bombs, polluted environment, dehumanised people and robbed us of peace.*

The scientist gets exasperated and explains that those evils are the result of the misuse of technology, usurped by powers that be, which are not controlled by scientists. She also points out that religion has also poisoned the minds of the billions, killed a greater number of people than has been killed in the World Wars, justified oppression, and stunted social growth over centuries.

The audience disapproves of the scientist's spurious attempt to preach Marxist view of religion.

Debal Deb

■ *Modern science proves the wisdom of ancient scriptures and indicates the existence of a Supreme Intelligence. Even Einstein believed in God.*

The scientist says that scientists, as intelligent humans, have every right to appreciate the powerful poetic imagination of the scriptures, where certain concepts seem to have interesting parallels to conjectures of modern physics (like multiple universes and different time scales), which certainly do not prove their correctness: that scientists do marvel at the complexity and orderliness of the world, which indeed appears to have been designed by some supreme intelligent being; that if that impression leads a scientist to believe in God (whatever that mean to the scientist himself), that does not prove God's existence.

The audience thinks that she is too impudent to consider herself smarter than Einstein.

■ *Every theory of science is liable to be modified or even rejected by a new theory. Nothing is the last word in science.*

She has to admit that uncertainty is an essential part of science, that science advances from truth to greater truth, that science admits of no Absolute Truth.

The audience pooh-poohs science because everybody wants Absolute Truth.

■ *Current theories about the origin of the stars, chemical evolution of life from pristine molecules, evolution of human, etc are likely to be discarded. To stick to those ideas, and reject the possibility of divine Creation, therefore amounts to fundamental orthodoxy.*

She argues that science is a self-correcting process, and scientists do change their views, but only on the basis of new facts, or a new and convincing line of reasoning, that there is yet no evidence to reject evolutionism in favour of Creationism.

