



Science, Faith and Society : A Searching Examination of the Meaning and Nature of Scientific Inquiry

By M. POLANYI

University of Chicago Press June 1964, 1964. Paper Back. Book Condition: New. Polanyi's title is really a concise (though greatly simplified) abstract of his scientific theory: a way of knowing in which the subject and its meaning are understood according to common "intrinsic creative powers" present in both human thought and the nature of the subject itself. He calls this indivisible unity the "biological mechanism" by which knowledge exists and expands perpetually. Imposing a system of orderliness from the outside (as exemplified by the "scientific method") breaks down this natural cohesion and results in a dualistic (and therefore incomplete) way of understanding. Polanyi maintains that society -- and the community it represents -- mirror the universe's ability to reveal itself, embodying a creative force by which we come to meaning and truth. Put another way, this process (as described by the Church Fathers) might be termed *fides quaerens intellectum* -- faith in search of understanding.



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