

Four Views of Nature



ARE NOW POSSIBLE TO HAVE BY AROUND
1700 AD – SOME OF THESE VIEWS ARE
ANCIENT

Religious View



- **Human behavior, for better or worse, is recognized, rewarded or punished by God through nature.**
- **Truth is given through divine revelation to those who can interpret the signs = prophets.**
- **Nature is God's Medium; humans can control nature through their actions; God gave the control of nature to humans.**

Mechanical



- **God only creates the initial conditions and sets the springs.**
- **Truth is acquired via rational and reductionist means so as to discover the workings of the springs.**
- **Nature is lifeless matter in motion, it is a Machine, orderly and predictable.**
- **Humans are distinct from nature and are entitled to control it because Nature has no soul, only humans do.**

Scientific



- **Nature is governed by a small set of consistent operating principles that can evolve with time.**
- **Careful observation and experimentation can reveal many of those principles; i.e., humans can recognize and comprehend the patterns.**
- **God may or may not exist.**
- **Truth is manifest as consistency with observations.**
- **Humans are necessarily a physical part of Nature.**

Aboriginal



- **Nature is sacred.**
- **Humans are directly connected to nature.**
- **Harm to nature is harm to humans.**
- **Truth is unimportant.**
- **Knowledge and Wisdom come from recognizing that all components of the system are equal and necessary - Nothing in nature is unnecessary or without purpose.**