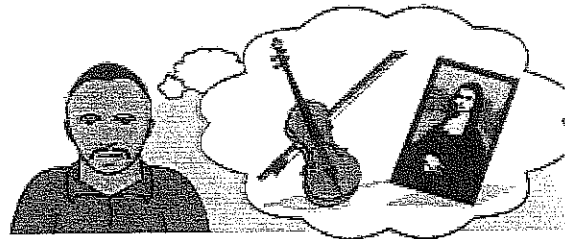
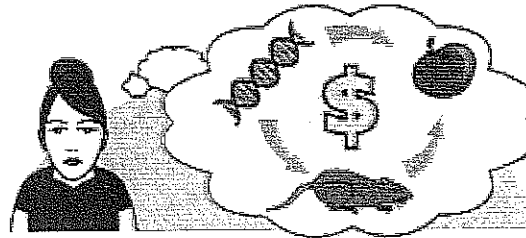


song or a painting is beautiful or dreadful. Individuals make those decisions for themselves based on their own aesthetic criteria.



### Science doesn't tell you how to use scientific knowledge

Although scientists often care deeply about how their discoveries are used, science itself doesn't indicate what should be done with scientific knowledge. Science, for example, can tell you *how* to make nuclear energy but it cannot tell whether you should use it for nuclear medicine, power plants, or weapons. For almost any important scientific advance, one can imagine both positive and negative ways that knowledge could be used and people don't always agree. Again, science helps us describe how the world *is*, and then *we* have to decide how to use that knowledge.



### Science doesn't draw conclusions about supernatural explanations

Does God exist? Do supernatural entities, like ghosts or angels, intervene in human affairs? These questions may be important, but science won't help you answer them. Questions that deal with *supernatural* explanations are, by definition, beyond the realm of nature — and hence, also beyond the realm of what can be studied by science. For many, such questions are matters of personal faith and spirituality.



Moral judgments, aesthetic judgments, decisions about applications of science, and conclusions about the supernatural are outside the realm of science, but that doesn't mean that these realms are unimportant. Science is just one way of understanding the world and just because the question does not involve the natural world does not mean it is not worth answering. You just cannot do so using science. In fact, domains such as ethics, aesthetics, and religion fundamentally influence human societies and how those societies interact with science. Neither are such domains unscholarly. In fact, topics like aesthetics, morality, and theology are actively studied by philosophers, historians, and other scholars. However, questions that arise within these domains generally cannot be resolved by science.