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Компьютерная верстка **Е.В. Гревцовой**

Подписано в печать 22.02.2013 г. Формат 84х108/16. Усл. печ. л. 13,2.  
Уч.-изд. л. 12,7. Бумага тип. Печать офсетная. Тираж 1000 экз. Заказ 393.  
Отпечатано в ПЦ БИК. 660041 Красноярск, пр. Свободный, 82а.

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*Свидетельство о регистрации СМИ  
ПИ № ФС77-28-723 от 29.06.2007 г.*

Серия включена в «Перечень ведущих рецензируемых научных журналов и изданий, в которых должны быть опубликованы основные научные результаты диссертации на соискание ученой степени доктора и кандидата наук» (редакция 2010 г.)

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УДК 165.02

## Scientism: a Cult of «a Chosen Scientist»

**Daniil V. Pivovarov\***

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Received 08.02.2013, received in revised form 15.02.2013, accepted 22.02.2013

*The article discusses two themes: the first one is the concept of scientism as the specific form of scientific religiousness; the second one is a cult of a chosen scientist as a version of scientism. Usually scientists allocate scientific geniuses with exclusively positive angelic properties, and ascients, on the contrary, find out in geniuses of any science only negative demonic features. The author puts forward a hypothesis, according to which the scientific genius in the maximal degree personifies a human nature, and this nature in an equal proportion is made by the beginnings of goods and harm, angelic and devil attributes. The given dialectic assumption is concretized in the text on an example of the analysis of the cult of Sir Isaac Newton.*

*Keywords: sociocentric religion, monism and pluralism, scientism, ascientism, scient, ascient, cult of a chosen scientist.*

### 1. Scientism

Scientism is 1) a cult of natural science; 2) worship of its experimental and mathematical methods; 3) absolutization of the role of scientists and scientific experts in a society, and also a cult of selected scientists-geniuses; 4) a belief that all making sense problems are scientifically soluble.

This cult develops in Western Europe from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, reaches apogee in the interval between the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (in particular during the well-known epoch of scientific and technical revolution), and it starts to be discredited and weakened by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century under an impact of realities of life and in an antagonism with ascients. Scientism is closely connected with technocratic thinking which roots are incorporated in F. Bacon's "New Organon". Inside of "the temple of sciences"

scientism discredits the humanities poorly using experiment and mathematical language; natural sciences also cultivate methodology of empiricism, naturalism and antihistoricism.

Since the 30-es of the 19<sup>th</sup> century scientism gets into sociology through O. Kont's positivism. Attempts to build sociology on the sample of mechanics (G. Cary, A.Z. Kettle, D.S. Mill), or biology (G. Spenser, E. Dyurkgejm, V. Pareto) are undertaken. The Christian idea of a person as an image and similarity of God has originally refracted in scientism: a person is a creator, it "cannot wait for favors by nature" and its problem consists in alteration of the world to a measure of the needs and desires. Scientism is one of irrational effects of the developed Christian culture that are ideologically turning around against the Christian doctrine in forms of atheism

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