

Chapter 10

Epilogue: The Future of the Discipline

Psychologists reading this last chapter may have noticed something rather peculiar. The audience, which for the rest of the book has generally been psychologists, now becomes “the academy.” In point of fact, the concluding chapter does not even include the word psychology. Instead it grapples with the fundamental tensions between the sciences and the humanities and argues that humanity at large must develop a global worldview grounded in a moral vision that supports the progress of science built on a clear foundation of human values. This raises the following question about the nature of the unified theory: Is the unified theory a new system of thought for psychology or is it a new scientific humanistic worldview for the academy at large? I have come to see it as both. And given that psychology has always lived on the fault lines of human knowledge, perhaps it should not come as a shock that the solution to the problem of psychology opens up a whole new way to view human knowledge and understand the human condition.

Implicit in the concluding chapter is the point that the unified theory offers a new vision for the place of psychology in the academy. I am thus ultimately confronting psychologists with a choice. On the one hand, we can continue to remain fragmented and accept our position within the academy as an ill-defined, pre-paradigmatic discipline that exists as one of a multitude of behavioral sciences and health professions. Or we can seize the potential of a coherently defined field grounded in a scientific humanistic worldview and take our place as leading the world into the next global age.