



Transubstantiation and Physics: Validity in Science Vs. Validity in Religion

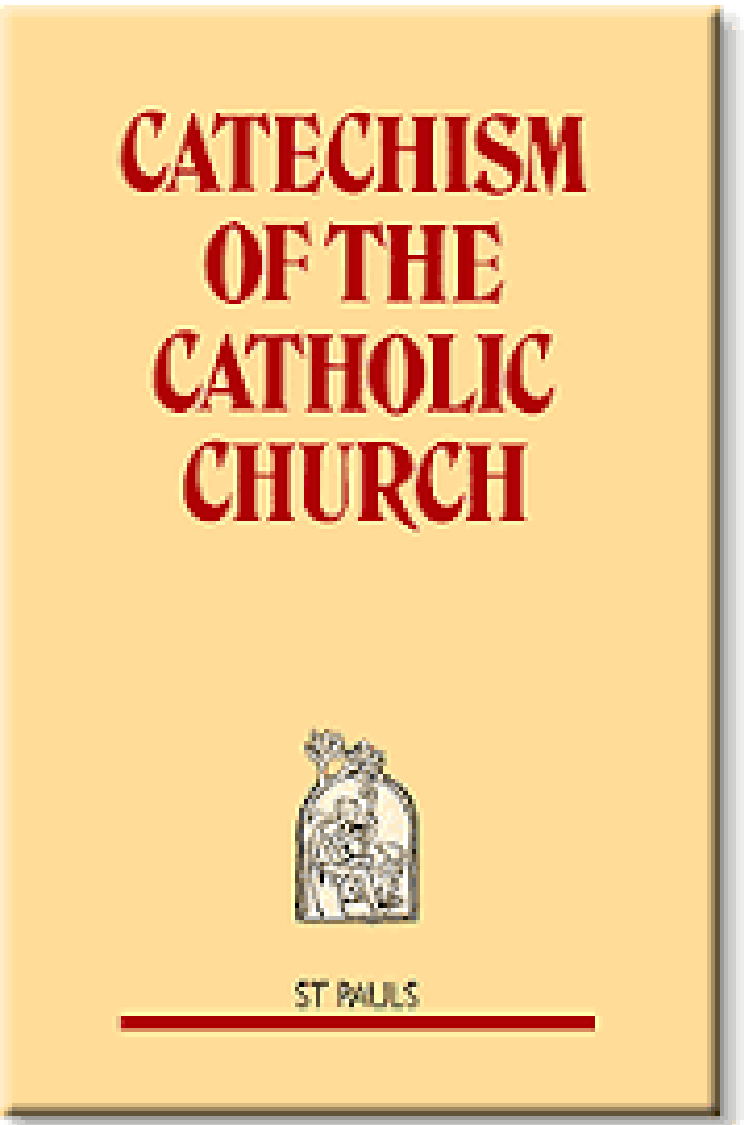
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What is Transubstantiation?

Catholics believe Transubstantiation is the process of **converting bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood.**

"The Church asks the Father to send his Holy Spirit (or the power of his blessing) on the bread and wine, so that by his power they may become the body and blood of Jesus Christ and so that those who take part in the Eucharist may be one body and one spirit."[4]



Where Does Transubstantiation Occur?

- Catholic Priests celebrate Mass
- Holy Spirit converts the bread and wine to the body and blood of Jesus Christ



Transubstantiation in The Gospel

▪ Matthew's Gospel The Last Supper

- "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving to his disciples said, "Take and eat, this is my body. Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28).

▪ John's Gospel Purpose

- "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever... he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and...abides in me, and I in him" (Jn 6:51,54,56).

Why is Transubstantiation Important?

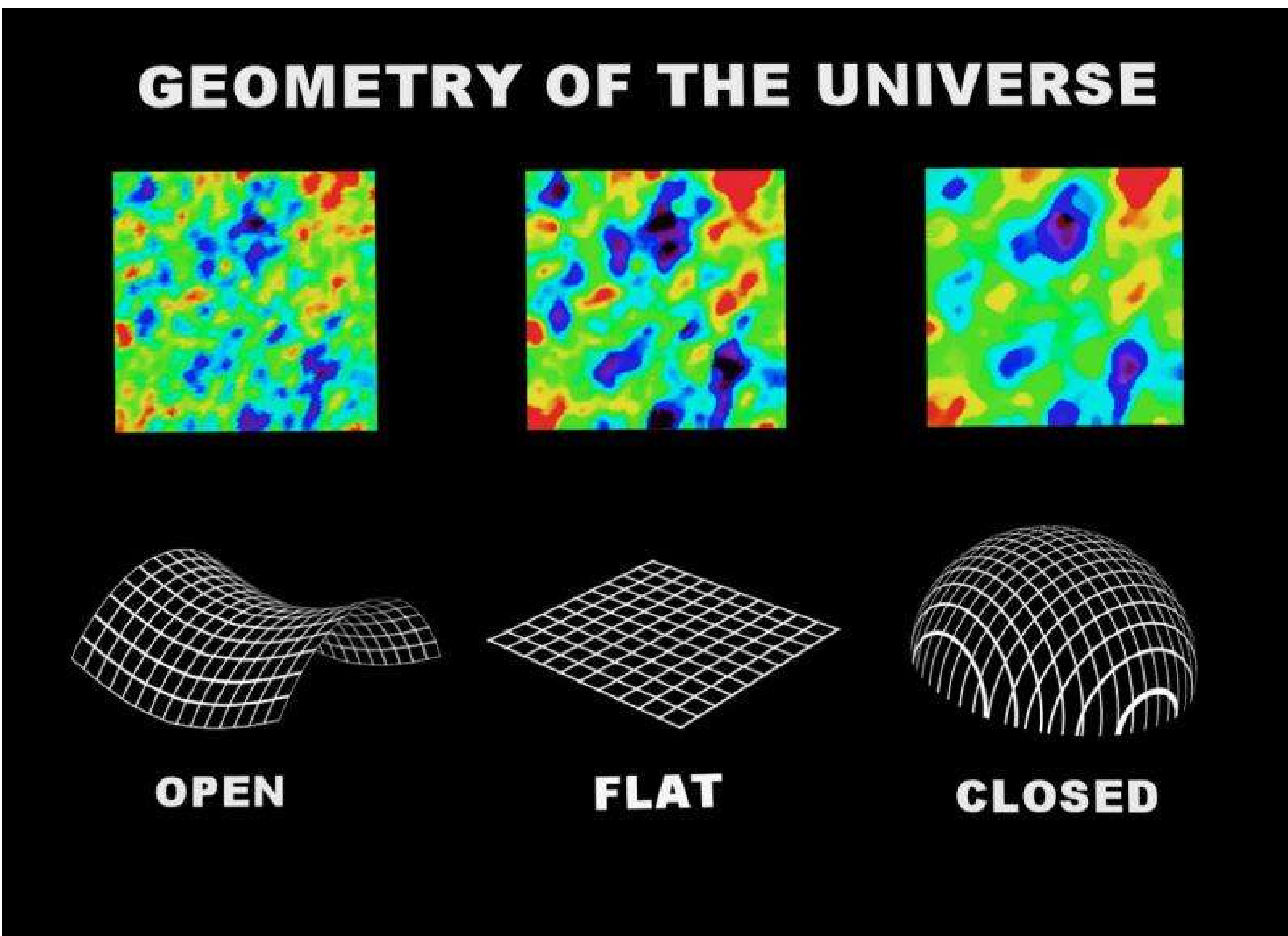
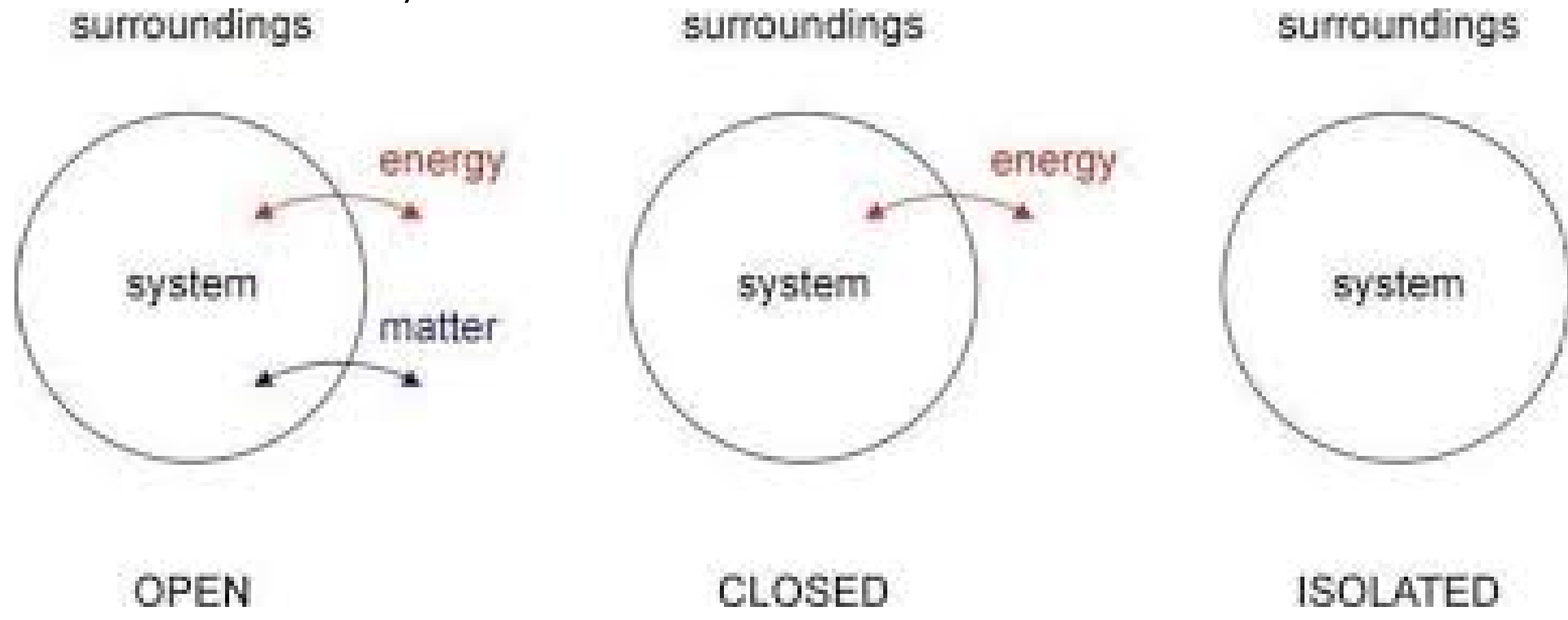
- **Christ our Redeemer offers his body as a living sacrifice**
- Physical Presence of Jesus's Body and Blood
- Consecration is a change in whole substance of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ[4]
- **Consecration** – Sacred and Holy
- The mystery of the Eucharist

Abstract

Catholics believe Transubstantiation is the process of converting bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood. There are no physical signs of change, but the substance changes. From a scientific perspective, there is no application of heat or light and no physical sign of change, therefore there is no change. Physics as we understand at an undergraduate level assumes Earth is a closed system. This assumption no longer applies if there can be substance change without physical modification from an energy source. I refuse to believe that science and religion are unrelated entities, yet I accept that this unexplainable phenomenon occurs every time Mass is celebrated. Miracles are consequential to faith due to their lack of worldly explanation, but science makes decisions based on reproducible, tangible data, therefore, the dissonance is evident.

Physics Principles and Their Potential Surface Level Contradictions

- **Conservation of Energy**
 - "According to Newton and classical mechanics, natural laws describe how the world works when, or provided that the world is a closed (isolated) system, subject to no outside casual influence" [2].
 - Transubstantiation is **Physical Change Without Application of Heat or Light**
 - **Is God Confined to a Closed System?**



Where is Your Evidence?

- **Christmas Day Mass** at St. Hyacinth in Legnica, Poland
 - Host falls to the ground during communion
 - Priest instructed to place Host in holy water to dissolve
 - Two weeks later, the host had not dissolved and had turned red
- **Wroclaw Institute of Forensic Medicine**
 - finds the sample to be heart muscle
- **Department of Forensic Medicine in Szczecin**
 - "human heart muscle with changes, as they can occur during the death struggle."
- **Psalms 147**
 - "He numbers the stars, and gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, vast in power with wisdom beyond measure."

Science and Religion

God is **omnipotent**. He does not have to abide the closed system physics principles. But, sometimes, as in the case of the Christmas Mass miracle in Poland, He lets us.

- **Science** makes decisions based on reproducible, tangible data
- Just as **Thomas** put his hand into **Jesus' side** to believe that **He rose from the dead**, Christian scientist's demand for scientific evidence for miraculous events removes the obstacle of doubt associated with faith and replaces it with **irrefutability**.
- The conflict between what we can **study** and what **cannot be quantified** is the **root of the dissonance** between science and religion.
- **Miracles as Unexplainable Phenomena**
 - As scientists we can appreciate miraculous events more clearly because we understand how the miraculous outcome is not organically likely.

Conclusions: Dissonance to Ponder

"I am not asking you to have blind faith in Jesus, but rather faith based upon knowledge, incomplete as it is, and limited though our capacity to understand undoubtedly is" [9].

References

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| [7] S.J John A. Hardon. | | |

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