

Abstract Submitted
for the NEF09 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Galileo's Courage to Create New Cosmology PAUL H. CARR¹,
AF Research Laboratory Emeritus — The trial of Galileo was a confrontation between the creativity of new science and the traditions of “the religious establishment.” Galileo challenged ancient cosmology, where heavenly bodies were thought to be perfect spheres made of “ether.” His trial might have been avoided if Galileo had been more diplomatic. Paradoxically, the Roman Catholic Church was *scientifically* correct: Galileo had no proof the earth rotated about its axis as it orbited around the sun. His assertion that the tides arise from the earth's rotation later turned out to be correct, but at that time no one knew enough about gravitational and centrifugal forces. Galileo courageously argued, “The Bible tells us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go [1].” He was nevertheless convicted at age 69, Galileo, although deeply hurt, did not withdraw from the Church. He believed himself to be a good Catholic who had sought to keep his church, for its own good, from making a mistake. In 1992, Pope John Paul said the Church had erred in condemning Galileo.

[1] Carr, P. H. (2006). “The Courage to Create Beauty,” Chap 10 of “Beauty in Science & Spirit,” Beech River Books, Center Ossipee, NH.

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Date submitted: 01 Oct 2009

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