

## Modern Science and the Capriciousness of Nature

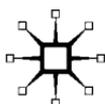
*Also by Karl Rogers*

ON THE METAPHYSICS OF EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS

# Modern Science and the Capriciousness of Nature

Karl Rogers

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*For Caitlin*

*For serious thinkers today and for growing numbers of politically active persons as well, the progressivist view of history seems neither true nor appealing. The dubious metaphysical underpinnings of the faith [in inevitability of progress through science and technology] are now embarrassingly obvious. Mounting signs of the social and environmental problems that 'progress' generates have eroded the conviction that there is a necessary link between technological advance and the well-being of the Earth and its people. Insofar as the aspirations of democratic societies still hinge upon the outward progressivist mythology, those aspirations are in deep trouble.*

Langdon Winner, *Democracy in the Technological Society* (1992)

*Every passing hour brings the Solar System forty-three thousand miles closer to Globular Cluster M13 in Hercules – and still there are some misfits who insist that there is no such thing as progress.*

Kurt Vonnegut, *The Sirens of Titan* (1959)

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