

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY IN SERVICE OF MANKIND

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The mankind right from the early dawn of civilization on our mother planet earth has ventured into understanding the world around and thus discover the harmony between man and nature. It was realized that man does not exist in isolation rather in the company of his fellow-beings as all that is created by the God Almighty in the universe. It was also realized that our survival, more so our happiness and our success to lead a healthy life is deeply dependent upon the survival and sustenance of a healthy atmosphere around us. During the *Vedic* times, the *Vedic rishies* have tried to discover this secret of harmony

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between man and nature. The *Vedas* clearly emphasise on the eternal aspect of creation, such as, in the famous [verse](#) of *Ishopnishad*,

*Om purnam adah purnam idam, purnat purnam udacyate
purnasya purnam adaya, purnam evavasisyate*
(*Ishopnishad* 1.1)

Human beings, having scientific bent of mind and the sensitivity, they possess, to the world around and empowered with the power of intellect and intuition, have always been in search of finding the truth that unveils the purpose of creation, purpose of life, and ultimately leading to a clear understanding of the secret of Life and death.

In the famous *Kathopanishad*, we find that the learned Yama, who possessed the secret of life and death counsels Nachiketa by saying “*Yastu Vijyanban bhabhatu, mansa sada suchi*” that is, let you adore science, let you pursue science in search of truth, but remember that purity of mind is maintained, meaning therein that purity of *manas*, that is purity of mind, purity of heart and in turn the purity of whole body (*manas* transmits in the whole of the human body through *prana* from brain to heart and to all parts of body in close company of the rhythmic vibrations of the divine). Therefore, the purity of mind, heart and body can only enable a person to pursue scientific inquiry which leads to the discovery of the truth. The truth so realized unveils the secret of the universe and bridges the gap between the man and the Divine, the gap between body and soul, the gap between matter and energy and the gap between our own existence with the large universal system around us.

In the Indian Vedic system, *Gyana* the knowledge and *Vigyana*, the science both have been recognized as means and mechanisms to perform the work activity, the *karma*, to attain enlightenment and ultimately to attain fame, prosperity and salvation from the endless sufferings encountered during earthly existence. We the human beings then not only aim at glory and enlightenment but attain prosperity, fame, glory, enlightenment and salvation together. In such a spiritually elevated society the people lead a dignified life full of divine bliss and are endowed with prosperity and happiness. *Shano Yasha, Shano Brahma* barchsam, that is together attain, fame,

prosperity and enlightenment is the command of the Vedas in *Taitria Upnishad* (Tat.up.3.1).

The point I am trying to drive is that the knowledge; *gyana*, and the science; *vijyana*, both are considered to be highly useful not only to attain prosperity and happiness on mother earth but also to acquire immense capability to enable the entire society, the humankind the world over, to elevate itself to the level of godliness. We must clearly understand, however, that a polluted mind, a mind devoid of orientation to serve the society and a heart full of revenge and hatred cannot attain the levels of existence where in a man could come face to face with reality, face to face with the divinity and proclaim “*Aham Barhmaasmi*”, 'I am God', the proclamation made by the Vedic seers.

The question often being asked as to why should we be spiritual, why can't I do without spirituality? The answer is that even if we wish to be devoid of spirituality we can not as be God's intelligent design which is also fine tuned to create individuals, the divinity with in shall make regular efforts to surface itself often in the workplace, in the places of worship and also at the time of deep sorrow or immense happiness. The divinity with in, if truly experienced, enables man to rise to the level of Godliness. We need spirituality to create and utilize the immense wealth of knowledge and the power of mind, the power of working in and for divine and thus in turn benefit mankind by our work and noble deeds. Spirituality gives us the much needed orientation to serve the society with fullest of our abilities and to serve God through the service of man.

Science, Technology and Spirituality all go together as those who adore science and also have a spiritual bent of mind would always be employing their fullest capabilities and knowledge for the betterment of the society while at the same time constantly engaging themselves in search of truth through the service of man, through the

pursuit of the work activity with fullest of devotion through their understanding of the world around them. Science without spirituality leads to prosperity without happiness. Science and spirituality together create prosperity with eternal happiness. Prof. Charles Townes, the Noble laureate in physics in conversation with Swami Dr. T.D. Singh, Director of the Bhakti Vedanta Institute, Kolkata, India has opined that “it is not practical to keep scientific and spiritual cultures separate. The people who study science are often at the same time thoughtful about the meaning of life and values” (Seven Nobel Laureates on Science & Spirituality, Dr. T.D. Singh (Ed), 2004). Science and spirituality both are to be practiced and adored to create a civic society tuned to attaining the destined goal of human existence living and working in the company of God.

The dream of a civic and just society, realizing the infinite power of divinity, elevating man to the level of God head, people living in perfect harmony with nature, fulfilling the aim and realizing the meaning of life is achievable with the progress of science in the realm of spirituality. The journey on the path of *Gyanam*, the knowledge, associated and enabled by *vijanam*, the science, would then lead us to the horizons of *Pragyanam*, the horizon form where we are in a position to proclaim as the Vedic scientists did several thousand years ago, namely, *Pragyanam Bhrama*, that is *Pragyanam* is visualizing and realizing our existence in God.

In the knowledge age driven by science and technology it has become absolutely essential that science, technology and spirituality co-exist everywhere, more so in the universities and in the institutions and organizations cultivating knowledge, imparting knowledge, using knowledge to create wealth and prosperity while at the same time ensuring that the journey of mankind on the path of prosperity and happiness is assured by a firm commitment and resolve to discover better and better ways of maintaining harmony with nature and thus assuring continued sustenance of human life on mother planet earth.

We need more and more of scientism to foster scientific explorations into hitherto unexplored vistas of human endeavour. We also need more and more people of scientific bent of mind turning to spirituality to discover the rich wealth of science of soul, the secret of the creation. In fact we need a new mantra for the new knowledge age and this new mantra must prepare the human society to rise to newer heights of glory in respect of peace, prosperity and happiness with a firm commitment to sustain a clean environment, maintain earth's ecological balance and serve God, the creator, through the service of man and mother nature. This new mantra is based on the fusion of science and spiritual values to build a new global order. “*Vashdaev kutumbkam*” the concept of the world family would then be truly nurtured by people around the globe adoring “**Scientopirituality**” The journey of mankind on the path of knowledge shall then continue to the horizons of enlightenment and shall lead to wisdom manifold. The man shall then realize his fullest potentialities of eternal strength and shall witness the meeting point of mortal with the eternal, the natural destination of a spirituality enlightened scientific civic society. A Vedic seer of modern India has so beautifully put it in his proclamation of the mankind of future:

*Frontiers of ignorance shall recede
More and more soul shall attain divine.
The summit of life with divine
Is bound to happen in one's own lifetime.*

May be the prophecy of this great Vedic seer of the modern age is bound to come true in the near future given the accelerated pace of science and interest in spirituality by the scientific world.

Let us pledge to work for the creation of a fair and just society by integrating Science and Spirituality in our life philosophy and earn for ourselves eternal happiness and prosperity in abundance to enjoy the divine bliss, the *paramanada* and bridge the gap between man and divine.