

An Empirical Model to Attain Peace and Prosperity

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Abstract: In the modern world the progress of science has changed all the spheres of life: social, economical, and political etc... The advancement of physical comfort has raised the level of human happiness and his endless desires have given birth to various problems. Attempting to solve these troubles the misled man has become self centred and developed nuclear and dangerous weapons, polluted the green earth environment, and nourished a criminal world. As the consequence human survival on this blue planet has become full of peril. The religion can play a great role to check the negative aspect of scientific development. In this work it is exposed that the consciousness is the bridge between science and religion. The interplay of consciousness between the two bastions is imperative to create social prosperity and a peaceful world. In such a unified environment, science can cleanse religion from errors and superstitions, and religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider vision; a world in which both can flourish.

Keywords: Prosperity, Peace.

1. INTRODUCTION

The studies of archaeological survey show that human mind has been always agitating and susceptible to the external stimuli. The numerous developments, as found in the excavations and investigations, dating back to the time roughly 35,000 years ago, show the beginnings of the emergence of a reflective consciousness. Records of stone tools, burial sites, cave art, and of migration patterns evince that a first awakened human culture was born in these glimmerings of personal and shared awareness. There happened a dramatic change in the view of reality and human identity at about roughly 10,000 years ago when our ancestors shifted from a nomadic life to a more settled living in villages and farms; and then followed by a rise of city-states and the beginnings of civilization at roughly about 5,000 years ago.

A more recent revolution in the human awakening is clearly visible through the vast existing literature, museums and the developments in all the pathways of our life. The birth of modern science happened roughly 300 years ago with a radical dynamism and materialism of the industrial era. Science is based most assuredly on analysis, that is, scrutinizing every phenomenon and examining every part of it and finding out how it came about. The scientific revolution gave a totally different awareness to the human understanding of reality -- all aspects of life have vividly changed with it, including the work that people do, the ways they live together, how they relate to one another, and how they see their role in society and place in the universe.

In the history of science the progress has been a leap forward in the 20th Century and is very likely to be intensified in future. One can think of a great level of science when it can discover a theory to explain everything in nature including life. However this thought is not simple to realize. It has been noted that, at present, the course of modern science is encountering with several difficulties [1] which seem not easy to resolve. Despite of these hurdles there is another problem ready to interrupt the progress of science and that is the repercussion of nature. The nature will certainly take revenge of the damage that the humans have done and been still doing to it. In fact, the modern scientific paradigm has created a world full of intellect but void of emotions and feelings, which is dangerous to the progress of science and future of human survival. In the light of our previous work, and thoughts, works and appeals of the several scientists, philosophers, thinkers and social workers we have proposed a model solution to create harmony between science and religion. However, a number of models have been proposed in literature in search of peace [2].

In the second section the progress, difficulties and consequences of science are discussed and the third section introduces the imperative role of consciousness in the scientific paradigm. A model case study is presented in the next section and the conclusions are summarised in the last section.

2. PROGRESS, DIFFICULTIES AND CONSEQUENCES

It all began ages and ages ago when the savage and barbaric man created fire by chance striking two pieces of flint. This fire ignited a scientific thought in his mind and he rose and rose to the heights of civilisation and development with confidence and power. He can now sail the vast oceans, fly in the air, travel underground, extract precious stones, metals, minerals and other useful products and do a lot more things easily. The revolution in the communication and transportation has turned the world as a global village. Science has made it for man to live longer time, decrease the death rate and increased the life expectancy. Given the progress level of physical comfort the modern world is not less than heaven. The knowledge of science has turned out to be the human's most powerful tool in mastering and conquering nature. His never ending pursuit to unearth the reason behind every phenomenon has resulted in endless discoveries and inventions which have proved to be the great stepping stones in the progress of modern world.

In the modern scientific theories, there are several difficulties [1] which obstruct to see the true picture of nature. Along with the scientific knowledge, we have also gathered speculations, debates, and confusions. It seems as we are extending the radius of our scientific knowledge, so have been increasing the circumference of our ignorance and the truth is becoming more and more dispelled. No doubt the main goal of the modern science is to find the ultimate answer i.e. search for 'the theory of everything'; but there is an essential question which every wise man can ask: 'Can science ever explain everything?' A beautiful answer of a great physicist Steven Weinberg [3] is:

'Clearly not! There certainly always will be accidents that no one will explain, not because they could not be explained if we knew all the precise conditions that led up to them, but because we never will know all these condition'.

After struggling for several years a despondent scientist, Albert Einstein, who has a number of pioneering contributions to the development of modern science, uttered:

'I used to think when I was young that sooner, or later all the mysteries of existence would be solved and I worked hard. But now I can say that the more we know, the more our existence turns out to be mysterious. The more we know, the less we know and the more we become aware of the vastness... Science has failed in de-mystifying existence; on the contrary it has mystified things even more.'

On the other hand, the protagonists have overlooked these facts; as for them the important thing is how science could be exploited to increase the physical ease and satisfy the endless greed of life. Their vision is shallow, and to fulfil their selfish motto they are least concerned about the future of the next generations. Their wicked mentality doesn't hesitate to apply the scientific knowledge for the purpose of human mass destruction. They believe that in this way they can live more happily. Ironically, they have led the entire society onto the lines of same vision. As a matter of fact, a soaring level of human happiness has been resulting to the endless lusty desires, which have given birth to a restless and painful world with various problems like; anger, lust, ego, greed and selfishness etc... In order to solve these problems man developed nuclear weapons, polluted the green earth environment and nourished a criminal world. The countries having not enough food-stuff to feed their hunger do sustain far-flying dreams to create missiles and nuclear-bombs. The contemporary world is full of terror and hatred. In view of such a situation a famous quote of Albert Einstein is as under: 'The fourth world war will be fought with bows and arrows'. Furthermore, in the words of a famous American civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.: 'Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men'. Certainly, the course of our thinking is misled and on the wrong path; we will have to stop, think, introspect, and recourse in the right way.

3. ROLE OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Modern warfare is destructive beyond the wildest dreams of our unscientific predecessors. The fighting planes, submarines are the engines of mass destruction. The atoms and hydrogen bombs can destroy the whole civilization with in fraction of a second. The whole world is sitting on the dune of explosive materials. It may be noted that despite of such an alarming situation till now if the world is breathing, is only and only due to the spiritual values which are regulating the

wicked mindset of the modern man. Is science really a bane? This is a big question which every futurist asks. It is said that the Gin of science is a good servant and a bad master.

There arises another question as: Why does man spend more time to create weapons, guns, atom bombs etc... and spend billions of dollar to create the malicious virus or hack the 5 other's computer? Why the huge amount of energy and money couldn't be used to eradicate the hunger and pain of the world? The pessimist answer is that it is the basic instinct of human nature. This is the most natural possibility and it ought to go like this only. The good and bad must go together and the struggle will always be there and the things will go for ever as they are. There is no ray of hope in this answer, and unfortunately, the world may finish up any time drastically. On the other hand there is an optimistic answer also, which claims that the man has certainly an evolved consciousness and the animal instinct, if not missing completely, is greatly suppressed in humans. He does possess a vision for future, a pain for the poor, weak and victims, and love to mother nature and its resources. A better future is out there. There is a great hope for a wonderful, peaceful and beautiful world in this answer.

It is staunchly worth to believe in the second answer, where an objective positivity is reigning. We search for the ways and means to create an environment where the science can progress without any hurdle, and man can live in a heaven like beautiful world. Although, to claim the science can explain everything and discover the ultimate reality behind the whole drama of world and universe as a whole is a far fledged dream, yet we can expect a science with a great extent of understanding nature.

'Perhaps our best hope for the final explanation is to discover a set of final laws of nature and show that this is the only logically consistent rich theory, rich enough for example to allow for the existence of ourselves. This may happen a century or two, and if it does then I think that physicists will be at the extreme limits of their power of explanation': Steven Weinberg writes [3].

The thinking of protagonists, who are the directors of the minds of the whole social set up, is the product of the existing world-view. The modern scientific knowledge is inadequate to educate them in the right direction. All the crisis that modern science and humanity are facing today, clearly show that there is something wrong in our conventional way of thinking, the way we understand nature and our relation with it. There persists a subtle problem at the grass-root level of modern science in understanding nature and reality.

In other words, there is a need to understand fully the working of the conventional method of scientific studies. A serious need of introspection is imperative to think and realise- what have been done; what is being done and what is going to happen. This dilemma is expressed beautifully by a revolutionary futurist, Peter Russell, as [5]:

'The exploration of this final frontier has now become imperative. It is clear that most of the problems we face today i.e. global, social, and personal stem from human thinking, perception and values. The crisis is at its roots, a crisis of consciousness. Now, more than ever, we need to understand our own minds and how to liberate ourselves from the limiting egocentric modes of thinking so that we can achieve our true inner potential. Nothing in current science can account for consciousness, yet consciousness is the one thing we cannot deny'.

All scientific researches are based upon ordinary sense perception, which keeps the outer physical universe as a separate entity, to be an independent existence that is something quite independent of observer. Basically, we are separating the real observer from the observation. To make a perception possible there must be a subject i.e. 'the knower', who can observe a phenomenon or an event with the help of a connecting principle. It is not the physical part of human brain which acts as the observer (the knower) and makes the perception possible but there is a subtle playback entity 'Mind', which we do not consider in our scientific theories. The human mind is the doer, the observer which interprets the messages collected from outside by brain with the help of sense organs and instruments. It makes a scientist to recognize or refute the existence of an object or a phenomenon.

According to Eugene Wigner, Nobel Laureate: 'The next revolution in physics will occur when the properties of mind will be included in the equations of quantum theory'. The most creative physicists have always emphasized that human consciousness is at the foundation of the scientific method behind physics [6]. Arthur S. Eddington, a brilliant astronomer once said: 'The universe no longer looks like a thing but like a thought'.

The observed facts strongly advocate the role of consciousness in defining reality. We know the modern science is an objective science and accepts only tangible logics; keeps no place for mind; feelings and emotions of the observer. As a

result, that's why it could nourish the dry world, like a machine i.e. a sick, unhealthy, insane, emotionally crippled and paralysed. On the other hand, spirituality is the domain of emotions, feelings, i.e. of mind and consciousness. In a more holistic worldview the spirituality is also a science, but of more subtle things; that of mind. It has potential to produce a peaceful, happy, enjoyable and a lively world, which is missing in the outcome of contemporary science. Modern science and spirituality are the two separate ways of understanding the world, with little or no overlap. The drifting apart of the two is, to a great extent, due to the focus of the scientific method on measurement. In an extreme interpretation, some scientists use even derogatory statement, like: 'if something can't be measured, it does not exist'.

There have been number of efforts to bridge the gap between science and religion [5]. The spirituality is the science of consciousness, and religion the practical prospective of it. In other words, the spirituality is a pure form of religion: 'free from sectarian, superstitious and dogmatic ideology'. This is not a utopian theory but a scientific and practical philosophy which can be practised and realised in day to day life. More than 500 scientific studies conducted at 200 independent universities and institutions in 33 countries and published in over 100 leading scientific journals have been documented, which benefits every sphere of life: physiological, psychological, sociological, and ecological [6].

The religions and sects to some extent fulfil the purpose of spirituality, if go hand in hand with science, will be free from extremism and superstitions and will be able to fulfil its ultimate purpose. On the other hand, once the role of consciousness is taken in to account science will be purified from idolatry and false absolutes and attain a fresh course towards the ultimate goal without hurdles. Each can draw the other into a wider vision; a worldview in which both science and religion can flourish harmony. A twofold advent of spirituality along with scientific paradigm is proposed: 1) Scientists include the human consciousness in their scientific theories and 2) The protagonists and all people of the world believe in a religion of universal brotherhood: 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbham'.

4. A MODEL CASE STUDY

To accomplish the 1st part of proposal is a great challenge; however, the 2nd one is certainly practicable at the current level of understanding. To quantify this, a model case study is presented with, a recourse through some basic spiritual principles. The spiritual principles are the rules or laws which are unchanging; impersonal i.e. applies to all people and lives, everywhere, all the time. They work with or without our understanding and hold no opinion of our behaviour. They reflect laws of nature and the laws apply to everyone. The total number of these principles is not exactly quantified. Every religion, sect or spiritual organization in the world does list them. We identified some basic ones without which no civilization could ever flourish on earth:

- Love & Compassion
- Doing Good & Kindness
- Patience, Firmness and Stability
- Forgiveness
- Self-control and Contentment
- Not to Steal or Conceal, or Be Selfish
- Cleanliness, Purity and Honesty
- Duty & Responsibility
- Quest for Truth
- Sense of Wonder
- The Divinity of the Soul and Entire Existence
- The Unity of Existence

Taking a case of a world having only science i.e. 100% scientific orientation and devoid of spiritual principles, i.e. there is no place for the feeling and emotions, and spiritual values and experiences. This case is practically impossible, as stated

above; no science can flourish without the foundation of spiritual values. If science has progressed to such a high level; the credit goes to the congenial environment provided by the spiritual principles i.e. only within the spiritual environment

man could discover the science. It may be noted that for survival, even animals do follow some basic principles (Dharma) by instinct; like sense of love and care for their offspring and species, sense of unity and security. Life cannot survive and flourish without a minimum number of spiritual principles. The history of mankind has shown that as the human evolved from his wild ancestors he has become more and more spiritual.

On the other hand, however, the world can survive and flourish with 100% spiritual orientation. The human hardly needs the much knowledge of scientific principles to survive and populate. In my opinion the spiritual principles are more basic for the entire existence than the knowledge of the principles of the outer world: the humans were living more peacefully without the knowledge of Newton's laws of gravity than knowing them today. The world was less risky without knowing the principle relation

$$E=MC^2 (1)$$

However, for this case a question arises: In the modern world there are roughly 4200 religions, sects and other spiritual groups, but why is there a peril like situation as discussed above? The reason is again the same twofold. Let's present it in a different way: 1) too much sticking on the material scientism and keeping no place to exercise the science of inner being; i.e. the role of consciousness 2) We talk more and follow less the spiritual principles.

According to Albert Einstein: 'The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift.' At present there are about more than 75% scientism and less than 25% spiritualism. As a result we have created a mentally unhealthy and insane world. The burning globe in the figure 1 depicts the restlessness of the modern world.



Figure 1: Taken from Google Images

The best model case is fifty-fifty; i.e. 50% science and 50% spirituality. The science and religion is in harmony, where all the spiritual principles are fully observed along with doing science of material world, and consciousness is included in scientific theories. There will be then the science of inner world (mind and soul) i.e. consciousness and the science of

outer world i.e. material world. In this world the science will progress to its heights in a peaceful and pleasant environment. The figure 2 shows that union of science and religion and the flying pigeon symbolizes the emergence of peace.



Figure 2: Taken from Google Images 10

Summarizing it with the words of Albert Einstein:

‘A human being is a part of the whole, called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole nature in its beauty’.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Science is in fact the greatest blessing that man could ever receive. It is indeed boon and gift of God if used for the benefit of mankind and for constructive purposes; i.e. the technological advancement of science if used judiciously and constructively will be a boon. The moment it becomes a tool of the hands of wicked minds it turns out to be a curse. So it is entirely in our hands to make science a blessing for humanity or convert it into a curse, a bane and destroy even the footprints of mankind on this planet. It is true that science is a bane without religion.

The harmony between science and religion is necessary to create a prosperous society, peaceful and compassionate world. However, there is another claim that the harmony is not possible --there will always be conflict. In such a situation, one must follow the opinions of the wise people like; Pope John Paul II [7]: ‘The unity we perceive in creation on the basis of our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of the universe, and the correlative unity for which we strive in our human communities, seems to be reflected and even reinforced in what contemporary science is revealing to us.’ Deborah Haarsma (an Astrophysicist) and Loren Haarsma (a neurologist) [7], have nicely proved that the harmony between science and spiritualism is a better model than conflict.

Spirituality exists in the subtle (subjective) nature of human beings. The gross (objective) form of spirituality, when it comes out of the inner being, becomes objective science. Basically, there is no question of conflict between these two sciences. The apparent conflict exists only because, currently, there is a serious lack of harmony going on due to ignorance. If the perception is open, wide and extended up to the real knower ‘the human consciousness’, the reality will appear and there is harmony and no conflict.

In a metaphoric sense science and religion are complements of each other, like two faces of a coin. For a coin to exist, both faces have to be there. In another these are symbolised as -intellect and emotion, respectively. Intellect is 'objective'

or contemporary science and emotion is the 'subjective' or religion. It has been practically noticed that any decision taken with a proper balance (i.e. in harmony) of intellect and emotions, produces always a good result which is productive and enjoyable.

It is only the marriage of these two great bastions of humanity which can create a peaceful, wonderful and heaven like world. If the science is to progress further and we to live in a peaceful world it becomes imperative to understand the functioning of human consciousness and include it in the theory and practice. However, this is the biggest challenge for the scientists to include the human consciousness in their theories.

This is an appeal to all the protagonists: realize the importance of human consciousness and make the world aware of it - through demonstrations and teachings. This consciousness revolution will be a journey towards the Self -the inner world; the purpose of true religion. This is a world which makes human to understand the outer world. A person creates a model of thought events in this world and then tries to observe that practically in the objective world. In the similar way a scientist creates an object or a phenomenon in this world at first and then writes a paper, do experiment to find that in the outer world. The role of consciousness in the scientific studies will bring spiritual principles to the daily life, and the following statement can be made true: 'Science is truth, truth is beauty and beauty is God.'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author thanks IUCAA, Pune for providing hospitality and other necessary support during the preparation of this work.

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