



Foreword

My interaction with Dr. Deepak Ranade has been as multi-dimensional as is his personality. On occasions as a medical doctor, at other times as a fellow speaker on a public platform, then again as a co-delegate at international conference an on Science Non-duality, and then in more informal settings during our irregularly regular morning walks up the nearby hills. In the course of our discussions it was amply evident that we both shared an intense quest to understand the mysteries of creation, not segmentally but comprehensively.

There was this tacit and implicit understanding of not being pinned down by any dogma, religious, scientific or otherwise that made our brainstorming transcend the ego and facilitate an "out of the box" thought process. Careful perusal of his articles certainly reveals deep introspection on his part, but more importantly serves to stimulate the readers thought process beyond the paradigms of convention and conformism. Being a Neurosurgeon by profession, it's not surprising that the organ that he deals with is an inspiration by itself to look for answers that even modern day science fails to provide.

His knowledge and familiarity with Quantum Physics seems to suggest an intuitive understanding not restricting itself to mere facts and figures. As a



associated person deeply with information technology, I have realised the distinction between knowledge and information. Science and spirituality are synonymous with information and knowledge. Information is a subset of knowledge. Spirituality has for long been mired in religion and rituals. It also was mysticism due releaated to to its inherent intangibility. With Quantum Physics treading the path of irrational absurdities, both these paths seem to intersect and may complement each other rather than contradict. Scriptures provide metaphorical pointers and a wise person charts his progress in that direction rather than getting caught up in the Syntax of the pointers. The final truth may never be reproducible in any tangible form of expression but Dr. Ranade's articles reflect a thought process that is multi-pronged and will certainly illuminate the path that will eventually lead to knowledge of the "Self", which would encompass knowledge of the universe.

I do hope that he would continue travelling this path undauntedly and in the process be a very useful companion to all fellow seekers.

- Dr. Vijay Bhatkar







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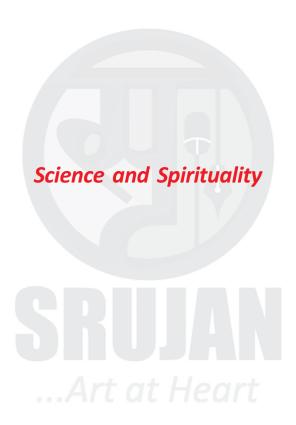
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Science and Spirituality

Among the million stars scattered on the horizon of what constitutes our collective perception of our world, two stand out like beacons. One shines with a dazzle of clarity which gets refined as our gaze gets steadier while the other alows with warmth that brings forth a sense of calm.

Science is a term that encompasses the varied systematic ways in which humankind has been able to make sense of and utilize this knowledge and understanding to embellish its existence.

The discovery of patterns and laws governing the way the physical world functions has made the manipulation of our surroundings easier and has given way to the availability of conveniences which make many human endeavors easier to attain. The discoveries in the physical sciences have made way for applications which have improved the quality of life in a way that could be termed as nothing short of phenomenal. The boundaries of our knowledge are getting pushed each day and human beings are controlling the environment in a significant way.

Spirituality is the term we use, albeit somewhat loosely, to describe an aspect of a world that exists beyond the obvious. It is connected to the realm of the internal, where each of us dwells all the time, whether we are aware of it or not. Spirituality is the paradigm which assists in making sense of the 'why' of this existence. This inner world is as vast, if not



vaster than the outer and has territories that have remained uncharted, more often, for want of consensus and a common nomenclature. Spirituality is easier felt than expressed, easier experienced than enunciated. It has not been able to develop a common language owing to its being intrinsically intangible when compared to the methods and interfaces of what constitutes science.

Both science and spirituality make up our world as we know it. They have equal and symbiotic stakes in a life that seeks balance. There are many intersections in life which beseech a reconsideration of what we assume to be our steady understanding of it. It is often at such situations that the need to connect the dots takes precedence over everything else.

The aspects are many and complex, and this section is a humble attempt to find paths from one seemingly enigmatic premise to another. This is a journey which has taught me that I am but a few steps into the vast expanses of what constitutes our understanding but also that paths reveal themselves when the seeker begins his journey.





Dancing Natraj in front of CERN

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1 Shiva and Shakti Search for the non-existent particles

The elusive Higgs Boson has been the focus of one the largest scientific experiments. It seemingly will plug one of the leaks that abound the Standard model of Physics.

If identified, it would help in explaining why some subatomic particles are heavy and have a greater mass than others. Ancient Hindu beliefs reckon that the entire manifestation is a combination of Shiva and Shakti. Shiva represents the tangible matter whilst Shakti represents the intangible energy and the qualitative aspect associated with matter. Mass and energy are interconvertible. Shiva and Shakti are also very deeply interrelated and cannot be separated. The particle is like Shiva and the charge, the spin, the mass, the energy and other such parameters are like Shakti. This experiment seems to be like looking for Shiva in Shakti, (finding the cause of the particle's mass) when they are both just different manifestations of the supreme unity.

This entire experiment is analogous to finding the quantitative basis of a quality. Like trying to find a particle that serves to make beauty, beautiful. That is certainly an exercise in futility. The entire experiment seems to be directed towards finding a tangible quantitative parameter for a very fundamental attribute, something akin to a pensioner being asked for the proof of his being alive at the pension office. Beauty exists because there is an observer. And this observer is also as much a manifestation as the



observed entity as is the act of observation. Nothing exists 'a priori. Even if the Big Bang theory were to be ratified, the bigger issue of who engineered its initiation still remains. And if space was also a derivative of the Big Bang, then in what space did this phenomenal expansion take place? Every objective existence is entirely a function of the observer. So phenomenon is inexorably connected with the noumenon. Subject and object are interdependent on cognition. Like the quaint example of a falling tree in the forest. If no one has seen it falling, then it never fell at all.

The supreme knowledge (unification or segregation of Shiva and Shakti) cannot be studied or experimentally verified. It has to be experienced. One has to become it. This means that the 'knower and knowledge' distinction is not there anymore. This is probably why all the realized souls were unable to bring that knowledge into the domain of tangibility. Our analytical egos insist that we must find tangible units for every facet of existence. Science can keep trying to satiate its unquenchable desire for tangibility but the end point of this endeavor will only yield ambiguity, because the fundamental truth is that the observer in any experiment is very much a constituent of it. Identification and ratification, of the observer-observed dichotomy is an apparition- the hypnotic spell of Maya. The greatest quality of this Maya is that it appears uniform to one and all. So if everyone is unanimous about the existence of say, a tree, then it has to be there. Maya creates a uniform and consistent mirage and sheer statistics coerce the senses into believing the appearance.

Physics ought to have shed its greed once Einstein proclaimed and proved the inter-convertibility of mass and



energy. Quantum Physics opened a Pandora's Box and thereby ridiculed logic and the very basis of scientific deduction. Quantum theory is virtually the science of the improbable scientific logic leading to the illogical. It has come up with very bizarre predictions. Like the Schroedinger's cat supposition. We have tried to understand nature through a looking –glass of a very small diameter and tried to force its entirety into this limited frame of comprehension. Probably, the failure to demonstrate the Higgs Boson may be the turning point where it will be necessary to turn inwards and become inflective and redefine the paradigm of scientific approach. The Higgs particle is just a logical extrapolation of our limited understanding. It may end up being the nonexistent proof of a non-existent theory. Experience never needed any experiment since it cannot be reproduced at will and under specified conditions. Probably unraveling the entire mystery of creation needs not a Large Hadron Collider but a large perception assimilator.









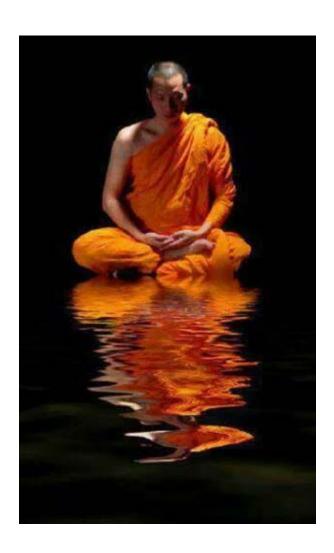
The Landscape of 'I'

Perspectives on the world are windows. They let in light and allow for insight. They are the portals through which the external beauty of the multifaceted world enters to enrich and enchant. They fill the interiors of the house with warmth. And yet, in the mellow evening hours and the darkness of the night, it is imperative to draw the curtains, close the shutters, and turn the gaze inwards.

Inside the seemingly diminutive dwelling lies a cluster of rooms, some locked and some invitingly open; some passages that call to be discovered and some corners that are filled with fresh flowers. This is the place that is familiar at times, but concealing secrets that have never been unearthed for want of time, most of which is spent gazing outside. This is a place that glows in the embers of winter fires and reveals facets that the owner did not know existed.

When I embarked on this trail, light and shadows, sounds and silence, joy and desperation kept crossing my way by turns, forcing me to re-examine all that I had always taken for granted. I discovered new spaces and rediscovered the old, saw everything in the shades that had never before come across as so vibrantly lucid, and realigned myself with an edifice which I assumed I knew, but had never really understood. In this section, i hope to share, some glimpses of a landscape that holds a magnificence of untold beautv.





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Relationships





Relationships

In seeking the whole, one has to first sift through the parts. Sometimes, broken fragments tell a story that glints the truth in swift and brilliant visions. The parts do not often assemble into a complete picture, but they give a fair idea of what we set out to discover in the first place.

Fragments are easier to examine understand, and in sifting through their textures, we sometimes arrive at meaninaful conclusions. Those who we connect with, by purpose or by circumstance, through natural or through contrived means, all are this mirrors to mystery that aoes toward understanding this entity called **T**. Thev are reflections of what we mean to ourselves, besides giving meaning to the journey that we are upon, for an unknown amount of time.

Exploring the world of the 'other' has, at times, given me a roadmap to my own path, and walking alongside them has given me insights that have enriched my perceptions. In them, I see a part of me, just as in me, a part of each one who has walked a while along with me will always be. This section is a tribute to every 'other' who is also 'me' ...







Metaphysical Musings

We inhabit two worlds. One is the physical, material world comprising of what we can perceive with our five senses; the other is the invisible one made up of our thoughts, feelings, desires, hopes, projections, confusions and beliefs. Sometimes, these two overlap, but mostly they are unfolding at different paces.

The 'how', 'what' and 'where' of the material experience is not always enough to make sense of even the so called 'real' world that we presume we live in. The 'why' is what goes mostly unanswered. The subjunctive experience that is such a part and parcel of our being is then relied upon to cleave the seemingly unyielding nature of the questions that keep emerging.

There is a certain space that overlaps both the This intersection point becomes worlds. introspection point where the insights are not easily transferable into words. This is where the melting of the duality as we normally see it, occurs into the vast and uncharted realm of the non-dual, as we sense it.

This is the realm that has fascinated and intriqued me as a student of physics, a reader of scriptures, a neurosurgeon, and a seeker of truth. The take-off point may be the nature of consciousness beyond the known and well documented perspectives, the origin of an ancient term, the facets of an interdisciplinary paradigm or the re-examination of known concepts,



but the endeavor remains the same-to clarify and demystify the dark recesses of the silent, interstitial spaces which perhaps hold the clues.

