

Bharatiya Darshan & Western Philosophy – An Applied Approach

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About the Speaker

- Has made more than two hundred presentations in various forums on various technology topics
- The Primary Author of SLANG4.net compiler infrastructure system (<http://slangfordotnet.codeplex.com>)
- The co-author of a book titled, ".NET Design Patterns" published by Packt Publishing
- A "Scholar" in "Philosophical Tools for Software Engineering" and "Cross Cultural Encounters" in Software Engineering
- Maintains an avid interest in Rapid Skill Acquisition in Programming, Software Engineering and Domain Engineering



What I do?

I am currently designated as a Senior Solutions “Architect” in a Company.

Architect (n) – Any person who has “fooled” around in the Software Industry for sizeable time (ever shrinking span) who is past his prime, as a Programmer Or Engineer, Systematically moved up in the hierarchy to obey “Peter Principle”.

I will try to make it Simple!

Vikhatana Vaadhikalum Prathikriya
vaadhigalum bhoorshvasigalum
pradhama drishtya agalchayyil
aayirunenkilum avar thammillulla
andhardhara sajeeva aayirunn ennu
venam karudhan. Bhoorsvasikalum
thakkam parthirikukka aayirunnu.
adhannu nammal thottathu.

"MANASILLAYILLA"

Athayyathu vargadhipathyavum
colonialist chinthasaranigalum
radicalayya matamalla, ippol
manasillayyo.



എന്ന് കൊണ്ട് നമ്മൾ തോറ്റു, എന്ന് ലളിതമായി
പറഞ്ഞാലേന്താ? വെറുതെ confusion ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതെന്തിനാ ?

Some Uses of Philosophy

- A source to broaden our Intellectual horizon
- Every man has a Philosophy. Studying it, makes us to align our beliefs with some kind of standard. Helps communicate ideas better
- A Grammar for Thought (If we are looking for one)
- A great Emotional Shock Absorber
- Character Transformation through deliberate study of Philosophy
- Ability to articulate complicated and deep topics succinctly
- Study of Philosophy will make you a universal citizen.
- Ability to Study vast amount of topics
- “Unusual effectiveness” of Philosophy in Professional Life

Indian Philosophy and Western Philosophy - An Introduction

Some Key ideas of Western Philosophy

- Epochs
 - Greek, Medieval, Renaissance (Modern), Post-Modern
- Branches
 - Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics, Logic
- Fundamental Questions
 - Who am I?, What Can I Know?, What Should I do?
- Primary Methodology
 - Analytical, Reductionist
- Humanistic Traditions
 - Existentialism, Phenomenology, Nihilism, Dialectical Materialism (Marxian)
- Method of Philosophical Arguments
 - Aristotelian Logic and Symbolic Logic

Some Key ideas of Indian Philosophy

- Vedas and Upanishads
 - Rig, Yajur, Sama, Atharva
 - Various Upanishads
- Main Schools
 - Heterodox (Veda not as a Testimony) , Orthodox (Veda as Testimony)
- Three Hetrodox Schools
 - Carvaka , Jaina , Budhist Traditions
- Six Orthodox Schools (Darshana)
 - {Nyaya, Vaisesika} , {Samkhya, Yoga}, {Mimamsa, Vedanta}
- Philosophical Methods
 - Holism and Intuitionistic, Experiential in nature
- Method of Philosophical Arguments (a form of Dialectic)
 - Purva Paksha (apriori) , Khantana (Refutations), Uttara Paksha (Conclusion)

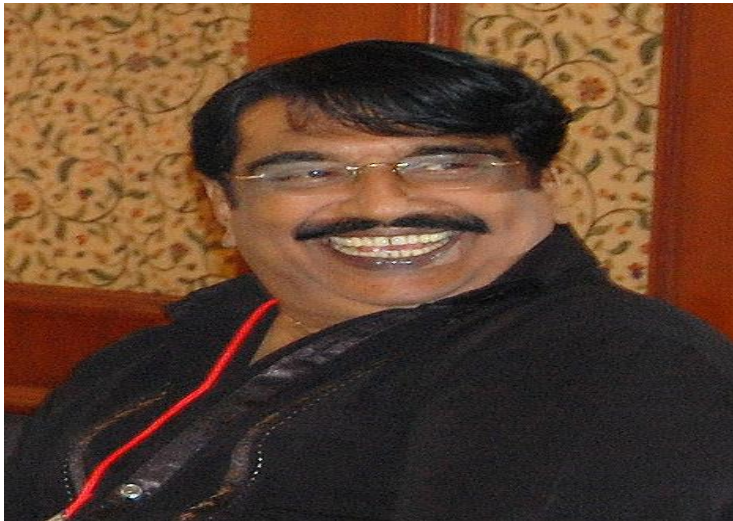
Western Philosophy vs Indian Philosophy

1	Western Philosophy	Indian Philosophy
2	Objective Reasoning (Content based)	Subjective Reasoning (Context based)
3	Materialistic	Idealistic
4	Reductionist	Holistic
5	Logic	Dialectics
6	Entity	Relationship
7	Linear	Cyclical

Indian vs Western Philosophy ?

Ala

Car or a Boat?



In India, it is like this, I do not know how it is in Punjab?

- Punjabi House

Pitch Your Idea better

LOGOS,ETHOS,PATHOS and MYTHOS

LOGOS,ETHOS,PATHOS and MYTHOS

- Aristotle's Rhetoric strategies
- “MYTHOS” from Dev Dutt Patnaik

Organize your thought with greater Discretion

- Reductionism vs Holism
- Materialism vs Idealism (Metaphysics)
- Empiricism vs Rationalism (Epistemology)
- Induction, deduction and abduction (Method of Science and Thinking in General)
- Science and Falsificationism
- Philosophy, Theology, Theosophy

Understand the Contextual truth

Dialectics , Logic & Reductio Ad Absurdum

Dialectics vs Logic

Laws of Logic

- Law of Identity ($A = A$ or $A \leftrightarrow$ something else)
- Principle of Non Contradiction (A and not $A \Rightarrow$ false)
- Law of Excluded Middle (Things should be True or False, not in between)

Laws of Dialectics

- Process of Change
 - Reality is modelled as a process of change. What is true can become false in the future
- Principle of Contradiction
 - Since change is constant , Contradiction being the dynamic underlying change is also constant
- Principle of Relationship
 - Parts are Meaningful only in the relationship to the whole (context)

Reductio Ad Absurdum

- Also known as Proof by Contradiction
- Useful when a constructive proof is time consuming and economically not viable
- Rather than trying to prove something as correct, we assume what we are trying to prove is correct and find contradictions, if it were true
- Successfully used in Mathematics, Arguments and in Courts

Four Topics (Out of Many)

- Vedanta and Advaita Philosophy of Sankara
- Western Universalism and Its “Perils”
- Cultural Marxism
- European Imperialism and Sanskrit

VEDANTA PHILOSOPHY

- Based on Upanishads
- Philosophy of Atman/Brahman
- Badaryana Vyasa's "Brahmah Sutra"
- Prasthanas Thraya – Upanishads, Brahma Sutra and Bhagavad Gita
- Key masters are Sankara, Madhava and Ramanuja
- Kevala Advaita, Vishita Advaita and Dvaita Vedanta

Advaita Vedanta – Sri Sankara

- Lived between 788 AD – 820 AD
- Travelled across India to fight ritualism, heterodox schools and unified India at a spiritual level
- Bhajagovindam “story”
- Paragaya Pravesha of Sankara



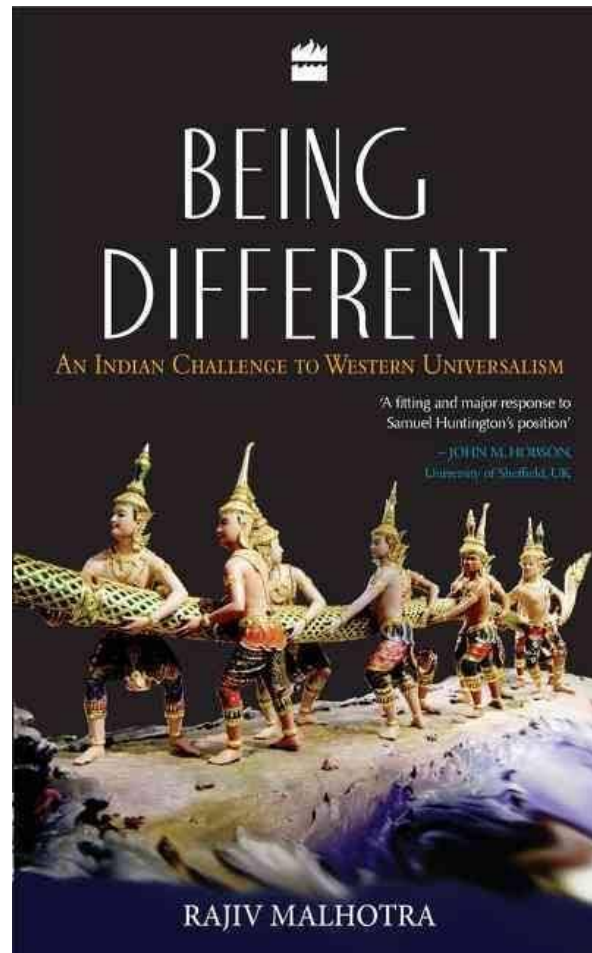
Sankara's teaching in a Sentence

**Brahma Satyam. Jagat
Mithya. Jivo Brahmaiva
Na Parah**

Western Universalism

- Renaissance Project
- A Society based on Logic and Science
- Unusual stress on “Materialism”
- Rajiv Malhotra’s Reason for reversing the Gaze
 - Lack of Historic Centrism
 - Integral Unity of Indian thought
 - Indian comfort with Chaos
 - Untranslatable in Sanskrit

A Must read for all of us!



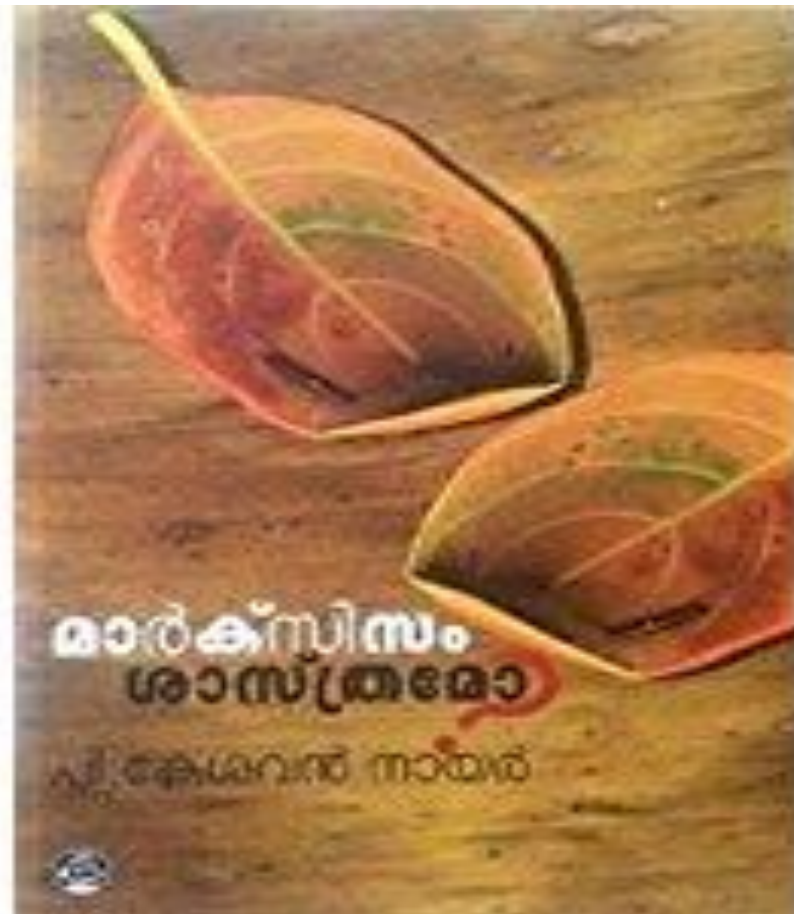
Marxian Ideology and its perils

- Based on a school of thought called “Dialectical Materialism”
- Hegel, Marx and DM
- Cultural Marxism (More dangerous)
- From Colonialist masters to Marxian “Intellectual”
- Why it “failed” in India?

Marx's "Judeo-Xian" lineage

	Xian	Communist
1	Jehovah	Dialectical Materialism
2	Messiah	Marx
3	Chosen People	Working class (Proletariat)
4	Church	Communist Party
5	Second Coming	Revolution
6	Hell	Punishment of Capitalists
7	Heaven	Communist Rule
8	Saints	Polibaurau
9	Martyrs	Martyrs

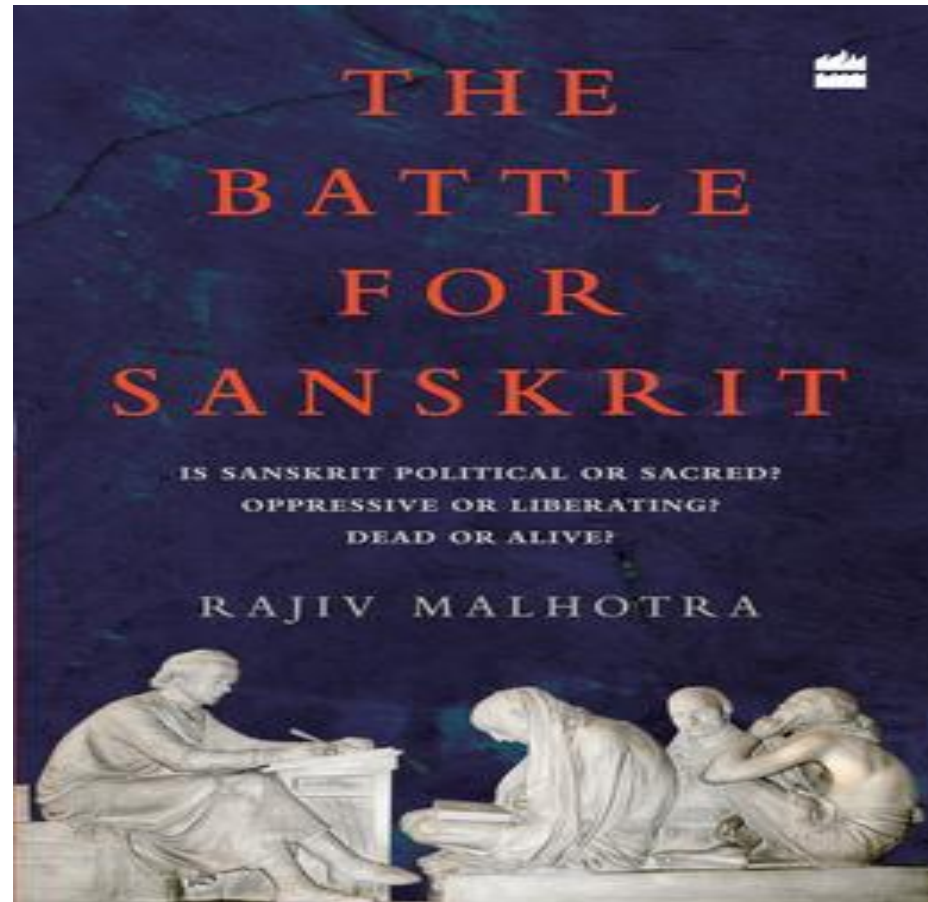
A Remarkable Book!



Cultural Imperialism and Sanskrit Language

- European Gaze on India and Hegelian “Dialectical” Template
- Buddhism projected as a anti-thesis to Vedic Teachings (as opposed to Dharma Tradition)
- Associating Sanskrit to Varna System (Thus oppressive)
- Western Indologists and how they dabble with Indian Politics

Understand Dharmic Tradition and Sanskriti



Philosophy in My Professional Life (Software Engineering)

- Reductionism as a Tool for Learning Vast Amount of Subjects
 - Regular Expressions, SQL Query, Functional Programming are variants of Closure (Reductionism)
 - Design of Primitives while writing Software Engines
 - Turing Machine , Lambda Calculus and Predicate Logic as foundations for Paradigms
- KISS Principle is a solution for “Problem of Induction”
 - Party Idiom in Entity Management (Customer, Vendor, Government body, NGOs)
 - Define a Core, Rest should be Deduction from the Core
 - Functional Core of a Functional Programming language
- Philosophical Ontology
 - Ontology is study of what exists out there. Useful for defining Vocabulary for Systems and Implementation of Domain Specific Languages
 - Wrote a Paper titled, “An Ontology and Its Realization on Mobile Devices – a HealthCare Case Study)
 - Software Design and Enterprise Ontology
- Entity Archetypes as a structuring mechanism (Arlow/Nuestadt)
- Holism for Designing UX
- Limitations of Analytics (Analytic Reduction vs Systems Thinking)

Q&A

- Any Questions ?

Appendix

Nyaya Philosophy

- Analysis of Logic and Epistemology
- Detailed work on Anumana (“Inference”)
- Right knowledge for “Liberation” (from suffering)
- perception (pratyaksha), inference (anumana), comparison (upamana), and sound/testimony (shabda) are source of valid knowledge
- Invalid knowledge involves memory, doubt, error, and hypothetical argument.
- Aligned with Vaisheshika (Merged with it)
- Cause as an invariable and un-conditional precedence for effect. (an effect does not pre-exist in it’s cause)
- Three kinds of causes
 - Material (Inherent) cause - The substance out of which an effect is produced
 - Non-Inherent cause - helps in the production of a cause,
 - Efficient cause - the power that helps the material cause produce the effect
- God is not the material cause of the universe.

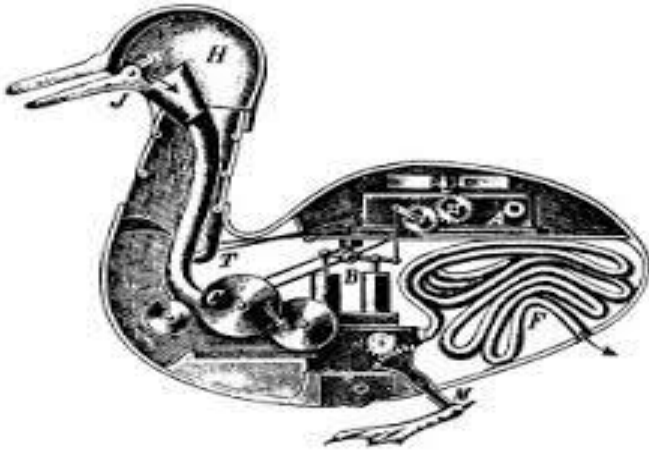
Samkhya System

- A Dualistic Philosophy – Matter (Prakriti) and Eternal Spirit (Purusha)
- Right knowledge comes from separation of Purusha and Prakriti
- Four higher level functions of Purusha are
 - Buddhi (“consciousness”)
 - Ahamkara (“I-consciousness”)
 - Manas (“Mind”)
 - Prana (“Breath”)
- Infinite Purusha and Prakriti is enough (No God). Prakriti springs to action when Purusha gets connected to it.
- distinguish between universal intelligence (mahat) and individual intelligence (buddhi).
- Buddhi is that mode of energy that operates as intelligence and is the basis of all mental processes
- Purusha impinges on Prakriti to form Consciousness (Budhi) and next to evolve is Ahamkara, which deludes Purusha to think, Ego is the center of its Objective Existence.
- Ahmkara can be divided into
 - Five Gross Elements (Water, Air, Space, Earth , Fire) - Tanmatra
 - Five Fine Elements (Touch, Sound , Sight, Taste, Smell) - Mahabuthas
 - Five Organs of Perception (Skin,Ear,Eyes, Tongue, Nose) - Janendriya
 - Five Organs of Activity (Speak, Grasp, Move, Procreate,Evacuate) - Karmendriyas
 - Mind (Controller of Senses)
- Three Primal Qualities of Matter (Gunas) make up prakirti
 - Tamas (Obscurity, Ignorance,Inertia) – Darkness (InAction)
 - Rajas (Activity, Passion, Intensivity) - passion (Action – but, fails often)
 - Satvik (, Purity, Dispassion, Light) – Goodness (Equanimity)

Carvaka System (Materialist)

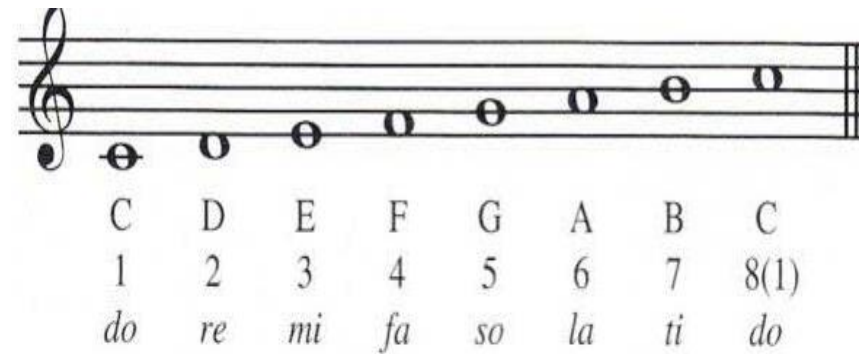
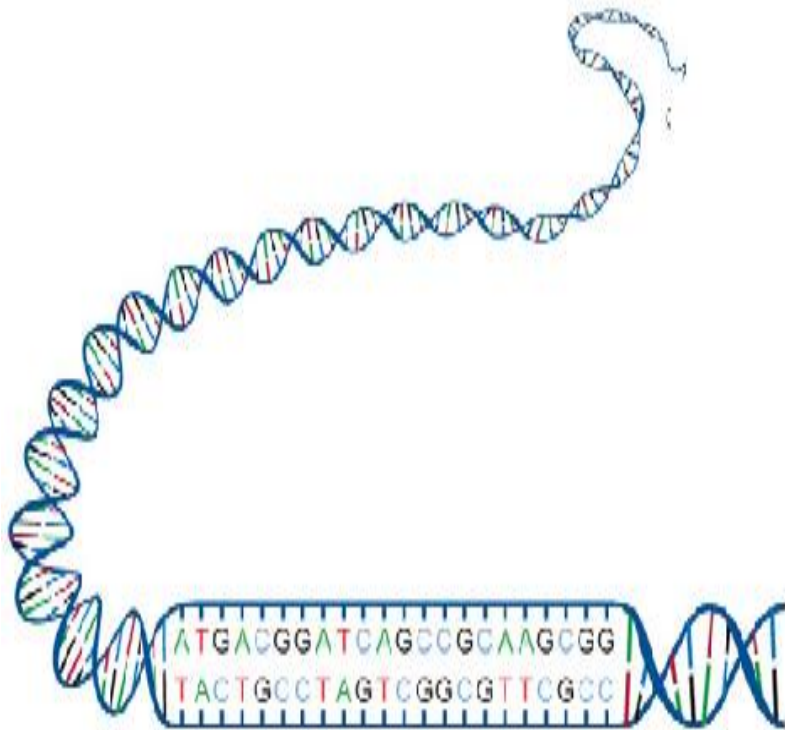
- Also called Lokayata (Earthly Philosophy)
- Rejects Vedas, Karma, Moksha , Immortality of Self
- Direct Perception as Source of Knowledge (Anubhava or Experience). Rejects Anumana, Upamana and Shabd as source of knowledge
- Everything in this world is some kind of Accident (Akasmika Vada or Accidentalism)
- A Materialist School of Thought
- Make merry in this world. Tomorrow, Does it Exist?
- Some Believe, Kautilya's Arthashastra could be written in a Carvaka context

Understand the Gist of the world and
also see the Big Picture)



REDUCTIONISM and HOLISM

Reductionism in Life & Music



What has Regular Expression, SQL
Query and Functional Composition has
in common?

CLOSURE

Other instances of Reductionism

- Dance Forms
- Photo Plotters
- LISP interpreter
- Digital Gates and Computer Construction
- Programming Languages (SEQUENCE, Branching, Iteration, Recursion)
- Gesture based UX (A set of primitive Gestures)
- The List Goes on

Limits of Reductionism

- Assumes Sum of Parts is Equivalent to the whole
- Cannot Model Emergent Behavior due to the Inter-dependence of parts
- Limits of Machine Learning – A case study

Holism

- Whole is more than sum of parts
- Models Emergent Behavior
- Successful in Evolutionary Biology, Social Sciences and Systems Modelling
- Software Requirement Analysis
- Design of UX
 - Mental Model of the Users
 - Considering the User Value System (Culture)