

ABSOLUTENESS IN THE CONTEXT OF SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY

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ABSTRACT

We live in this world that evolved under an act guided by the powerful forces of Nature, the Almighty God. Earth as an orbiting planet around the star we call the Sun, provides us the most habitable and amiable climate for life. Our lives are governed by natural forces that have also been provided over the globe. Furthermore, we have developed an inherited intelligence over time to reach a level of better understanding using the tools of science we developed from the philosophical knowledge following a logical methodology. The intelligence will continue to evolve with the use of advances in technology. In a parallel stream, we have developed some religious thoughts through inward introspection, which provide an alternate to the scientific methodology to relate us with the spiritual aspects about the world we live in. These come under spiritual realms as they relate more to the human spirit relative to the human body and mind, the totality constituting the individual human nature. Absoluteness is, thus, an element of Truth we seek using both of these physical and spiritual tools.

ESSAY

Starting as nomadic hunter-gatherers until 12,000 years ago, we, the *Homo sapiens*, settled down to begin our modern history very recently, at the most 5,000 years ago on the vast timeline of this immense universe or multiverse. Where in this Earthly world of ours human life started remains a matter of dispute. It may have started on African or Eurasian continent. It may well have evolved simultaneously on different continents of the world during the continental drift starting out from a common origin on the supercontinent pangea. Alternatively, the first seed may well be of an interstellar origin out of the planets around our star, the Sun, which seems to constitute the ideal climatic origin for life.

Of all the life forms starting as plants, animals etc. human beings have the highest degree of awareness that one may associate with "Consciousness". Ancient Indian scriptures like the Vedas and the Upanishads were orally composed following an intensive course of meditation cum yogic actions called '*kriyas*'. Supposedly, these compositions of deep wisdom were revealed following sacrifices and austerities practiced by the original set of learned people, called *Rishis*. It is being claimed worldwide at present that the concept of gravity evolved through predecessors of Rishi Patanjali. This is attributed to a literature accessed centuries later, as generations went one after another retaining the knowledge verbally in memory. Similar circumstances may have evolved elsewhere in an independent manner. It is hard to distinguish the quality and strength of human thought processes and endeavor, as written records were hardly kept in the early periods of knowledge developments. This practice continued until the science emerged out of the philosophical interactions in Europe around the 15th century. Around the same period, different schools of current religious practices emerged following spiritual pursuits.

Contents of knowledge appeared in a relative contextual manner and not as absolute facts, except perhaps in India where several popular God incarnates appeared on the scene early on as Lord Ram and Lord Krishna or much later as Lord Buddha, Mahavir or Nanak Dev. The Christ and Muhammad appeared on the scene in the Middle East. Today, as per accepted norms we designate years based on a reckoning of the year the Christ was born — the "AD" and "BC" system of common era.

Humanity developed the concept of relationships through the nature of interactions within a parent family, community or tribe. This finally resulted in the development of cultures unique in ways to their geographical origin. However, any commonality that may have been sought was ignored as human lust for power led to sectoral identities. The latter got easily mixed with the scientific and associated technological capabilities that happened to boost "naked" human power associated with material well-being and wealth focusing narrowly on the human body and mind. That is in contrast with the spiritual power which had its origin in the spirit of the human beings. Thus, in the race

of human evolution, the body, mind and spirit of an individual human were separated from their philosophical and spiritual cohesiveness.

How can we connect the individual constituents of the body, mind and soul? Body by itself is a housing structure that is born through a process of conception between male and female entities. It has elements of Spirituality that invoke the Universal Supernatural Forces as God to bestow upon us this life-generating capacity starting with birth and ending with death. In between, we have a life to perform our actions, good, normal and bad ones. Mind is to decipher our pattern of pathways as per our thoughts and actions, the former playing a crucial role. However, the spirit or soul or consciousness remains outside the domain of sciences as it is not associated with any mass or matter content! However, attempts are continuing to bring consciousness in the domain of sciences through what may be termed as Artificial Intelligence. It was being developed primarily with the objective of communication with aliens using advanced techniques of communication engineering. In this context, it may be in order to relate the fact that different universes may well exist in the cosmos and their Physics may take different route of development because of the different nature of intelligence developed and followed there. Thus, logic may change from digital to another form that may well be hybrid between analog and digital as known to us.

Where does the concept of Absoluteness come in? Our human experiences thus far show that our world and its manifestations seem to be based on actions and reactions as controlled by Nature we live by and persist both within and out. Current methodology used in sciences may well come in the way of possible investigations that do not conform to the Natural surroundings we are forced to adapt in our lives. Our current fundamentals are conditioned by the rules of Nature we survive in. Spirituality may not have performed any active role. It may seem like an ideal of absolute character, which we may associate with beyond practical achievement. We know we do suffer from a lack of peace of mind that alludes us individually and technology seems to be causing it somehow as we cannot control the external effects of a 'monster' we have created ourselves over and above what the Nature has provided to us. We attribute it to arise out of greed and selfishness that we built into our working systems ourselves. Yet we continue to discuss peace and tranquility as our philosophical objectives! Such an objective leads us to absoluteness.

A dilemma between practicality and absoluteness exists in all human societies today. Technology appears to have taken us away from our natural surroundings in one aspect or another. Our happiness index lies with lower levels of technology and higher levels of spirituality. Today, everything we do towards technology development, it concerns our peace of mind. We run to forests and sea coasts to see the vastness of nature but the relief lasts only momentarily. We need to seek a sort of nothingness out of everything we do. At the same time, we prefer noise over silence. The latter appears to frighten us. It is that silence where lies the absoluteness of our happiness.

Absoluteness is our ultimate truth. Science may help achieve that ultimate goal. Scientific enterprise is not to earn profit. It is a process of reaching a

destination, for example, by collapsing the sphere we built back to a mere point, a continuum of eternity. Thus, life and human evolution is considered a long drawn struggle, a materialistic and spiritual struggle, that may well be coherent with a scientific struggle. So, help us God! Our prayer to God , the Almighty goes for augmenting the musings of Nature that exist to a higher level! Does God like it or not is the question before Absoluteness that is being sought! Absolute truth is highly illusive as we can be sure of. What next is then the question that remains before us?

Authors' Bios:

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