

We Hear From

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Science, Religion and Society

Science and Religion are two important components of human development. The meaning significance and application of these two semantics have assumed different perspectives in different period with the growth of human civilization.

The difference is marked between ancient and present character of states, nations and system of their governance.

Science

Oxford dictionary has defined "Science as a branch of knowledge involving systematic observance of and experiment with phenomenon, systematic and formulated knowledge, and pursuit of principles of this organized body of knowledge on a subject." This definition commensurates with the present consumerbased formation of Western society. Science is being controlled by privileged group for their own benefit.

Science in Western modality is used to understand natural forces and utilize them for material worldly comfort in one hand and demystify the mysteries of universe and every component of its living objects. Ultimate aim is to use them for an unbridled development. This endeavour is fraught with the danger of ecological destruction.

Ancient, particularly the prudence of Eastern civilization considers this technology based science as a special component of knowledge; a partial approach to understand the basic nature of universe.

Knowledge "*Vidya*"- in this concept covers every aspect of universe; origin of life and its function along with methods of emancipation from its material existence. Their principal pursuit was basically idealistic for spiritual salvage keeping harmony with nature. They put less importance to material benefits which gives them power to rule over nature and all other worldly subjects.

Religion

In western conception and practice "Religion, is belief in superhuman controlling power esp. In a personal God or Gods entitled to obedience and worship; particular system of faith and worship thing that one is devoted to; life under monastic vow." (Oxford dictionary)

In Eastern specially in Indian concept "*Dharma*" is not synonymous with 'Religion'. '*Dharma*' originates from '*Dhrie dhatu*' which means through which one can live or thrive धारयति यहः सः धर्मः or on which our livelihood depends. It is rather synonymous with "*Brittee*" (profession) which denotes means of living or one's own profession that is his own was one 'Dharma'. This concept has undergone much metamorphosis in course of time.

Mother earth is one small planet in one solar system amongst such crores of solar systems in the universe. Its origin still remains as a mystery. Science has failed to discover its origin and product its end as well. Religion has taken recourse to imagination. Both remains beyond our perception.

Homosapians are only one species amongst millions of such subjects. Being endowed with an ever growing cerebral cortex. They are over ambitious to discover the mysteries of universe and life. In such endeavour they have discovered only one absolute truth ie Death. Death is the ultimate fate of every one that is born.

Human species thus has tried to surpass death in various ways.

Their struggle for existence against armies of hostile elements both in their milieu interne and external environment have taught them that they have to let others live if they desire to survive. So live and let live is the basic motto of mankind. At the same time, instinctively they have the desire to dominate over others; including nature and all other living objects even over their own species.

Stratification was inevitable with the development of society. This stratification was initially implemented through mutual decision of the community. Later on this privilege was taken over by more intelligent and powerful groups of the society.

Science and religion are two powerful instrument of social growth. In ultimate analysis both has to depend upon an imaginative situation to explain their existence. Matters ultimately end in a wave and particles created by the wave or vice versa.

'*Dharma*' albeit religion ultimately have to depend upon an imaginary soul or *Atma*. This is a form to deny the reality of death. For ultimate submission one has

to take recourse of a power. One may call it Nature or God; whichever serves their purpose.

One has to conclude after deep introspection that Science and Dharma; and RELIGION are complimentary semantics of the Society. Their final goal is same.

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Light Signal on the head of a mouse: New Area of Research

The still young field of research on optogenetic waits for astonishing results. So called switch controlled protein would be built up in the nerve cells. These act upon light impulse and change the attitude, food instinct and the sleep of the animals. Now the researchers hope to discover therapies for trauma experiences, epilepsy or depression of human being.

Neuroscientists can fulfil the dream of many psychotherapists. They can relieve the mouse continuously of the bad memories. The researchers of Japan and USA converted negative experiences to positivity through the light impulse. To this they have taken over the distinctive nerve cells in the brain of the animal. The mice immediately change their attitude. They search for the place suddenly at which they had received electric shocks but avoided the part of the cage in which they could enjoy with their female counterparts beforehand.

The results of the Japanese Rikeninstitute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA made a further progress on the way to understanding of mouse brain. The researchers worldwide work on that. They influence the attitude of the animals through directed switch on and off on brain cells with light. This makes the mice do unusual things. They plunge into high risks because they do not have any more fear. They develop a

pronounced search attitude. The researchers influenced to this the aggression attitude of the animals, the food instinct, the sleep and also social behaviour.

This promising field of research area is termed optogenetic. It uses new type of circuit breaker controlled protein in the nerve cells which act upon the light of the surrounding. The method for this artificial strike has been established for many years. With the help of a virus which transmits cold related diseases, the researchers introduce a gene in the nerve cells which retains the code for the switch controlled protein. The cell begins with that the production and adds the protein in cell wall.

With the light of a definite colour the switch then opens an ion channel through which the loaded particles flow: that solves the electrical impulse with which the neurons understand in the brain. The neuroscientists therefore are able to influence the activities of the nerve cells. The switch controlled protein is very sensitive. For their activation the light reaches to penetrate in the head through the scalp of a shaved mouse. The results from the animal investigation awaken the fantasy for the new therapy with the human beings. Light could do away with traumatic memory, prevent epilepsy or cure depression.
