

Vedic Synthesis

India is renowned globally as the land of profound and peerless spiritual wisdom. Here are a few quotes of eminent Western thinkers:

1. “Whenever I have read any part of the Vedas, I have felt that some unearthly and unknown light illuminated me. In the great teaching of the Vedas, there is no touch of sectarianism. It is of all ages, climes, and nationalities and is the royal road for the attainment of the Great Knowledge.” -*Thoreau (American Thinker)*



2. “The marvel of the Bhagavad-Gita is its truly beautiful revelation of life’s wisdom which enables philosophy to blossom into religion.” -*Herman Hesse (1877-1962), German poet and novelist, awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1946.*

3. “In the great book of India, the Bhagavad-gita, an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large, serene consistent, the voice of an old intelligence, which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the questions that exercise us.” -*Ralph Waldo Emerson Eminent American Thinker*

Lesser known are the accomplishments and contributions of Vedic India to the field of science. Here are a few quotes from famous Western scientists acknowledging the scientific glory of Vedic India:

4. “We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.” - *Albert Einstein*

5. “After the conversations about Indian philosophy, some of the ideas of Quantum Physics that had seemed so crazy suddenly made much more sense” -*Noble Laureate W. Heisenberg , pioneer of quantum physics*

6. “The Vedanta and the Sankhya hold the key to the laws of mind and thought process which are co-related to the Quantum Field, i.e. the operation and distribution of particles at atomic and molecular levels.” - *Prof. Brian David Josephson (1940 -) Welsh physicist, the youngest Nobel Laureate*

“It is India that gave us the ingenious method of expressing all numbers by ten symbols, each receiving a value of position as well as an absolute value, a profound and important idea which appears so simple to us now that we ignore its true merit. But its very simplicity, the great ease which it has lent to all computations, puts our arithmetic in the first rank of useful inventions, and we shall appreciate

1. the grandeur of this achievement the more when we remember that it escaped the genius of Archimedes and Appollnius, two of the greatest men produced by antiquity.” -*Pierre Simon de Laplace, French mathematician, philosopher, and astronomer.*

Whether Vedic science equals - and sometimes even surpasses - the sophistication of modern science is a debatable subject, but what is beyond debate and what makes Vedic science truly unique is its highly theistic approach. And this is why Vedic science becomes crucially important for modern humanity – because it has the potential to bridge the yawning chasm that separates science and spirituality today. Indeed, by uniting reason and faith in a higher-dimensional paradigm, it can heal the wound that has torn the human brain and the human heart far apart.

In the Vedic paradigm, science had a spiritual purpose. This is vividly stated in the Srimad Bhagavatam (1.5.22) “Learned circles have positively concluded that the infallible purpose of the advancement of knowledge, namely austerities, study of the Vedas, sacrifice, chanting of hymns and charity, culminates in the transcendental descriptions of the Lord, who is defined in choice poetry.” In his purport to this, eminent Vedic scholar Srila Prabhupada, founder of ISKCON, states: “Science and philosophy also should be applied in the service of the Lord. There is no use presenting dry speculative theories for sense gratification. Philosophy and science should be engaged to establish the glory of the Lord. Advanced people are eager to understand the Absolute Truth through the medium of science, and therefore a great scientist should endeavor to prove the existence of the Lord on a scientific basis.”

Thus science – the human faculty to observe and infer a rational understanding from the observation – can be used to verify and confirm spiritual truths – such as the omnipotence and superintelligence of God. This spiritual outlook to science in particular and life in general can rectify much of the exploitative and destructive use to which science is currently being put. In fact, many of the early Western scientists had a similar spiritual purpose for their scientific investigations. Eminent mathematician Johannes Kepler remarked, “I have endeavored to gain for human reason, aided by geometrical calculation, an insight into His way of creation; may the Creator of the heavens themselves, the father of all reason, to whom our mortal senses owe their existence, may He who is Himself immortal... keep me in His grace and guard me from reporting anything about His work which cannot be justified before His magnificence or which may misguide our powers of reason, and may He cause us to aspire to the perfection of His works of creation by the dedication of our lives...”