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Understanding the Nature of Man through the Scientific Mathematical Vision of Swami Vivekananda

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**Abstract**

*Swami Vivekananda's scientific understanding of oneness of existence reveals that matter and energy are one and the same that forms the basis of the Universe. Man who is the part of the Universe is also made of matter (body) and mind which are in different states of vibrating energy. Behind Man's body and mind there exists an eternal and omnipresent Soul. Man is the only instrument that is capable of attaining perfection through realizing its true nature of oneness with the Supreme Soul, the God. In the word of Swamiji mystics of self-realization is universal like Mathematical principles and laws that are also universal.*

**Introduction:**

According to the Greek Philosopher **Aristotle** Man is by nature a “**Social Animal**” and in order to survive, he has to satisfy certain basic needs of the nature. In other words, he has to interact with his fellow men and also all the components of the nature. Man with his ever-active Mind with waves of thoughts is having two Environments namely External and Internal. He understands the External Environment through Science, while the Internal Environment can be understood through Spirituality. Spirituality is the personal experience of an individual while Religion is the community based organized system. Both Spirituality and Religion are entrenched in the efforts to understand the meaning of Human Life. Swami Vivekananda, the prime and vibrant disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, was undoubtedly a spiritual aspirant and a scientific thinker. His approach towards and acceptance of any principle was based on his thorough rational testing of that principle which is the basic quality of a Scientist. He himself

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understood the meaning of the human life on the basis of Religion which is the science of spirit, soul and life.

### **Man, and Universe:**

Universe is the sum total of everything that exists including time and space, the matter and energy, and the laws that govern them. As per the understanding of Physical and Chemical Sciences, the observable material substance together with its energy forms the basis of all the natural phenomena of the Universe. **Albert Einstein** scientifically proved that mass and energy are the different forms of the same thing through his “**Relativity Theory**” and the famous equation  $E = mc^2$  (1905). Ten years earlier than Einstein’s findings Swami Vivekananda (1895) explained the unity of existence with reference to material and energy. In 1891 **Nikola Tesla**, another greatest inventor, whose invention formed the basis of Electrical Revolution that moves our world even today, described the Universe as the Kinetic System filled with energy. Tesla was much influenced by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda. In a night meeting with Swamiji on

February 5<sup>th</sup> 1896 Tesla was guided by Swamiji to mathematically prove the Vedic concept of unity of existence. Tesla could assure Swamiji that he is capable of doing that. As Tesla could not succeed in this project, Einstein himself went on further in this line of understanding of the Universe. From these events it is very apparent that Swami Vivekananda was the pioneer in scientifically understanding the Unity of Existence of the Universe.

Swamiji declared that like all the things in the Universe Man is the blend of matter and energy. The driving force energy of this combination is the sole/atman. The formless sole/atman which is the past and parcel of human existence is beyond time and space perceived by human mind.

In the words of Swamiji, every matter in the Universe is in a constant state of flux, but by taking the Universe as a Unit, as one whole, it cannot move or change as motion is always a relative thing. Hence, this infinite Unit of sole/atman which is unchangeable, immovable and absolute is the real nature of Man. Therefore, Man’s reality is universal and not in the limited sense.

Cosmic consciousness is the unity of human mind with Universe. In other words it is the awareness of the Universe by human mind above its level of selfness and ego. According to the analysis of Swami Vivekananda the Universal/Cosmic Mind is the one that splits into Universal Material/Matter and Universal Power/Force. This Universal/Cosmic Mind itself is created by another entity namely the Cosmic Soul which is also called God/Almighty. The fore said explanation is extrapolated by Swamiji to Man and his body (matter), mind and soul.

### **God, Man, and Nature:**

There exists a triangular connection among Almighty, Nature and Man. According to some sect of believers, the Nature is an example of omnipresent almighty and is to be also worshiped while enjoying it. The other sect of believers considers that Nature is gifted to them for purpose of enjoyment only.

As per the words of Swami Vivekananda there exists a Unity among God, Man and Nature. In other words, it is the Unity of existence among the matter and energy of the Universe. In his lecture on the Real Nature of Man delivered in 1895, he further pointed out that force (power) which takes up the matter and forms the body is the same which manifest through that body.

Swamiji further speculated that matter (body) and mind are one and the same but differ in their state of vibration. The mind is in the state of higher vibration while the matter (body) is in the state of lower vibration. Therefore, Man in nature is homogeneous with reference to body and mind that are manifesting differently. A mutual vibration-based transformation between body and mind is also there. The example given by Swamiji to this is as follows: If food is not consumed for a week or so the thinking capacity of human mind goes down to only a few stray thoughts. After resuming feeding the mind starts functioning normally with its thrush hold level of vibration. Here the food (material) becomes the mind. Similarly, the mind can manifest itself in the body as matter by lessening its vibration.

The free state of Man's existence is the next thought stream of Swamiji. Man is always identifying himself with his mind and its extraordinary changes. Many a time he is unable to understand the sole behind this mind which is ever free, bondless and eternal. In nature man is not the mind but the sole. Therefore, the real freedom of Man is present in his sole rather than in his mind.

In 1859 the evolutionist, Charles Darwin, in his book on "The Origin of Species" discussed about the struggle for existence of the organisms found in this world. The adaptive variations were acquired by organisms to get over in this struggle. As a driving and evolutionary force, the Nature selected the organisms with favoured variations and made them to survive as fittest organisms in the future course of evolution. Swami Vivekananda understood the manifestation of sole from simplest to complex form of life. Such differences in the manifestation were subjected to the pressure of the Nature and that led to the evolution of the sole into the stature of Man. This is in line with the organic evolutionary theory postulated by Charles Darwin.

### **Supremacy of Man:**

While talking about the supremacy of Man, Swami Vivekananda pointed out that Man is the greatest of all the animals, devas, and angels. He alone can attain perfection. The devas and angels, so called celestial beings have to come down again and attain perfection through human body alone. Swamiji further ascertained that Man is the only God that ever exists in past, present and future. Like Swamiji, many of our sages identified God in the human form – "Daivam Manushya Roopena". In the case of an ordinary apparent man unfortunately the attitude of slavery exists for food, shelter, family, money, fame and other worldly affairs. But fortunately, there is a provision available to him to get detached from all these bondages and attain the supremacy as a real man or yogi.

### **Self Realization of Man:**

Through the ideas of Swami Vivekananda, we have already seen that Man is the proper instrument to attain perfection. Swamiji said that the inherent nature of man is to seek self-realization and to aware of his perfection. The mystics of man in realizing himself with the ultimate truth are universal. Swamiji identified this phenomenon as the Scientific Religion. Further, it is explained by him in this way: “As mathematics in every part of the world does not differ, so the mystics do not differ. They are all similarly constituted and similarly situated. Their experience is the same and this becomes law”. Yoga method is advocated by Swamiji to attain self-realization. Yoga helps man to come out of the disturbances in physical body and mind caused by outside world. Once the body and mind are fit and healthy enough the progress towards self-realization is possible to man. Taking the body in to a slave the yoga shows the way for Man to join the soul ever existing in his body with the eternal Supreme Soul or God. This is the essence of Self Realization. Man can control his body and mind through yoga to attain the state of Self Realization.

### **Conclusion:**

Swami Vivekananda stands apart from most scientists in having the amalgamation of science and spirituality. His understanding of the nature of man was immense and born out of his very careful scientific analysis. He tried to connect the real man with the infinite omnipresent Soul. He argued that Apparent Man is only a dim reflection of the Real Man. The Real man / Soul is not bound by time and space and that must be free. This logic has to be understood first by the common / apparent man. Then he has to strive for self-realization and the state of freedom. This paper ends with the Swamiji’s quote on Real Man: **“The Real Man is the One Unit of Existence”**

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