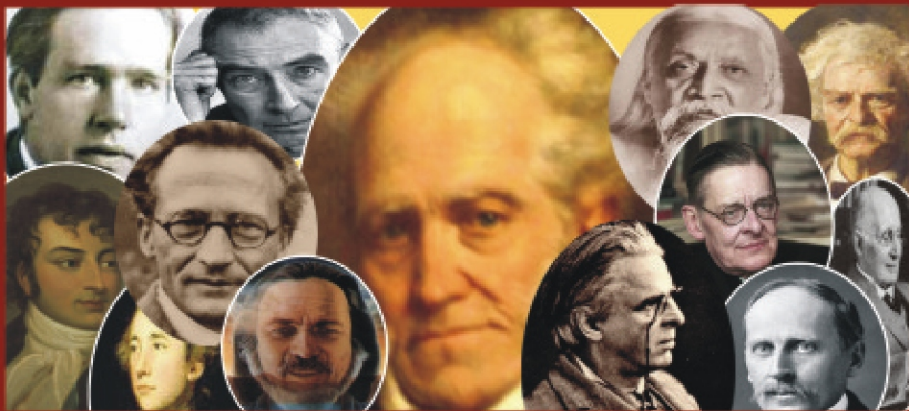




What is India ?

**Know the answer from the world
renowned intellectual giants**



- Salil Gewali

What is India?

***Know the answer from
the world renowned
intellectual giants***

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Salil Gewali

Academic Publications
Shillong

Publisher
Salil Gewali
Academic Publications
, Shillong-793002
Meghalaya
Email: sgewali@gmail.com
Phone: 9863028358, 9774140451

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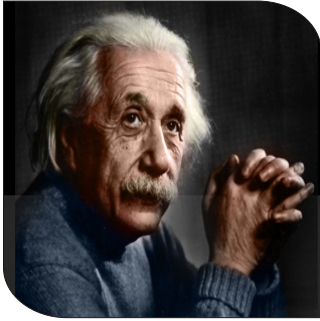
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Delhi

**(1888-1965), Great
American poet,
philosopher, critic,
received Nobel Prize for
literature in 1948**



T. S. Eliot

*Indian philosophers' subtleties
make most of the great European
philosophers look like schoolboys.*



(1879-1955), One of the greatest scientists, philosophers, received Nobel Prize for his 'Theory of Relativity'.

Albert Einstein

We owe a lot to Indians who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.

**(1901-76), One of the
greatest physicists, co-
founder of *Quantum
Physics*, received Nobel
Prize**



Werner Heisenberg

*After the conversations about
Indian philosophy, some of the
ideas of Quantum Physics that
had seemed so crazy suddenly
made much more sense.*

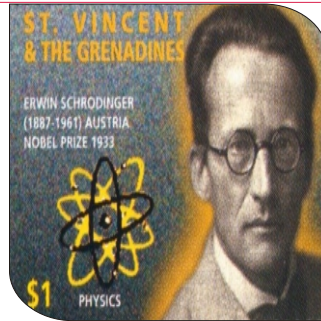


(1904-1967), One of the world's greatest physicists, known as 'the father of the Atomic bomb'

Julius R. Oppenheimer

*What we shall find
in **Modern Physics** is an
exemplification, an
encouragement and a refinement
of old Hindu wisdom.*

(1887--1961), Austrian physicist, known as the father of *Quantum Physics*, awarded Nobel Prize for his invention of *Wave Mechanics*



Erwin Schroedinger

Some blood transfusion from the East to the West is must to save Western science from spiritual anaemia.



(1694-1774), One of the greatest French writers and philosophers

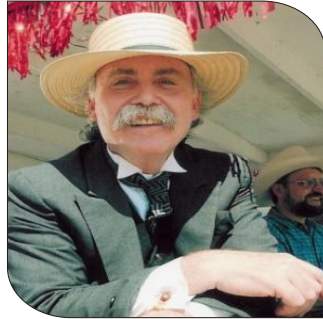
Francois M. Voltaire

I am convinced that everything has come down to us from the banks of the Ganga – Astronomy, Astrology, Spiritualism, etc.

It is very important to note that some 2,500 years ago at the least Pythagoras went from Samos to the Ganga to learn Geometry...

But he would certainly not have undertaken such a strange journey had the reputation of the Brahmins' science not been long established in Europe...

**(1835-1910),
Celebrated American
humorist, satirist,
lecturer and writer**



Mark Twain

India is the land of religions, cradle of human race, birthplace of human speech, grandmother of legend, great grandmother of tradition. The land that men with intellectual bent desire to see and having seen once even by a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for the shows of the rest of the globe combined.

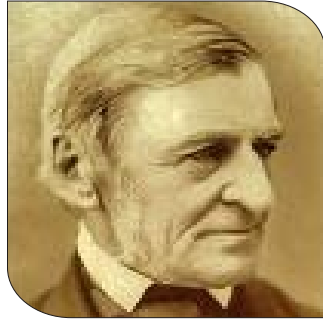


(1770-1831), One of the greatest German philosophers and writers

Friedrich Hegel

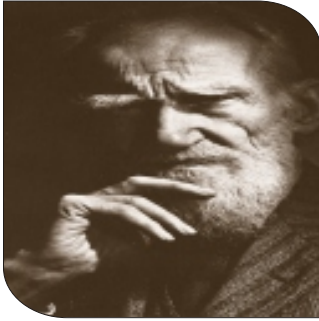
It strikes everyone in beginning to form an acquaintance with the treasures of Indian literature, that a land so rich in intellectual products and those of the profoundest order of thought...

**(1803-1882), Great American
author, essayist, lecturer,
Unitarian Minister**



Ralph Waldo Emerson

*The Vedas haunt me.
In them I have found
eternal compensation,
unfathomable power,
unbroken peace.*



(1856-1950), Great dramatist,
Nobel laureate in literature

George Bernard Shaw

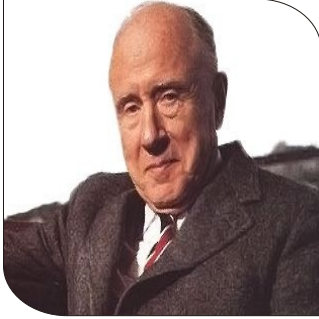
The Indian way of life provides the vision of the natural, real way of life. We western veil ourselves with unnatural masks. On the face of India are the tender expressions which carry the mark of the Creators hand.

**(1788-1860), One of the
greatest German
philosophers and writers**



Arthur Schopenhauer

In the whole world there is no study so beneficial and so elevating as that of the Upanishads. It has been the solace of my life; and it will be the solace of my death. They are the product of the highest wisdom.



(1911-2008), Eminent American physicist, the first to be involved in the theoretical development of the Atomic bomb and first to coin the 'Black Hole' who later occupies the chair that was held by Albert Einstein

John Archibald Wheeler

I like to think that someone will trace how the deepest thinking of India made its way to Greece and from there to the philosophy of our times.

(1736-93), Great French astronomer and politician, noted for his computation of an orbit for *Halley's Comet*



Jean-Sylvain Bailly

The motion of the stars calculated by the Hindus before some 4500 years vary not even a single minute from the modern tables of Cassine and Meyer.



(1694-1774), France's greatest
writer and philosopher

Francois M. Voltaire

*The Veda was the most
precious gift for which the
West had ever been indebted
to the East.*

**(1772-1829), German writer,
critic, philosopher,
philologist, the most
prominent founder of
German Romanticism**



Frederich von Schlegel

There is no language in the world, even Greek, which has the clarity and the philosophical precision of Sanskrit, and this great India is not only at the origin of everything, She is superior in everything, intellectually, religiously or politically and even the Greek heritage seems pale in comparison.



(1856-1939), Great Irish poet, dramatist, essayist and Nobel laureate

William Butler Yeats

*It was only my first meeting
with the Indian philosophy that
confirmed my vague
speculations and seemed at
once logical and boundless.*

**(1887-1961), One of the greatest
physicists of 20th century,
awarded Nobel Prize for his
invention of *Wave Mechanics***



Erwin Schroedinger

*In all world there is no kind of framework
within which we can find consciousness in
the plural; this is simply something we
construct because of the temporal plurality
of individuals, but it is a false construction...
The only solution to this conflict in so far as
any is available to us at all lies in the
ancient wisdom of the Upanishad.*



(1904-1967), One of the world's greatest physicists, known as 'the father of the Atomic bomb'

Julius R. Oppenheimer

The juxtaposition of Western civilization's most terrifying scientific achievement with the most dazzling description of the mystical experience given to us by the Bhagavad Gita, India's greatest literary monument.

(1885-1962), Danish nuclear physicist who developed the 'Bohr model of the atom'. He received the Nobel Prize in physics in 1922 for his theory of Atomic structure



Niels Bohr

*I go into the
Upanishads to ask
questions.*



(1770-1831), One of the
greatest German philosophers

Friedrich Hegel

*India has created a special
momentum in world history as
a country to be searched for
knowledge.*

**(1915-1973), Eminent
English philosopher and one
of the widely read prolific
writers of the 20th Century**



Alan Watts

*It is, indeed, a remarkable circumstance
that when Western civilization discovers
'Relativity Theory' it applies it to the
manufacture of
atom-bombs, whereas Oriental civilization
applies it to the development of new states
of consciousness.*



(1917-1992), One of the most eminent quantum mechanical physicists and philosophers

David J. Bohm

One would say Atman is more like the meaning. But then what is meant would be Brahman, I suppose; the identity of consciousness and cosmos....This claims that the meaning and what is meant are ultimately one, which is the phrase 'Atman equals Brahman' of classical Hindu philosophy.

(1861-1947), Great British philosopher, mathematician, best known for his work in mathematical logic and the philosophy. He co-authored the epochal 'Principia Mathematica' with Bertrand Russell



Alfred North Whitehead

The vastest knowledge of today cannot transcend the buddhi (intellect) of the Rishis in ancient India; and science, in its most advanced stage now, is closer to Vedanta than ever before.

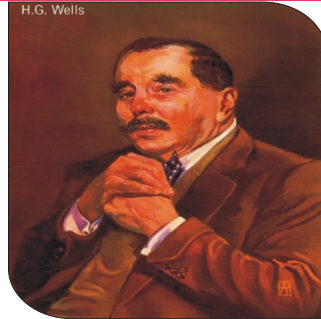


(1939-), Eminent physicist and systems theorist, a founding director of the *Center for Ecoliteracy, USA*

Fritjof Capra

To the Indian Rishis the 'Divine play' was the evolution of the cosmos through countless aeons. They say, there is an infinite number of creations in an infinite universe. The Rishis gave the name kalpa to the unimaginable span of time between the beginning and the end of creation.

**(1866-1946), English
prolific writer and
philosopher, best known for
science fiction novels**



H. G. Wells

This makes Hinduism the most tolerant religion in the world, because its one transcendent God includes all possible gods. In fact Hinduism is so elastic and so subtle that the most profound Methodist, and crudest idolater, are equally at home with it.



(1877-1962), Much acclaimed German poet and novelist, awarded Nobel Prize for literature in 1946

Herman Hesse

The marvel of the Gita is its truly beautiful revelation of life's wisdom which enables philosophy to blossom into religion.

**(1817-1862), Greatest
American philosopher, writer,
social critic,
transcendentalist**



Henry David Thoreau

*In the morning I bathe my intellect
in the stupendous and cosmogonical
philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita,
in comparison with which our
modern world and its literature
seems puny and trivial.*

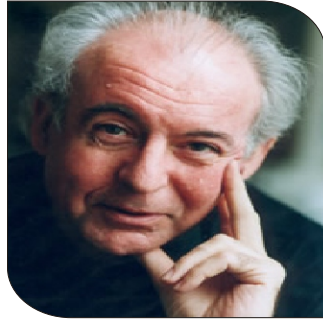


(1850-1919), Most endearing
American poetess and
journalist

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

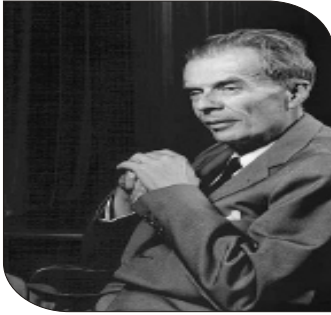
India - the land of Vedas, the remarkable works contains not only religious ideas for a perfect life, but also facts which science has proved true. Electricity, radium, electronics, airship, all are known to the seers who founded the Vedas.

(1949-), Eminent French
writer and philosopher



Roger-Pol Droit

The Greeks loved so much Indian philosophy that Demetrios Galianos had even translated the Bhagavad-Gita. There is absolutely not a shadow of a doubt that the Greeks knew all about Indian philosophy.

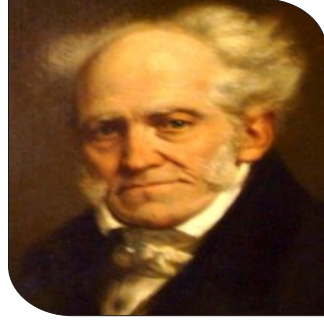


(1894-1963), Noted
English novelist, critic
and philosopher

Aldous Huxley

*Hinduism,
the perennial philosophy
that is at the core of all
religions.*

**(1788-1860), One of the
greatest philosophers and
writers of 19th century**



Arthur Schopenhauer

*How entirely does the Upanishad
breathe throughout the holy spirit of
the Vedas! How is every one, who by
a diligent study of its Persian Latin
has become familiar with that
incomparable book, stirred by that
spirit to the very depth of his Soul!*



(1934-1996), Most famous modern astrophysicist, authored several science books

Dr. Carl Sagan

The Hinduism is the only one of the world's greatest faiths dedicated to the idea that the Cosmos itself undergoes an immense, indeed an infinite, number of deaths and rebirths. It is the only religion in which the time scales correspond to those of modern scientific cosmology.

**(1859-1925),
British statesman,
Viceroy of India
From 1899 to 1905,
and later became chancellor
of 'Oxford University'**



Lord Curzon

*India has left a deeper mark
upon the history, the
philosophy, and the religion of
mankind, than any other
terrestrial unit in the universe.*



**(1835-1910), Most
celebrated American
humorist, satirist,
lecturer and writer**

Mark Twain

*Our most valuable and most
instructive materials in the
history of man are
treasured up in India.*

**(1866-1944), Great
French writer, dramatist,
critic, historian, Nobel
laureate**



Romain Rolland

Religious faith in the case of the Hinduism has never been allowed to run counter to scientific laws, moreover the former is never made a condition for the knowledge they teach, but there are always scrupulously careful to take into consideration the possibility that by reason both the agnostic and atheist may attain truth in their own way.



(1797-1856), Great German romantic poet, essayist and journalist

Heinrich Heine

The Portuguese, Dutch and English have been for a long time year after year, shipping home the treasures of India in their big vessels. We Germans have been all along been left to watch it. Germany would do likewise, but hers would be treasures of spiritual knowledge.

**(1823-1900),
Famous German
philosopher, writer and
philologist**



Prof F. Max Muller

In the history of the world, the Vedas fill a gap which no literary work in any other language could fill. I maintain that to everybody who cares for himself, for his ancestors, for his intellectual development, a study of the Vedic literature is indeed indispensable.



(1904-1967), One of the world's greatest physicists, known as '*the father of the Atomic bomb*'

Julius R. Oppenheimer

*Access to the Vedas
is the greatest privilege
this century may claim over
all previous centuries.*

(1744-1803), Great German philosopher, poet and critic



Johann Gottfried Herder

Mankind's origins can be traced to India, where the human mind got the first shapes of wisdom and virtue with a simplicity, strength and sublimity which has - frankly spoken - nothing, nothing at all equivalent in our philosophical, cold European world.



Professor at Oxford, award-winning television writer, producer, journalist, critic and novelist

Paul William Roberts

The Vedas still represent eternal truth in the purest form ever written. And they are what drew me to India in the first place, what kept me there, and what draws me back still.

(1736-93), Great French astronomer who calculated the orbit for the *Halley's Comet*



Jean-Sylvain Bailly

The Hindu systems of astronomy are by far the oldest and that from which the Egyptians, Greek, Romans and - even the Jews derived from the Hindus their knowledge.



(1935-), BBC correspondent in India for many years, authored many books

Mark Tully

But I do profoundly believe that India needs to be able to say with pride, 'Yes, our civilization has a Hindu base to it.'

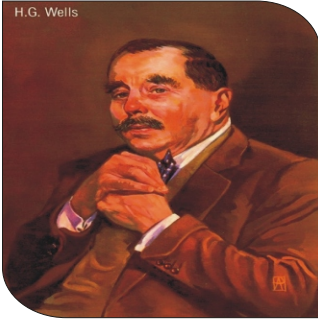
(1749-1827), French greatest mathematician, philosopher and astronomer, contemporary of Napoleon, best known for his Nebular Hypothesis of the origin of the Solar System



Pierre Simon de Laplace

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.

H.G. Wells

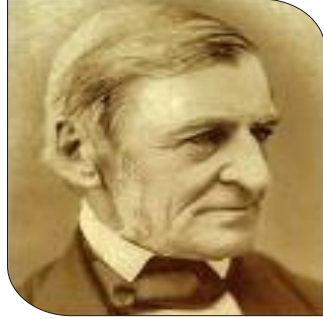


**(1866-1946), Eminent
prolific English writer and
philosopher**

H. G. Wells

*There is space in its
philosophy for everyone,
which is one reason why
India is a home to every
single religion in the world.*

**(1803-1882), Great American
author, essayist, lecturer,
Unitarian Minister**



Ralph Waldo Emerson

*I owed a magnificent day to the
Bhagavad Gita. It was as if 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 same
questions which exercise us.*

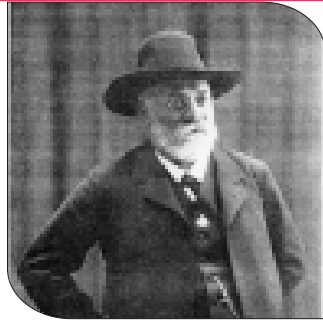


(1940 -), Welsh physicist, the youngest Nobel laureate

Brian David Josephson

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.

(1845-1919), Direct disciple of Arthur Schopenhauer, founded the *Schopenhauer Society*



Paul Deussen

Whatever may be the discoveries of the scientific mind, none can dispute the eternal truths propounded by the Upanishads.



(1817-1862), One of the greatest American philosophers, writers, social critics, transcendentalists

Henry David Thoreau

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. When I am at it, I feel that I am under the spangled heavens of a summer night.

**(1754-1826), First
governor general of British
India**



Lord Warren Hastings

I do not hesitate to pronounce the Gita a performance of great originality, of sublimity of conception, reasoning and diction almost unequalled; and a single exception, amongst all the known religions of mankind.



(1767-1845) Great German scholar, poet, critic

August Wilhelm von Schlegel

*Even the loftiest philosophy of
the Europeans appears like a
feeble spark before the
Vedanta.*

**(1867 - 1935), Eminent poet,
artist, and mystic, a leading
figure in the Irish literary
renaissance of the late 19th
and early 20th century**



A. E. George Russell

*The Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads
contain such godlike fullness of wisdom
on all things that I feel the authors must
have looked with calm remembrance back
through a thousand passionate lives, full
of feverish strife for and with shadows,
ere they could have written with such
certainty of things which the soul feels to
be sure.*



(1949-), Eminent scholar, authored several books, was also Russian Ambassador to India, Nepal and Sweden

Alexander M. Kadakin

India seems to be specially designed by the God to defy all prognoses and theories. My heart remains here but all my Indias will travel back along with me, needing no extra space in the plane. And new ones will appear when I return.

(1925-), American Nobel Prize-winning scientist, worked extensively during World War II in designing radar bombing systems, invented the microwave-emitting



Charles H. Townes

Indian students should value their religious culture and of course, the classical Indian culture bears importantly on the meaning of life and values. I would not separate the two. To separate science and Indian culture would be harmful. ...I don't think it is practical to keep scientific and spiritual culture separate.



(1915-1973), English philosopher and most widely read prolific writer

Alan Watts

To the philosophers of India, however, 'Theory of Relativity' is no new discovery, just as the concept of light years is no matter for astonishment to people used to thinking of time in millions of kalpas, (one kalpa is about 4,320,000 years).

**(1907-1986), Eminent
Romanian philosopher, writer
and critic**



Mircea Eliade

Yoga, as a 'science' of achieving this transformation of finite man into the infinite, One has to be recognized as something intrinsically Indian or, as 'a specific dimension of the Indian mind.

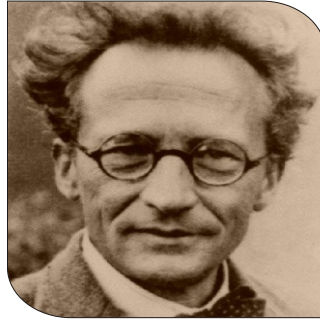


(1746–1794), Great British scholar, philologist and authored several books

Sir William Jones

Wherever we direct our attention to Hindu literature, the notion of infinity presents itself.

(1887-1961), Most celebrated Austrian physicist, known as the *father of Quantum Physics*, awarded Nobel Prize for his invention of *Wave Mechanics*



Erwin Schroedinger

Vedanta teaches that consciousness is singular, all happenings are played out in one universal consciousness and there is no multiplicity of selves.



(1947-), French historian of mathematics, his most famous book was '*The Universal History of Numbers*'

Georges Ifrah

It is the ancient Indian culture that has regarded the science of numbers as the noblest of its arts...

A thousand years ahead of Europeans, Indian Savants knew that the zero and infinity were mutually inverse notions.

**(1887-1949),
American linguist and
author**



Leonard Bloomfield

*It was in India, however, that
there rose a body of knowledge
which was destined to
revolutionize European ideas
about language.*



(1931-1981), Wife of King Paul of Greece and research scholar of Advanced physics

Queen Fredricka

I envy the Indians.

*While Greece is the country
of my birth, India is the
country of my soul.*

**(1748 - 1814), Eminent
French naturalist and author**



Pierre Sonnerat

Ancient India gave to the world its religions and philosophies. Egypt and Greece owe India their wisdom and it is known that Pythagoras went to India to study under Brahmins, who were the most enlightened of human beings.



**(1851-1920), Eminent
German Indologist**

Leopold von Schroeder

*Nearly all the philosophical
and mathematical doctrines
attributed to Pythagoras
are derived from India.*

**(1767-1835), Prussian
Minister of education, a
brilliant linguist and the
founder of the science of
general linguistics**



Wilhelm von Humboldt

*The Gita, the most beautiful,
perhaps the only true philosophical
song existing in any known tongue
— perhaps the deepest and loftiest
thing the world has to show.*



(1939-), Noted physicist and systems theorist, a founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy, USA

Fritjof Capra

The most important characteristic of the Eastern world view - one could almost say the essence of it - is the awareness of the unity and mutual interrelation of all things and events, the experience of all phenomena in the world as manifestations of a basic oneness. All things are seen as interdependent and inseparable parts of this cosmic whole; as different manifestations of the same ultimate reality.

**(1906- 2001), Australian UFO
pioneer, author of several
physics, astronomy and
spiritual books**



Andrew Tomas

The atomic structure of matter is mentioned in the Hindu treatises Vaisesika and Nyaya. The Yoga Vasishta says: — there are vast worlds within the hollows of each atom, multifarious as the specks in a sunbeam — which we have assumed now as true.



Professor at Oxford, award-winning television writer, producer, journalist, critic and novelist

Paul William Roberts

*India is the only country that feels
like home to me,
the only country whose airport
tarmac I have ever kissed upon
landing.*

(1911-2008), Eminent American physicist, the first to involve in the theoretical development of the atomic bomb and also the first to coin the 'Black Hole' who later occupies the chair that was held by Albert Einstein.



John Archibald Wheeler

*It is curious that people like
Schroedinger, Niels Bohr and
Oppenheimer were
Upanishad scholars.*



(1895-1976), Great Chinese scholar and prolific writer

Dr. Lin Yutang

India was China's teacher in religion and imaginative literature, and the world's teacher in Trigonometry, Quadratic Equations, Grammar, Phonetics, Arabian Nights, Animal fables, chess, as well as in philosophy, and that she inspired Boccaccio, Goethe, Herder, Schopenhauer, Emerson, and probably also old Aesop.

(1890-1943), Great German
Indologist



Dr. Heinrich Zimmer

*The whole edifice of
Indian civilization is
imbued with spiritual
meaning.*



(1897 -1987), Eminent scholar, taught at Oxford University

Juan Mascaro

The greatness of the Bhagavad Gita is the greatness of the universe, but even as the wonder of the stars in heaven only reveals itself in the silence of the night, the wonder of this poem only reveals itself in the silence of the soul.

(1918-), Professor of
philosophy at the State
University of New York



Dale M. Riepe

*Western thinkers, through their study
of Indian philosophies and religions
have discovered a new technical
philosophy of undreamed-of
complexity and ingenuity*



(1944 -), Noted German scholar and writer

Hans Torwesten

The Vedas and the Upanishads are India's proudest and most ancient possessions.

They are the world's oldest intellectual legacies. They are the only composition in the universe invested with Divine origin, and almost Divine sanctity. Their beginnings are not known. They have been heirlooms of the Hindus from generation to generation from time immemorial.

**(1891-1962), Great Chinese
philosopher and author**



Hu Shih

Never before had China seen a religion so rich in imagery, so beautiful and captivating in ritualism and so bold in cosmological and metaphysical speculations. She begged and borrowed them all freely from this munificent Indians. China's indebtedness to India can never be fully told.



(1934-1996), Most famous modern astrophysicist, authored several science books

Dr. Carl Sagan

The Hinduism is the only one of the world's greatest faiths dedicated to the idea that the Cosmos itself undergoes an immense, indeed an infinite, number of deaths and rebirths. It is the only religion in which the time scales correspond to those of modern scientific cosmology.

(1627-1658 AD), Sufi son of Mogul emperor Shah Jahan, noted for his mysticism and scholarly pursuits.



Muhammad Dara Shikoh

After gradual research; I have come to the conclusion that long before all heavenly books, God had revealed to the Hindus, through the Rishis of yore, of whom Brahma was the Chief, His four books of knowledge, the Rig Veda, the Yajur Veda, the Sama Veda and the Atharva Veda. The Quran itself made veiled references to the Upanishads as the first heavenly book and the fountainhead of the ocean of monotheism.



(1772-1829), German writer, critic, philosopher, philologist, the most prominent founder of German Romanticism

Frederich von Schlegel

The ancient Indians possessed a knowledge of the true God, conceived and expressed in noble, clear and grand language...Even the loftiest philosophy of the Europeans, the idealization of reason, as set forth by the Greeks, appears in comparison with the abundant light and vigor of oriental idealism, like a feeble spark in the full flood of the noonday sun.

(1905-1983), Hungarian-born British novelist, journalist, and critic



Arthur Koestler

The greatest influence during the dark ages was Augustine, who was influenced by Plotinus, who was completely influenced by Indian mysticism.



**(1891-1953), Eminent
British philosopher,
author and teacher**

C. E. M. Joad

*The thought of the Upanishads is
bold and free, and their general
conclusion is that mystical
experience is the pathway to reality.*

**(1895 -1965), Geologist,
professor at the University
of Durham**



Professor Arthur Holmes

Long before it became a scientific aspiration to estimate the age of the earth, many elaborate systems of the world chronology had been devised by the sages of antiquity.

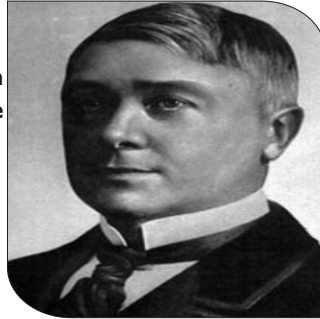


(1862-1913), Famous Japanese philosopher, art expert, curator and author

Professor Kakuzo Okakura

We catch a glimpse of the great river of science which never ceases to flow in India. For India has carried and scattered the data of intellectual progress for the whole world, ever since the pre-Buddhist period when she produced the Sankhya philosophy and the atomic theory.

**(1862-1949), Great Belgian
writer and Nobel laureate**



Count Maurice Maeterlinck

Have we not here the whole of Darwinian evolution confirmed by geology and foreseen at least 6,000 years ago? On the other hand, is this not the theory of Akasa which we more clumsily call the ether, the sole source of all substances, to which our science is returning?

But the scientific ether is not precisely the Hindu Akasa which is much more subtle and immaterial being a sort of spiritual element or divine energy, space uncreated, imperishable, and infinite.



(1875-1944), Noted British scholar, author and ecologist

Dr. Aidan Rankin

Hinduism gives spiritual underpinnings to the new wisdom of Deep Ecology and the revelations of modern science.

**(1847-1933), Celebrated
writer, socialist, George
Bernard Shaw regarded her as
the greatest woman public
speaker of her time**



Annie Wood Besant

*After a study of some forty years and
more of the great religions of the world, I
find none so perfect , none so scientific,
none so philosophical and none so
spiritual than the great religion known
by the name of Hinduism.*



**(1803-1882), Great
American author, essayist,
lecturer, Unitarian Minister**

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Nature makes a Brahmin of
me presently.*

*The transmigration of souls is
no fable*

**(1880-1946), Eminent
Estonian philosopher,
first to conceive and
promote a planetary
culture, founder of the
*School of Wisdom***



Count Hermann Keyserling

*India has produced the
profoundest metaphysics that
we can hardly imagine of.*



(1792-1867), Noted French philosopher

Victor Cousin

When we read with attention the poetical and philosophical monuments of India, we discover there are endless truths, and truths so profound, and which make such a contrast with the meanness of the results at which European genius has sometimes stopped, that we are constrained to bend the knee before the philosophy of the East, and to see in this cradle of the human race the native land of the highest philosophy.

(1889-1975), Eminent British historian. His massive research was published in 12 volumes between 1934 and 1961 titled as `A Study of History'.



Dr. Arnold Joseph Toynbee

At this supremely dangerous moment in human history , the only way of salvation is the ancient Hindu way.

Here we have the attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family.

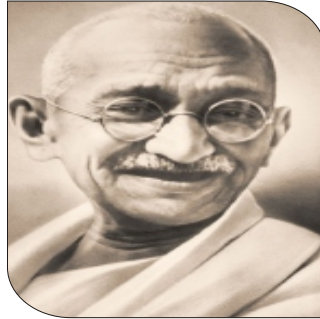


(1847-1933), Celebrated
writer, socialist and
orator

Annie Wood Besant

*India is the mother of all religions. In
her are combined science and religion
in perfect harmony, and it is India that
shall be again the spiritual mother of
the world.*

**(1869-1948) *Father of
the Indian Nation,***
pholosopher and writer,



Mahatma Gandhi

*Indian knowledge is like a boundless
ocean teeming with priceless gems. The
deeper you dive the more treasures
you find.*

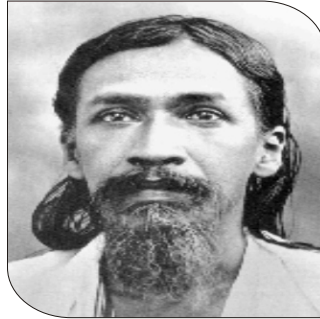


**(1863-1902), Great yogi,
philosopher and charismatic
orator of modern time**

Swami Vivekananda

*And it is here and here alone that
toleration and sympathy become
practical; it is theoretical in every
other country; it is here and here
alone, that the Hindu builds mosques
for the Mohammedans and churches
for the Christians.*

(1872-1950), One of the
greatest philosophers and
yogis



Sri Aurobindo

*Spirituality is indeed the master
key of the Indian mind; the sense
of the infinitive is native to it.*



(1888-1975), Philosopher
author and educationalist

Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Hinduism is not just a faith.

*It is the union of reason and
intuition that cannot be defined
but is only to be experienced.*

(1939-), Physicist and Systems theorist, a founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy, USA



Fritjof Capra

The scale of this ancient myth is indeed staggering; it has taken the human mind more than two thousand years to come up again with a similar concept.



**(1772-1829), Great
German philosopher,
critic and writer**

Friederich von Schlegel

*Everything without exception is
of Indian origin.., whether
directly or indirectly, all nations
are originally nothing
but Indian colonies.*

**(1850-1923), Noted French
novelist**



Pierre Loti

I salute thee with awe, with veneration, and wonder, ancient India, of whom I am the adept, the India of the highest splendor of art and philosophy. May thy awakening astonish the Occident, decadent, mean, daily dwindling, slayer of nations, slayer of Gods, slayer of souls, which yet bows down still, ancient India, before the prodigies of thy primordial conceptions.



(1959 -), Professor of 'American Thought and Language' at Michigan State University, has written several books

Dr. Arthur Versluis

It is necessary that we turn to the Vedanta, because the Upanishads provide the purest metaphysics available to us from the primordial past.



Articles

Explore the majestic Indian philosophies

Indian philosophers' subtleties make most of the great European philosophers look like schoolboys.

- T. S. Eliot

by *Salil Gewali*

It is worth millions if one has developed an enthusiasm to be more virtuous in life though living in abject poverty. But know it is worth naught if one has earned billions but has not developed any enthusiasm to acquire those virtues. Here virtues mean those simple human qualities that help promote the wellbeing of not just oneself but of the entire universe. And of course, all the existing religions in the world preach such values. In fact it is one of the fundamental aims of every religion ___ to seek to purify the filths of demons with virtues of God. And, as no religions advocate and encourage any attributes in man that stand as an impediment in having environment of piety, one has no right to disrespect others' faiths.

But very unfortunately, some of the believers of a certain religion proclaim themselves to be the best and they are obviously ill-disposed to others. They assertively

profess their own exclusivity. That is viciously disastrous. How paradoxical and how sacrilegious that evil of intolerance, dogmatism and hatred explosively often emanate from the holy ground of religions! As a searing sense of enmity has often been seen to be developing so conspicuously amongst the various sects that it naturally occurs to many why not to become atheist or agnostic than stay stewed in the hot juice religiosity.

However, the Hindu religion, nay, philosophy, never believes in propositions and doctrines that cause confrontation, vindictiveness and fanaticism. It primarily preaches universal fraternity, tolerance and magnanimity and significance of spiritual knowledge. It informs us, '*Sarva dharma sama bhava*', 'have tolerance for other religions'. The different paths of religions existing in the world are essential for spiritual evolution for a particular class of people born with particular character and propensity. It says, according to one's mental leaning, aptitude and subtle inner faculties that were acquired in past lives, the 'Nature' causes one to take birth in one particular religion which is best suited for him. So therefore, one has no right to choose one's religion on

whims. Like a person with O+ blood group can't thrust A+ blood into his bloodstream. If he does, then he will only invite multitude of health complication later.

Look at this illustration. In order to illuminate different types of bulbs we need batteries of different voltages. So, to help evolve the souls of different individuals require a certain faith, which is not our job to choose ___ it is Nature that decides best. Well, to make it still simple, an act of converting religion is akin to feeding a Linux compatible software into MS Window loaded machine that only causes conflict in the system leading to complex malfunctioning.

It is therefore, nowhere in Vedic thoughts does one find the references that suggest non-Hindu to quit his religion and embrace Hinduism. It is the Indian system of knowledge that objectively vindicates the importance of other faiths in this world of diversity. It says that 'diligently following the faith one has taken birth in, he attains a certain level of perfection'.

Yes, we can find still more universal aspect of Hinduism. in the following couplets from the Gita :

***Whosoever (of any faith) desires to worship
whatever deity (using any name, form, style and method
practised in that particular faith), HE (Supreme Brahman)
makes the devotee's faith steady in that very deity.
Endowed with steady faith, the devotee worship that deity
And obtain his wishes through that deity.
Those wishes are, indeed, granted only
by HIM -- Supreme Brahman alone.***

(7/21-22)

(Here 'Supreme Brahman' refers to 'The only immutable, subtlest and all-pervading omnipotent Energy in the form of Absolute Bliss, Absolute Knowledge and Absolute Existence')

This is the greatness of the Indian Philosophy ___ so secular, so liberal, so accommodating and scientific to the core. Truly, any teachings from the Vedas may be rigorously tested by any super scientific minds to ascertain their validity. Vedas never force one to believe in God blindly, but show scientific ways to realize that ultimate truth — that 'it is God alone that exists and the rest are transient illusion'. Ralph Emersion was dazzled, Henry David Thoreau had started to live ascetic life

when they learnt from the Vedas alone that '*it is only the ignorance to see no God in every bit of manifested things, let alone the unmanifest*'. Vedas say, nothing can ever exist without energy of divinity which is all pervasive. The Creator and the Creation are one, and a person who can see that, he alone is the man of knowledge, the rest wallow in ignorance. Upanishads say, the only objective of a religion, in fact, is to create an environment of piety that helps cleanse oneself of earthly vices, so one can steadily be more and more perceptive to see the truth in right perspective. Yes, Vedic knowledge alone convincingly expounds 'universalism, absolute unity in complex diversity and absolute divinity which is wholly dynamic in nature and also the eternity of Time which is cyclic in nature. It is doubtlessly this lofty philosophy of ancient India that informs the whole world first that this absolute and inconceivable divinity is intrinsically present within every being, living or non-living and visible or non-visible __ the wisdom greatly awestruck the modern rational scientists as Erwin Schroedinger (one of the greatest physicists of 20th century), Julius R. Oppenheimer (father of Atomic

Bomb) and Werner Heisenberg (co-founder of Quantum Mechanics). The Bhagavad Gita exhorts mankind to realize that *Divinity* in the workshop of Karma Yoga or Bhakti Yoga or Gyana Yoga or Raja Yoga, remaining in one's own faith one has taken birth in (never converting to other religion). Behold, attaining the merger with the *'absolute knowledge, absolute bliss and absolute existence which is formless and timeless phenomenon'* is the sole goal of every life-entity, affirm the Vedas in divine rhyme!

Writer may be contacted at : sgewali@gmail.com

Indians' bankruptcy of patriotism

by *Salil Gewali*

I feel a very few of us know what most of the western eminent scholars we adore have said about our Indian philosophies and the ancient seers. Yes, they have held them in the highest esteem. They have proudly acknowledged that the Vedic literatures as the only treasure of profound knowledge that has no parallel in the whole universe.

The vastest knowledge of today cannot transcend the buddhi (intellect) of the Rishis in ancient India; and Science, in its most advanced stage now, is closer to Vedanta than ever before.

Alfred North Whitehead, (1861-1947) most rational philosopher, mathematician)

But it is a matter of astonishment that all these truths about Indian system of knowledge have been less discussed or brought to light in India. So far our students

have not been encouraged to learn in schools or colleges about the uncanny philosophies as the Vedanta or Yoga literatures in any manner which in fact have become the core source of inspiration for most of the western poets, philosophers, scientists et al. Why are we not being taught in the schools the fact that Pythagoras came to India to learn Geometry and spiritualism all the way from Greece who was quite senior to Socrates and Plato? Why are we not allowed to know that Sayanas is the first Indian to calculate the speed of light in about 1300 BC which was discovered in the west only in the 17th century AD?

We are committing to memory T. S. Eliot's 'Wasteland' but never want to know that he became powerful poet because he assimilated every sublime philosophy of the Upanishads and the Vedas which he himself has mentioned at several places. Why have we suppressed these facts about the wisdom of ancient India? Have we become so unpatriotic that we love to wink at the richest legacies of our own motherland and become

blind admirers of illusive civilization of the west?
Time has come to do a real introspection. Time has come to seriously get down to learn the knowledge that mesmerized and enlightened the scientists like **Niels Bohr** and **Oppenheimer** and philosophers like **Voltaire** and **Schopenhauer**.

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Kernel of Hinduism

by *Bikash Sarmah*

Hinduism is often misconstrued as a ritualistic religion. It is not. True, rituals mark the conduct of Hinduism in day-to-day life, but that is just the contour of any practising faith for that matter, with the exception that Hinduism has a rainbow configuration of numerous gods and goddesses. Even then, the religion transcends the sheer number of gods and goddesses. For, the quintessence of Hinduism is its philosophy.

What would be Hinduism without the concomitant philosophy? That it has no founder adds to its flexibility and justifies its character as a philosophical or spiritual pursuit. And the pursuit is emblematic of man's quest for a meaning of his existence, his place in the mysterious cosmos, and his own divine potential.

A realization of that potential is spirituality, which no dogma can help realize, nor any conditioning of the past or conventional mindset. What it takes is a radical approach to life so as to decode the mystery of human existence. This is Hinduism, which is, therefore, a way of life.

In other words, Hinduism is a liberating experience. It does not, and cannot by virtue of its own intrinsic

character, assert its supremacy or condemn other faiths. That stands proscribed in the truly Hindu scheme of things. What Hinduism calls for is a philosophical or spiritual experimentation, well beyond the shackles of rigid doctrines and man-made barriers. And only the results of the experimentation would prompt one to accept the cardinality of what essentially is Hinduism. If one is convinced about his divinity that is otherwise latent, he may proceed further; if he is not, he may further experiment. There are no rules for that experimentation. Only, one has to realize the kind of path he has taken, outside of the mundane world of materialism.

As for its philosophical touch, Hinduism has this wondrous character of blending philosophy with spirituality. You do not have to go the Himalayas to meditate and realize your potential and understand the meaning of human existence. You may be in a moving bus and yet meditate — that is, observe yourself, the play of your emotions and passions, the restlessness of your mind, your irresistible temptations, your very nature and character. That observation itself is meditation. And from it will germinate wisdom, as distinct from knowledge. This is Hinduism, and it is only Hinduism that allows that scope — the scope to be oneself, to understand oneself, free from

doctrinaire diktats and conditionings.

The Vedas and the Upanishads are a treasure trove of knowledge transformed into wisdom. Their message is in fact so very simple: first be a man, realize that all men are equal, and then ensure that you have become capable of accepting the fact that the only religion that can do service to humanity is humanism. This is the gist of the Vedic renditions and the Upanishadic enlightenment. Is not Hinduism then such a man-centric and man-making pursuit?

I am an agnostic, for I have no reason to believe in God or dismiss His existence. At times I turn an atheist too, for I find far more justification in dismissing God than in accepting His supernatural powers. However, it is Hinduism that has given me that scope. I am a Hindu not because I believe in the Hindu deities, but because I have realized what it takes to be a true Hindu — the right to be oneself, the right to take my own path to understand life and its nuances, the right to not worship any god and yet be a proud Hindu for having introduced myself to the philosophy of Hinduism.

I wonder: if I were not a Hindu, would I be allowed to be an agnostic or atheist? Surely not. That distinguishes Hinduism. That is the glory of Hinduism. Only,

one has to understand Hinduism in the true sense of the term. And for that one has to first understand that life has a potential beyond the immediate and the apparent. This is what Hinduism has led me to.

(The writer is the Consulting Editor of 'The Sentinel', a Guwahati-based daily, and has written extensively on philosophical matters too, pertaining to Eastern Philosophy)

Modern Education: A Threat to Mankind

by *Salil Gewali*

Study hard, get hold of enviable degree and kick-start the gorgeous career in the field of your choice and make money. The money, your want. By hook or by crook. Certainly, your primary need in life. Use your all wiles how best you can amass and manage it. Well, you are capable of that. Very early you will be flushed with the good amount. No point dillydallying, you may desire the choicest materials of comfort and luxury — palatial buildings, swanky cars, computer, ruby, diamond and lot more. You are given the choice of enjoying every moment by drawing the utmost pleasure being in the midst of your possessions; relish them to your heart's content.

Why worry? Make the best of your time; you are virtually accentuated with awesome profession. Set your heart on anything your money can purchase. You may drink to death. Visiting the night club and indulging yourself drooling at an enticing girl who unabashedly takes leave of her modesty, could be your new found passion. Yes, you may swing yourself into action by organizing the most

sensational beauty contest ever held, that perhaps becomes an exciting event to watch and emulate from. Or, be adventurous and go around the globe to see the things of your interest. Or, take off to marvel at galas in Las Vegas, or scale the Mountain tops, or plod along the icy Antarctica—these all are jolly fashionable crazes.

Please understand, in this age of sophistication, to make one capable enough to afford any desired stuff of pleasure and conveniences that satisfy his whim is seemingly a one-pointed goal in life. So, don't hold back, go in with guns blazing to achieve them. Make your affluence as ostentatious as you wish. Yes indeed, it is the much touted education, as normally believed, which promises this glitzy world of opulence, entertainment and name and fame. The targeted aims of any wannabe doctor, engineer, politician, model, film star and so on are to achieve the brilliant profession and occupation and reputation and start quenching the thirst for ever insatiable sense gratification till ones breathe their last. Basic necessities apart, with the success their material wants and desires may swell up that could be in any form depending upon the mind-set. But be sure, there will never be the point of time when they find themselves absolutely content.

The definition of Education in modern day? Very crisp and direct. Be hot at your chosen area of studies available, the rest will unfold for you. No limitation, no restriction, no social stigma nor even inhibition. Darn the consequential chaos and upheaval and subtle loopholes, provided the disciplines chosen are materially roaring and smashing. Damn the ethical norms if they are overwhelmingly endorsed by the so-called modern day elites. No problem, you being bloody cunning, self-centered, uncompassionate, irreligious, undisciplined, violent, licentious if you can handle and elude them artfully.

Dr. X, a widely reputed surgeon of precision, is unkind, ill-tempered and a notorious womanizer. He refuses downright to operate on any underdogs if they cannot make hard payment that is fixed. But, he is a much-sought after Mr. Right who has mastered every part of your anatomy. Significantly, he can neatly deal with any organs of your body, so we have legally no right to question his personal flaws and morals. In his elaborate study of the science there is practically no references and emphasis that he must be morally acceptable and sympathetic in character before pursuing the profession.

Similar is the case with a lawyer. He can be a dangerously double standard fox. He may cook up crafty schemes for making money out of petty cases. He may make illiterate and poor lots his grazing ground. He can prove a wrong as a right and vice versa. Well, a heinous rapist gets away through his contrived design and skill. A heartless murderer gets acquitted if his only lust for money is fulfilled. Perhaps, to sum up, he is the Messiah of evildoers.

No exaggeration, so is the case with the literate men of any trade and profession. But do not be critical, they are the blessed recognized people of letters and esteemed designation. Please update yourself, there are a colossal number of careers and employments put forth by the education of modern day. Why to waver, be a star on par with Aishwarya, all the splendour will be at your feet. Or, choose to ape the demeanour and sensuality of Britney Spears or Jennifer Lopez to entertain and stir the lust of the global masses. More? You may burn the midnight oil to acquire the exclusive art of Mariah Carey and practice how artfully you can drive the virile hawk into submission.

Why to shrink to do more exciting and impressive

if you have gained mastery of the English, one of the most fashionable languages on earth. You can pick up a crap and discuss astutely till you feel jaded. Well, publish hot journals like *Cosmopolitan* by piecing together all the filths and sleazes which potentially set the reader on sensual fire. Hey think big, produce the movies that liberally and flagrantly shed light on how best one can flirt with the sex-senses, the project will be an instant crowd puller and more gainful.

No worry about the sleaze factor at this cutting age of development, if you can competently defend yourself. Immodest Madonna has attended icon status, eccentric Michele Jackson has a great number of die-hard fans. Marilyn Monroe and Helen are legendary figures and a source of inspiration for the present world that swears by fashion and modernity. Yes, what about our leaders who rule us and make laws for the society? Yes, the leaders who are ruling us are no more men of rectitude and scruples but devils of hell. They have no qualms about indulging in any sorts of immoral or criminal activities. Kidnapping, murder, corruption, pervert sex are what characterize this age of sophistication and consumerism.

Frankly speaking, here we all have thus succumbed

to the devilish heat of lust, anger, greed, desire and ego. This is how perspires and stinks the rumpus world of decadence and illusion. The cloud of illusion seems so thick that the mankind has almost lost the sight of immutable truths. Further, in pursuance of exploring the ways and means for better and easier life it has merrily gone blind to the most subtle facts about human psychology, function and behaviour of the bossy five senses. To make the matter worse, perhaps being overwhelmed by the startling ambience of advanced conveniences and luxury, the so-called academic pundits in delusion have virtually omitted the moral values from the recipe of education. Who have sense to care now that the mother Nature sternly requires a man to live within the periphery of morality and sensibly to control his senses in order to lead a sane and peaceful life or else they (the senses) will drive his mind turbulent rendering him physically and mentally feeble and stressful that may, in course of time, culminates in complete degeneration of the self.

But regrettably, the mainstream education has apparently never taught us to regulate the senses for self purification and realization of inner joyfulness. No

strange, we normally find ourselves ceaselessly engrossed and obsessed with the thoughts of short-living sense gratification and desire fulfillment or anxiety, fear, envy and anger. I am afraid, while having been unable to control the nagging mind, we have increasingly become a mere meek slave to it being ever preoccupied in the task of supplying more tempting sense objects to the senses as dictated by the former. Please note, gradual weakening of the faculty of intellect, memory and creativity is because of one being engulfed by mental agony caused by excessive indulgence in sense pleasure and high expectations from the things pertaining. Therefore, here it seems the modern education has been obviously working as a catalyst in the laboratory of the glossy world where evils alone are precipitating. Maybe, being intensely apprehensive of the impending nightmarish situation, the great thinker Albert Einstein had also warned us as saying — 'Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind', — here the religion means that which teaches us, besides about the existence of the omnipresent Almighty, moral values and significance of humanity. And therefore I firmly believe, the true education is that which teaches first the ways and skills

how best one to control those bullying five senses and mind with a sole aim to enable the inherent divine virtues to be blossomed . Once that is achieved, the enlightenment and inner joyfulness come on its on accord, as teaches the Gita. In essence of this long discussion let me conclude thus ----- '*Education is the vehicle for self-development, righteous action its fuel, intelligence the driver, must ply on the road of morality to reach the light of eternal knowledge that opens up the landscape of blissfulness and divinity.*'

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