

27 November 2011

One – Day Interactive Session on
“**Non Invasive Quick Healing @ Your Finger Tips**”
28 November 2011 [10 AM – 4 PM]

Venue:
Seminar Hall, Alumni Center, CEG, Anna University

“**Some Challenges in Meta-Physics**”

Dr. T V Gopal

Professor

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

College of Engineering

Anna University

Chennai – 600 025, India

e-mail: gopal@annauniv.edu

"India is, the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only."

- **Mark Twain**

"Heresy is a cradle; orthodoxy a coffin"

- **Robert Green Ingersoll**

“Heresies are experiments in man's unsatisfied search for truth.”

- **H. G. Wells**

“The same elements compose my mind and the world. This situation is the same for every mind and its world, in spite of the unfathomable abundance of cross-references between them. The world is given to me only once, not one existing and one perceived. Subject and object are only one.”

- **Erwin Schroedinger (1887-1961), 'Why Not Talk Physics?' Quantum Questions, Mystical Writings of the World's Great Physicists (Ken Wilber, editor)**

"Restrained by our organic constitution and by our different emotions in the lower sphere of our daily occupations, we also feel ourselves urged on by the appeal of the ideal, by more or less precise aspiration towards spiritual values, and from those sentiments even the worst amongst us do not entirely escape."

- **Louis deBroglie, 'Physics and Microphysics', Pantheon 1955 Quantum Questions, Mystical Writings of the World's Great Physicists (Ken Wilber, editor)**

1. Neurotheology

In the new field of “neurotheology,” scientists seek the biological basis of spirituality. Is God all in our heads?

The American Psychological Association published “Varieties of Anomalous Experience,” covering enigmas from near-death experiences to mystical ones. (Transpersonal Psychology) and PEAR Group. Neurotheology is stalking bigger game than simply affirming that spiritual feelings leave neural footprints, too. Some of the early results in this field include:

- **Attention:** Linked to concentration, the frontal lobe lights up during meditation.
- **Religious emotions:** The middle temporal lobe is linked to emotional aspects of religious experience, such as joy and awe.
- **Sacred images:** The lower temporal lobe is involved in the process by which images, such as candles or crosses, facilitate prayer and meditation.
- **Response to religious words:** At the juncture of three lobes, this region governs response to language.
- **Cosmic unity:** When the parietal lobes quiet down, a person can feel at one with the universe.

“It is certain that thought may be transmitted from one individual to another, even if they are separated by long distance. These facts, which belong to the new science of metaphysics, must be accepted just as they are”...”They express a rare and almost unknown aspect of ourselves”...”What extraordinary penetration would result from the union of disciplined intelligence and of the telepathic aptitude”...

- Dr. Alexis Carrel, Nobel Laureate in Medicine, Man the Unknown

"My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind."

- Albert Einstein

"Beware of the man whose God is in the skies"

- George Bernard Shaw

“The suppression of uncomfortable ideas may be common in religion or in politics, but it is not the path to knowledge, and there's no place for it in the endeavor of science. We do not know beforehand where fundamental insights will arise from about our mysterious and lovely solar system. The history of our study of our solar system shows us clearly that accepted and conventional ideas are often wrong, and that fundamental insights can arise from the most unexpected sources.”

- Carl Sagan

In the words of Sir John Maddox, formerly Editor-in-Chief of Nature, Consciousness is an unexpected Science to come. I am student of this emerging discipline and I have been working on a thesis “Speech – Swara – Nada Transform” under the guidance of Dr. M Balamuralikrishna and Prof. A P J Abdul Kalam.

'Ignited minds are more powerful than thermonuclear energy'.

- A P J Abdul Kalam

As of now my research is based on the study of Mantras, Music, Psychoacoustics, States of Mind, Consciousness, Notion of Time and Superstrings.

“Mind is the last frontier of science. We observe the physical universe through our mind, yet we have no clear idea how mind functions, how memories are stored and recalled and what is the origin of our subjective feelings. Is this level of ignorance a result of the reductionist nature of the tools that have been used in the study of mind and consciousness? If that is so, will an approach that has a different philosophical basis help? It is for this reason we turn to the Vedas, where the central concern is self and awareness.”

- **Dr. Subhash Kak, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering of Louisiana State University, USA**

“The catalogue of our ignorance must also include the understanding of the human brain, which is incomplete in one conspicuous way: nobody understands how decisions are made or how imagination is set free. What consciousness consists of (or how it should be defined) is equally a puzzle. Despite the marvelous successes of neuroscience in the past century (not to mention the disputed relevance of artificial intelligence), we seem as far from understanding cognitive process as we were a century ago.”

- **Sir John Maddox, Former Editor-in-Chief, Nature**

2. Challenges Ahead

Consciousness stands alone today as a topic that often leaves even the most sophisticated thinkers tongue-tied and confused.

Faith is the Foundation. Faith is always a matter of personal choice. However, all associated aspects are not subjective. Indic scriptures have always been instructive in ensuring the sanctity of the forms and the associated practices.

"God does not come to be enlisted in our cause, but to enlist us in His. Faith then, seeks to determine God's will rather than secure His approval of ours."

- **Brent Bradley**

“Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.”

- **Augustine**

Belief without evidence in what is told is not Faith. It is said by one who speaks without knowledge, about things without parallel. There are plenty of theologies. Normalizing the theologies is a very difficult problem. The language used is to be understood carefully. Translations are usually lossy. Faith is not about expression. It is all about experience. One of the biggest questions asked in the study of Meta-Physics is “How real is the mystic experience that defies accurate expression?”.

Some of the metaphysical issues over which realism and anti-realism have locked horns are the following:

- Are there moral values?
- Are there abstract objects like numbers or points or spaces or symphonies or jokes?
- What about selves or souls or minds?
- Are there colors?
- What of after-images, pains and other sensations?
- Is the past real?
- What of the future or other possible worlds—are these real?
- Are fictional characters real?

"Do not waste your time in looking at these visions. This is only a curiosity. These are all encouragements to convince you of the existence of superphysical, metaphysical realities. Visions are either subjective or objective, your own mental creations or of realities on finer planes of matter."

- Swami Sivananda

"The scientist does not study nature because it is useful; he studies it because he delights in it, and he delights in it because it is beautiful. If nature were not beautiful, it would not be worth knowing, and if nature would not worth knowing, life would not be worth living."

- Henri Poincare

Neuroscience and Neurotechnologies [presently Nano- is very promising in this area] have moral and metaphysical implications that differ in kind and degree from implications of previous sciences and technologies, especially genetics.

"Neurotechnology will fundamentally alter the dynamic between personal identity, responsibility, and free will ways that genetics never has. Indeed, neurotechnologies as a whole are challenging our sense of personhood and providing new tools for society for judging it".

- Illes and Racine

A quick flashback in history reminds us that metaphysics, otherwise called 'After Physics' following a posthumous title given to Aristotle's works by Andronicus of Rhodes, had a beginning dating back to the ancient times when the Indian philosopher_scientists reflected on the ultimate stuff or substance of the universe or what is there?. One needs a blend of Logic and Reasoning Chains to unravel the mystery and mysticism of the Cosmos.

I thank Dr. N Balakrishnan, IIHC, Bangalore for choosing Health as Domain to illustrate some of these foundational challenges in Meta-Physics.