

## A Glorious Heritage

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The world offers many things; we receive only what we are capable of understanding. Hearing is given; processing what we hear happens when the mind is behind the words; the two together become listening.

The Bhagavat Geetaa (4.38) says:

न हि ज्ञानेन सदृशं पवित्रमिह विद्यते।  
तत्स्वयं योगसंसिद्धः कालेनात्मनि विन्दति॥

*na hi jnanena sadrsam, pavitram iha vidyate  
tat svayam yoga-samsiddhah, kalenatmani vindati*

**Meaning:** In this world, there is nothing so sublime and pure as transcendental knowledge. Such knowledge is the mature fruit of all mysticism. And one who has become accomplished in the practice of devotional service enjoys this knowledge within himself in due course of time.

Here the Knowledge talked of is *Aatma Jnyaan* (Self realization); however Knowledge liberates in various ways. In the information age, Knowledge of our own History and culture is of paramount importance. With the explosion of information has come much undesirable material too. There are those who, because of their own disturbed mindset, seek to malign others. **Unfortunately, even prestigious Universities are producing books and articles that have only slander as their aim.** Hindus have been and are now very much under attack by religions that want world dominance; there is no Spirituality to their quest! Hence it is more important than ever before to know our role in this modern and connected world.

**In the information age whoever controls information will control the world! Hence it becomes the duty of those who are able to impart useful wisdom to do so; more disturbed minds lead the world closer to unwanted consequences!**

The Hindu heritage is unique in Human history. **It is a genius Culture and it is for the benefit of all Humanity.** This is not an empty statement but a fact for all of us to know. I will point out a few facts in this article. I pray that seekers of what we become lies behind the obvious in this world, which is the real Human pursuit given our faculties--the highest among all life forms.

The worst thing that happened to Hindus is not the millions that died trying to save our *Sanskriti* or the immense wealth that was stolen by other Nations, who were highly ignorant of our traditions of giving and sharing; **our greatest tragedy was and continues to be our own lack of Knowledge of what is the Vedic Sanaatan Hindu Dharma.**

The reasons we do not know are many. Let me highlight a few for our readers.

800 hundred years of foreign rule, subjugation brought through very cruel religious crusades and a concerted effort at destruction, by ignorant persons who saw Hindu wealth in terms of gold, silver, precious stones, silks, cotton and huge deposits of natural resources alone--**but the Hindu wealth is in its Spiritual Heritage and the land that is Bhaarat Varsha.**

A methodological and highly successful interference in our educational system, attempts by the likes of one Lord Macaulay (Lord indeed!), who set out to produce Indians who would be Indians in skin color but English in thinking. Sadly enough he was successful to a great extent. To this day, that system has not been dismantled so as to free us to think in a way natural to us. **This was the method used by the Colonizing forces to destroy many a culture from Africa to India to Indonesia to Australia to much of the Islands, all the way to our own (US) shores.** We must never forget that the United States itself was also a colony and the first to rid itself of the British colonizers (Ironically it was the British throwing out the British!). However, they continued the same policy of producing shame in the minds of the Natives of these lands now called the United States of America and replace self-pride with self-hate; a trick of the Colonizing era! The quest to find and possess India is what brought Columbus to the shores of these lands known as the Americas. It is quite amazing to note that after Queen Isabella of Spain sent him to find India he kept going in the wrong direction for months. One has to wonder if the sun never peeped out in all those months of travel or was he and his crew all so very ignorant. Even after landing here in America, sparsely populated at that time compared to India, with none of the trapping of Bharat Varsh of those days, Colombus continued to call the Natives Indian. **The Natives happen to have links to the Indian subcontinent** (Mayans in particular) - a fact not known to Columbus! Constant wars had made European treasuries empty and each nation went prospecting in other lands--*Adharma* according to *Dharma* traditions of Bhaarat. End does not justify the means!

Creation of poverty was the other tool that was and is being used even today to keep the so-called developing countries forever developing--but never fully developed! The case of India is of greater concern to us, though in our vision the wellbeing of the world is interdependent. **India was the richest nation of the world for the longest time in the history of mankind.** Please know that every nation wanted India alone! Here I quote from an historian named Hegel in his Philosophy of History. This is a direct quote and the message is important.

*“India as a Land of Desire forms an essential element in General history...from the most ancient times downwards, all nations have directed their wishes and longings to gain access to the treasures of this land of marvels, the most costly which the earth presents; treasures of nature--pearls, diamonds, perfumes, rose-essences, elephants, lions etc., as also treasures of wisdom. The way by which these treasures have passed to the West has at all times been a matter of World-Historical importance, **bound up with the fate of nations.**”*

He goes on to say,

*“Those desires have been realized, this Land of Desire has been attained, there is scarcely any nation of the East, nor of the Modern European West, that has not gained for itself a smaller or larger portion of it.”*

It seems much of the world North and West of ancient Bhaarat conspired to ruin us then and continues to a degree now. We can understand then why most European nations fought each other to gain control of India, which then came to be called the Jewel in the Crown--Crown of Britain that is.

**It is imperative that people of Indian origins as well as people who understand the usefulness of this great culture for Peaceful coexistence of Humanity, know these facts.** Unfortunately, this looting has not come to an end yet. India continues to give and give freely

without concern for profiting from its ancient and exquisite systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, Meditation, Classical Dance, *Shaastriya Sangeet* to name a few. There were no field of endeavor where Indians did not probe, research and write prolifically. Without the discoveries of our Rishis much that is available to the modern world would not be possible, starting from the concept of *Poojaya*--our name for Zero. In fact the choice of that name for Zero--*Poojaya* shows an appreciation of how important the discovery was and how well it was understood. It was the birth of counting as we know it. Today most think that *shoonya* is what we call zero which is void; *poojya* is fullness that contains everything and thus is infinite.

Tragically at some point the counting system came to be called Arabic numerals; nothing could be farther from the truth. **The modern computers and technological advancements rest on mathematical concepts given by the Rishis of Bhaarat.** Bhaarat is at the foundation of much advancement in the world. Without a foundation there is no building but without knowledge of process, one only sees the beauty of the building!

In our wise and humble way of thinking Knowledge was to be shared freely as the source of all knowledge is God--the creator and sustainer alone; Humans are *Nimitta Maatra* (merely instruments). Our experience is any knowledge when taken without humility and without credit to the original source does not bless, rather it can become the opposite. **Maybe that is our problem in the West now. We have wealth and physical comforts at the present time, but minus a proper frame of mind to enjoy it.** It seems what we have gained is an ability by which we are going to destroy the world as it exists today. Even that for us Hindus is not a problem, as we know the Creation comes to an end only because of Human folly and then the Almighty Creates again in all its glory to give us one more chance! However, it is a tragedy that need not be, by making every country suffer the same fate we only enlarge the scope of Human suffering.

**Is there an alternative to this useless suffering where everyone is being taught to be against everyone else? Surely, it lies in the Vision of Sanaatana Dharma via Advaita Vedanta,** which has known and tried to teach what Quantum Physics is saying today, in fact there are a multitude of Western writers from past to the present who have studied the Vedic philosophy and become famous by using its knowledge. Let me name a few for you: Goethe to Schopenhauer to Schroedinger, Voltaire to Michelet to Malraux, from Thoreau to Emerson to Whitman, from Toynbee to Huxley to Yeats. In more recent times Jung of the Jungian Institute and now Ken Wilber. The whole New age movement and the field of Parapsychology is a rehash, often not so well done and camouflaged in complicated academic language, of Advait Vedanta alone. Stealing has been endemic for many countries and not blessing us as it should!

The main ingredient of this precious knowledge given by the Rishis to Humanity gets lost because the stress is mostly on acquiring at any cost. Central to our tradition is the concept as put forward by Kaalidas, the famous poet,

शरीरमाद्यं खलु धर्मसाधनम्

*śarīramādyam khalu dharmasādhanam*

**Meaning:** This body is surely the foremost instrument of doing [good] deeds.

This human mind, body, sense complex is given to a human being for the purpose of understanding the Oneness that permeates this whole creation. That is why there is a Vedic statement; *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* or this whole Creation is a family, which stands for interconnectedness. **Quantum Physics says exactly the same when it claims that even the flutter of the butterfly's wings moves the whole universe!**

From this understanding it becomes the duty of a person to realize her/his divinity or put another way to know that there is an identity between the individual, Universe and God, (our words are *Jiva, Jagat* and *Ishvara*) this fact is hidden; in a human form we have been given a free will to explore this mystery. Only because of this ability we are a higher form among innumerable forms. In the absence of this understanding, human behavior becomes total manipulation of every part of this world leading to destruction and pain for all. This individual pain is leading to more and more violence; those who experience pain give only pain to others.

Life from our point of view is for living happily **but within Dharma**--ethically. A life of Dharma means to accommodate as much as possible but not when it starts to violate Dharma itself. That is why the World Hindu Council logo says:

### **Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah**

Dharma, a word with several meanings may best be understood as: Proper living, cognizant of the intrinsic values of this Creation. However, always protecting a society from those who violate this basic law of proper living or dharma.

Where Advait Vedanta and Quantum physics meet is in the discovery of each, in the fact that at a certain point the Subject-Object differentiation disappears. Since we experience only duality in everyday life, the concept of absolute oneness is enormously puzzling to understand. In fact, there cannot be any teaching for duality as it is obvious to us in every phase of our daily experience. **All religions that are based in seeing only this duality (vyavaharika) have no teaching at all; they can only preach dos and don'ts.** They become religions of canons and creeds producing immense guilt in the followers; which in turn leads to either no belief in a God or mental depressions, hate crimes and the whole shebang as we are seeing now all over the world in the form of terrorism and separatist movements even random killings.

In conclusion, I will say to all, that it has become our responsibility to learn what our *Sanskriti*/culture has explained in a thousand different ways. **No world Peace is likely when some religions claim they alone have the one and only way to God.** If there are hundreds of ways to do everything else, even to cook potatoes, to say one way to God shows extreme foolishness on the part of us Human beings or perhaps complete apathy towards the concepts that can make us worthy of being called HUMAN.

### **References:**

<http://www.seedtheworld.org/blog/heritage1>  
<http://www.seedtheworld.org/blog/heritage2>

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