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Sankhya And Science: Applications Of Vedic Philosophy To Modern Science

APPLICATIONS OF VEDIC PHILOSOPHY TO MODERN SCIENCE

sankhya
and
science



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Synopsis

Why the Observer Needs a Central Place in Science The dominantly materialist outlook of modern science leaves a lot unexplained. This includes the nature of sensation, concepts, beliefs and judgments, and an understanding of morality. Science was developed by evicting all aspects of the subject from its theories, and this has now become a hindrance in the scientific study of the observer. Does the eviction of subjective qualities only impact the understanding of the subject, or does it also affect the understanding of matter within science? The dominant belief today is that the current view of matter is nearly final and mind and consciousness will be soon explained based on it. Sankhya and Science argues to the contrary. The nature of material objects if they are created and perceived by conscious beings is different than if they are independent of consciousness. If objects are created and perceived by conscious beings, they should be described as symbols of meanings rather than as meaningless things.

Questions Tackled in This Book First, the author discusses a wide variety of problems in modern science, including mathematics, computing, physics, chemistry, biology and neuroscience and how they cannot be solved in the materialistic view. Then, the author offers the alternative view of matter based on Sankhya philosophy—meanings in consciousness are reflected in matter to create symbols of meaning. Now, to know all aspects of matter we need to understand all aspects of the observer, otherwise the theory of matter is incomplete.

Mind and Matter Integrated into a Semantic Science The book connects a semantic view of matter to the problems of indeterminism and uncertainty in quantum physics, the problem of meaning in computing theory, the nature of information in chemistry and biology, and the problem of sensation and cognition in psychology and neuroscience. Unlike in modern science, where meaning and information are emergent properties of physical objects, in Sankhya, objects are created when the mind transfers meanings into space-time. The reader will see how mind and matter can be integrated without stepping outside the rational-empirical approach to science. Moreover, this integration can engender new kinds of empirical theories, better able to explain phenomena currently lying outside the reach of science. This deeper understanding of mind and matter also builds up the conceptual framework for understanding other complex topics such as Vedic Cosmology (popularized by Hinduism), philosophy of religion, meditation, mantras, prana, reincarnation and karma. The book illustrates how the choices of consciousness are first converted into meanings in the mind, which are then converted into energy, which is then converted into material objects through incremental steps. By the end of the book, the author builds a new approach to doing science. This paradigm will be able to explain more phenomena than current theories, and will solve the problems of indeterminism, uncertainty and incompleteness which

plague current sciences. How Is This book Different? Most people drawing parallels between science and Eastern philosophy end up claiming that the Eastern mystics knew thousands of years back what modern science discovered only recently. This conclusion may be satisfying as a bridge between science and religion, but it is ultimately futile "if the mystical viewpoint is similar to the materialist view then why do we still need mysticism? Instead of parallels, this book offers a contrarian view of matter and science. It hopes to show that current science and mysticism are not convergent (although a new science and mysticism could be). The convergence requires not faith but an evolution of science itself. This approach is interesting because it tells us that the convergence will be rational rather than a matter of faith.

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Customer Reviews

This book was educational for how science views reality at present and the problems it encounters because of the physicalist/reductionist straightjacket, leaving no room for the observer. The author says: "The picture of reality in modern science contradicts the idea that we have minds which

enjoy and choose. This contradiction creates a problem: Should we discard a science that gave us all the fancy technology or discard the idea that we "enjoy" this technology? [...] While science has uncovered facts about the brain and biology, basic questions of meaning and choice remain elusive. It is the observer who actually chooses to do the experiment, but that choice itself is kept out of the theory. The observer and their consciousness, in current science, are an afterthought (as the author says). In the Sankhya philosophy, conversely, the observer and their consciousness is central to experience and matter itself is a field of experience for this observer, which "embeds" meanings in its consciousness into matter. One by one, assumptions of current science are analysed in a systematic way, and there is considerable discussion of empiricism and the mind body problem. In the mean time, the author also comes forward with the essence of the Vedic theory of the universe, which is used as a source of insights for a novel science. There is a chapter about Vedic cosmology which was very contrasting with the rest of the book (with lots of Sanskrit terms and things I could not comprehend, but my what remained with me was the idea of how the universe is an huge ecosystem, in which there are multiple types of beings). At the end, solutions are offered for multiple fields of study.

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