

28 September 1981

NEW READING 1

For general circulation

Associates of this Society are in the favourable position of being allowed a long preview of some of the evidence that has recently convinced a few top scientists that Western attitudes, science and education can no longer be carried on the wings of the 19th century 'science fiction' which is evidently still current today.

It seems that the first myth that can now be discarded is that this manifest universe began to assemble itself by chance and has been kept going by an (inconceivable) assembly of coincidences. The next is that life, intelligence and consciousness originated on this tiny planet circling an average star in one of the arms of an average spiral nebula among the enormous number now known to exist. This is just as geocentric a view as the one discarded by Copernicus in the 16th century which said that the sun and 'fixed stars' revolve round the earth.

These realisations have long been obvious to many people (we were talking like this in Mr. Ouspensky's groups in London 50 years ago) but it was believed that the game of scientific research had to be played that way, excluding everything not susceptible of proof by experiment or observable through technology. But it was startling to hear that the scientific establishment still *believe* that we are the only intelligent beings in the universe and continue to reject the massive evidence to the contrary! It is now clear that, sooner rather than later, the whole house of cards must collapse. To borrow Sir Fred Hoyle's metaphor, 'It is as if we had been (uncomfortably) asleep in the mist on a patch of snow and, as the mist clears away, we wake up to find that our patch of snow is on the north wall of the Eiger'.

Faced with such a world situation, surely Associates of this Society will wish this term to pursue whatever anyone of us has found to give the best results in our search for truth but with an added sense of urgency. After all we have repeatedly been assured that it is not our outward life or our religion but the view we are taking of ourselves that can be and has to be changed, and we have had proof that this can be done quite quickly if we pursue our search for it *within* as well as outside ourselves.

For instance in 1975 we were commended for the discovery that we 'have nothing of our own' and were told that 'this is the best realization and the greatest achievement of evolution possible'.

This realization, said our guide, simply unites one in all respects with the supreme Consciousness (Param-Atman). Until this realization comes one experiences the individual consciousness (Jiva-Atman) as *opposed* to nature. But the realization that 'there is nothing of my own' simply unites the individual self with everything there is in creation...

The concept of a far-removed external God is not going to work in this present scientific age, so there is no need to think and talk about that kind of God. The need for all of us is to understand and explain the Param-Atman as always present together with one's Self, guiding and helping at each moment in every walk of life.

We have to understand two sets of Laws. First the one presided over by the individual consciousness (Atman) and determined by the activities of that individual in

successive cycles of bodily birth and death... Then there is the set of laws which govern the lives of large numbers of people for which the responsible Being is the Param-Atman ('that Self that lives in the hearts of all') in external situations where it would be impossible to claim that all the participants deserve the same fate.

(Based on Record, 21 September 1975)

Both sets of Laws are derived from one *Law of Cause and Effect* and it would be unreasonable to expect the intelligence that made the laws to break them on request unless we make efforts to love and understand it. So whatever else we choose to study let's get ahead with the realization that 'I have nothing of my own'. When you have had time to read the evidence presented at our AGM and set out in *The Bridge No.5* (now at the printers) we can decide which of you are interested and equipped to study that as well.

We were told long ago that any *Law must be a product of mind*, since disorder and lawlessness always go on increasing when mind and True Knowledge are absent. Consequently we can understand Hoyle's argument when interviewed by John Maddox at his home in the Lake District, which can be paraphrased like this for brevity:

I would go further and say that there are few things in the universe which are not the product of intelligence. It is as if a visitor from space were to come to these fells and, as well as the disorder of the rocks of the natural landscape, were to observe well-built roads and houses (or, I would add, well-cultivated gardens), and he would infer from this that Mind or Intelligence had been at work.

We are continually meeting with such things in the physical universe and that is why a supreme intelligence is advocated by people like him, which has been at work controlling events from the beginning – the 'anthropic' principle' they are calling it.

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