

**Satsang with Sri Swami Veditatmananda Saraswati**  
**Arsha Vidya Gurukulam**  
**Vedanta and Science**

*Question*

Science as a *pramāna* is quite different from Vedanta. Do they connect at all?

*Answer*

Science and Vedanta are two different fields of inquiry, even though both are in search of the Truth. Science presumes that matter is the Truth and, therefore, its inquiry is limited to investigating matter. It excludes the subject, while taking only the object into account. Vedanta, however, says that the Truth of the object is the subject, and this is where Vedanta differs from science significantly. Vedanta defines the subject, the person conducting the enquiry, as being the Truth. Vedāntins do not view Consciousness as different from matter; rather, they look upon Consciousness as the property of matter. Therefore, while matter is the only reality for Science, Consciousness is the one reality for Vedanta. Vedantic inquiry is all-inclusive and thus includes matter, while Scientific enquiry does not include Consciousness.

Although the two realms of inquiry are different, they do connect. Vedanta has its own understanding of the nature of creation, and the current view of Science seems to agree with Vedanta's perception. Vedanta says that to understand the Self, we need to understand the nature of creation because it has an impact on the Self. Vedanta explains this creation as being apparent, as *mithyā*, a projection. It is *īśvara sṛṣṭi*, a creation of *īśvara*, the Total Mind. However, even while it is a projection of the Total Mind, it is important to note that it is a projection nevertheless. Science has also established that the universe as we perceive it is but a projection. It says that the creation that we see and experience is 'a three-dimensional projection of a four-dimensional reality.' Science does not contradict Vedanta; Vedanta is simply beyond Science.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Transcribed and edited by Malini, Krishnakumar (KK) S. Davey, and Jayshree Ramakrishnan.