

CONSCIOUSNESS – A SPIRITUAL APPROACH

The questions about life cannot be solved without a consideration of Consciousness. Consciousness facilitates our awareness of ourselves and of everything around us and of everything we know. Without Consciousness we would not recognise that we are here and that we are having this conversation.

The primary tenet of my work, as well as the work of many other spiritual writers, is that human beings are placed on a certain rung of evolutionary spectrum of Consciousness, of which there are lower and higher rungs as well. Contrary to the popular belief and a preferred picture of themselves, human beings are not the crown of possible development in Consciousness. We live on an isolated planet many light years away from stars and planets populated with other conscious beings. Our current reality has given us the experience only of ourselves—that is all we know. And because of that, we find it easy to just dismiss possibilities of intelligent life anywhere else and think of them as highly improbable.

The existence of life in the Universe is a matter of fact. If there was no life in the Universe, there would be no life here on Earth. Life is a step in the manifestation of Cosmic Consciousness, and our solar system, our planet and we, ourselves, are the expressions of specific levels of organisation of Consciousness. We exist as a filling membrane of Consciousness between lower and higher levels than ourselves. Such a worldview has a potential to change the image we have of ourselves from that of being the most mentally developed creatures, a pinnacle of possibilities, to a much more modest view of collectively forming just one membrane (not the highest one) in the spectrum of Cosmic Consciousness. And although such a realisation can be at least surprising if not disturbing (to some people), we also can rest assured that this is actually an excellent news for humanity. Often, and especially in times of crisis, as we experience our life in an accelerating transition now, people question the logic of developments, the existence of God, the futility of much of what is happening, etc. Answers to these questions lie in a different, higher sphere of Consciousness, to which we can gain access. We have the potential to cross to a higher membrane of Consciousness, and that is this good news for humanity.

In a dialectic view of evolution, human beings have slowly become aware of the consecutive dimensions of reality: the physical, the living, emotional, mental and spiritual. The spiritual dimension has been recognised in the last several thousands years of the known history under different guises. Today, the awareness of the mental dimension is the prevailing paradigm for the majority of people in the western civilisation. Most people, including philosophers, thinkers,

mathematicians, scientists, and so on, give the mind and intellect the highest credence. The intellectual inquiry, especially if supported by any experimental evidence, is considered a summit of human skills and human evolutionary development.

The thinking process of a human person, its speed and content, is shaped by the general level of development of the race, physiology of the human body, ethnic (language) background, other socio-cultural factors such as education level, vocation and extra-work activities, and so on. Human thinking will always be limited by the state of knowledge humanity possesses as a collective, that is, the level of race development. Every philosopher or thinker, who is articulating new theses or creating a new system, is limited by the scope of his or her consciousness. All humanly-devised systems of inquiry are incomplete and are matching the quality of thinking of the person formulating the new system. However, the ontological and epistemological reality of life and existence are not limited to the contemporary general levels of perception and knowledge in any human population. The Being and Knowledge exist independently of human perception and are infinite.

There exist other means of ***knowing*** available to human beings—knowing which transcends limitations of the ordinary mind and intellect. In many esoteric schools of wisdom this kind of knowing is identified as ***direct knowledge***. Intuition is sometimes thought of as a predecessor of direct knowledge; sometimes it is equated with it. For clarity of expression it would be convenient to distinguish between a budding higher faculty of knowing and designate the name of 'intuition' to it, and a fully developed (through a conscious development process) spiritual or higher faculty of ***direct knowledge***. Whereas intellectual knowledge is experienced by a human person in his mind (for example, a thought comes to one's mind), the direct knowledge is experienced throughout the entire being of the person, suggesting that the mind energies access subtler dimension of Consciousness, in which case the ***subtle mind*** finds its receptors throughout the entire body's nervous system. In the history of humanity there lived rare individuals who were able to attain the ability of having a direct access to the infinite dimension of Being and Knowing.

There will always be new discoveries and the frontiers of knowledge will be pushed forward in all areas of philosophy, ontology, epistemology, science, etc., because the current humanity is placed on an ascending arc of evolution and it will continue to embrace the increasing levels of Consciousness and to deepen its capacity to receive new knowledge.