

Chaos and Cosmos by A.C.Sekhar

CHAOS and COSMOS are not merely ordinary words of common understanding and usage in English language but words of some deep Spiritual and Material significance . Considerable amount of research and experimentation has gone into evaluation and understanding of CHAOS and COSMOS both materially and spiritually According to present day dictionary meanings, CHAOS represents a disorderly situation in contrast to COSMOS which represents a complete, orderly, harmonious system. It has also been indicated that CHAOS is "formless matter" supposed to have existed before the orderly Universe was created and which came to be recognized in some quarters as the COSMOS.

Most of the religions also have mentioned that there was complete CHAOS before the Creation and predicted the same again at the end of COSMOS, which in other words is Pralaya and Dooms day etc But the world we live in is part of COSMOS and this world as we see today is full of CHAOS in whatever walk of life we are placed. Thus it appears COSMOS and CHAOS exist side by side each taking over the other in gradual steps as TIME passes from one phase to another phase , that is from one Yuga to another according to Vedic concepts. In Kritha Yuga there was less CHAOS and more COSMOS and as we passed through Thretha and Dwapara Yugas and reached Kali Yuga there is more CHAOS and less COSMOS.

Science has discovered several Laws governing the galaxies, stars, planets, and their satellites which are all part of COSMOS . Science has also been working out mathematical models for some aspects of CHAOS such as abnormal movements of celestial bodies, metrological disturbances, thunderstorms, earthquakes etc. Thus both COSMOS and CHAOS have a well recognized place in the realms of Materialism but their concepts in Spiritualism also are very significant and deserve deep thinking and analysis.

In the Hindu way of life COSMOS is understood in two ways; (1) through the interpretations and commentaries of Vedas and other religious scriptures, for the scholars and (2) through the legendary stories for the common man. According to the Vedas, COSMOS is the Brahmanda, the entire Universe and all Creation, consisting of macro and micro elements containing the Maya Power, and all manifestations of Gunas (Rajas, Tamas, Satva) , the Cosmic mind, body and soul (Sukshma Shareer, and the universal Atma, Brahman) The scholars have gone deep into these studies and have come to one conclusion that one can visualize complete COSMOS only through five Gnanendryas (Mind, Intellect, Conscience, Memory, Faith) and through a composite Cosmic Vision .

For the common materialistic man who has to use his five Karmendriyas (Eyes,Ears, Nose, Mouth, and the Sense of Touch) , some stories have been told that the Lord has presented Himself in Vishwarupa (Cosmic form) representing the entire COSMOS on four different occasions. The first was in Vamana incarnation, when the Lord appeared as a dwarf Brahmin and subdued the Demon King Bali for his arrogance, by demanding only three feet area of land and actually occupying the entire Universe and finally killing the Demon, by crushing his head with his Cosmic foot. Next He appeared three times in Krishna incarnation. The first when His foster mother Yashoda chided him for having allegedly eaten mud. When Krishna opened his mouth to show the Truth there was a revelation of the entire COSMOS. On a second time when the blind Kaurava king Dhritarashtra wanted to know who the real Krishna was when He saved the distressed and dishonored Pandava queen Draupadi from the shame of attempts to disrobe her by the Kaurava princes. On the third time,

which in fact is the most commonly understood time, and widely accepted, the Lord revealed himself in his true identity Vishwarupa, to Arjuna in a battle field when the greatest of Pandava warriors, felt highly depressed at the horrors of defeating and killing his own kith and kin. Though it may not be clear what exactly was seen by Arjuna and others, the artist has however painted Vishwarupa in a human form with several heads and several hands with all the tools necessary for energizing all types of powers for different activities on earth.

These stories remind the ordinary human beings that chaotic disturbances arising out of their failures, misdeeds and ignorance can be conquered by understanding the Reality, the Truth of COSMOS, of which they themselves are a part

The disturbances of CHAOS that the common man faces in this world are of three types in nature.(1) Divic or Divine (2)Bhautic or Physical and (3) Adhyatmic or Self generated.

Disturbances from Divine origin are those over which man has no control such as hurricanes, cyclones, tornadoes, earthquakes. Bhautic Chaos are physical disturbances such as man-made riots, explosions, wars, terrorist activities, family feuds, economic exploitations etc. Adhyatmic CHAOS are those disturbances generated in one's own mind and developing thoughts due to greed, intolerance, sensual attractions, etc.. That is why at the end of all Hindu style of prayers to the Almighty, one says "Om Shanti, Om Shanti, Om Shanti" three times to be peacefully free from disturbances of CHAOS from all three sources mentioned above.

Thus we have seen that COSMOS and CHAOS exist together at all times though perhaps in different proportions. In one of the Vedantic philosophies the dualism is not Real and the opposites are one and the same and inter convertible. Hence in a wider Vision of Man CHAOS and COSMOS should be conceived as one and the same and it is only then that Man can reach his desired goal- BLISS.