

## **'MAYA' - A new hypothesis by A.C.Sekhar**

We all know that some chemicals react with each other and produce new substances. We all know some physical forces act upon matter to give some benefits and happiness to mankind, as in food, clothing, shelter, transport and more recently in info-technologies and bio-sciences. While we know how and what is happening in the above we do not know exactly why it is happening so. In the concept that Creator and Creation, with all their diverse facets are one and the same and intra- & inter-convertible (a basic thought of Advaita philosophy) a question often crosses one's mind as to what exactly is responsible for such transformations.

In Advaita philosophy 'Maya' is described as a power; the Power of Brahman the Supreme Consciousness, which has the necessary automatic function to project the Universe and all happenings as we experience through our physical senses. It is said to be inscrutable and indefinable. Oxford dictionary describes 'Maya' as an illusion in the phenomenal Universe. In some Indian languages 'Maya' means magic. Some think 'Maya' as an opposite of 'Self' discussed in Hindu philosophy, and that 'Moha' and 'Mithya' as consequences of 'Maya'.

In Mahabharata when Lord Krishna was supposed to have been born in a prison cell, it was 'Maya' that was presented to Kamsa giving a symbolic meaning for power of non-materialistic existence compared to material existence. Some consider 'Maya' as a Goddess, Goddess of Space and even name girls by that name. Quite recently when specifically asked to describe MAYA in terms of Western Science, Sri Sankaracharya of Kanchi described that all which is not permanent is Maya!

According to modern Science, particularly as developed in the West, there is a theory that any work done as in transformations described above, is dependant on Energy which requires a medium for it to travel from its source to its object of application. At one time there was a belief that ether is one such all pervading invisible medium through which energies like light, sound, and other electro-magnetic waves travel.

There is a suggestion that Creation itself consists of five basic elements Matter, Energy, Space, Time and Cosmic Maya a sort of Etherial or Celestial Power, or a medium which is responsible for the dynamic activity of all aspects of Creation. Every part of Creation and every activity of any part of Creation will have to be explained in terms of the above either qualitatively or quantitatively in terms of some prescribed units of measurements.

While the first four elements have some accepted units the last has yet no known method of measurement. A new theory also has emerged that all around us in the entire Universe there is an invisible 'Matter' (WIMPS) consisting of some type of weakly interacting particles which have definite function of their own for our existence, Some believe that TIME which has no beginning or end, or mathematically which extends from plus infinity to minus infinity may be Maya.

Thus there appears to be an interesting history of development in the concept of 'Maya' in Hindu mythology culminating in the acceptance of its existence and its power for explanations of hitherto unsolved problems arising out of human mind. Both Spiritualism and Materialism are expanding their horizons but also seem to be coming closer to each other requiring a new approach to our education of Science. This is the area where the Spiritual content of Creation and the Universe gets materialised and in which process 'Maya' has a major role, particularly as an entity with definable properties and quantitative evaluation for specified functions.