

# Creation vs. Evolution

## The Vedic Perspective

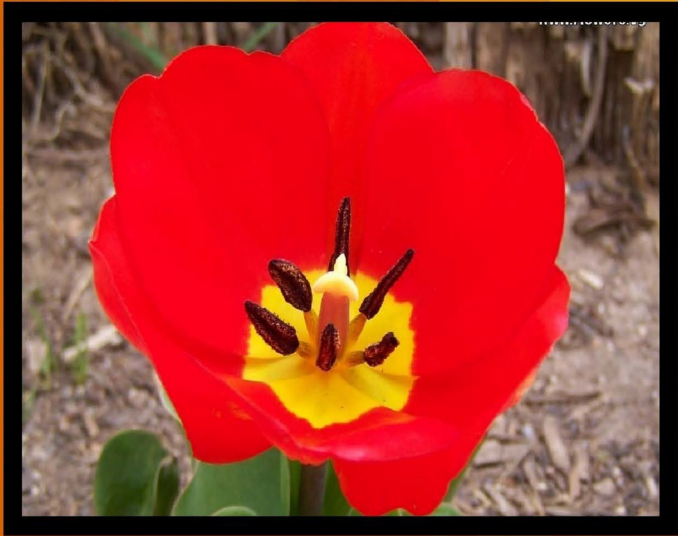
What is life? - Life vs. Matter

Proof of God's existence

Evolution

Evolution of consciousness

Moral implications



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# **Creation**

**vs.**

# **Evolution**

*The Vedic perspective*

- **What is Life? – Life vs. Matter**
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- **Evolution of consciousness**
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Other books by the same author:

**The Meaning of Life**

**Dedicated** to the ape, our ancestor and forefather!

## **References**

Bhagvad Gita

Padam Puran

Life comes from life

by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupad

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# Preface

What is Life? What are the characteristics of life? Is life an evolved form of matter or is it distinct from matter? Is life simply a product of or combination of material elements? Is it possible for material elements that have no life at all to combine to give rise to life? Life is characterised by consciousness. Matter is devoid of consciousness. How can matter which is devoid of consciousness give rise to life which is conscious? The effect must exist in the cause as well. These are some pertinent questions to ask when we analyse what life is. These questions are the basis of a scientific analysis of life and the debate: **creation vs. evolution.** It is essential to first define the fundamentals of life namely what life is and what its characteristics are before we can speculate on the origin of life.

The theory of evolution implies a denial of God. It is based on chance and necessity and not on the use of intelligence whereas we can see from our everyday experience that we create everything by the use of our intelligence. Therefore I have given proof of God so as to establish that God exists and He is the creator because His supreme intelligence and mystic power is required for the intelligent design of various species and the universe. Without intelligence nothing can be designed and without the mystic power of God not even the ingredients required for the creation of the universe can be produced.

The theory of evolution relies on the automatic evolution of species over a million billion years. This is a completely false proposition that is contrary to reason. Simply the use of the alibi of Time does not prove anything and make it scientific. Science means observation, theory and proof. Without proof a theory remains in the realm of faith only. The theory of evolution implies that material elements somehow combined to produce life. This is a fundamental error. When the fundamentals of a theory are incorrect the theory is obviously wrong. Where is the proof that material elements can combine to produce life? Matter can never in any combination produce life. Life and matter are distinct and separate. Life is an independent entity and is not a product or combination of matter. Therefore the theory of evolution is based on blind faith only.

In this book I have given the Vedic theory of Life which incorporates consciousness as the primary characteristic of life. I have given a scientific analysis of what life is and described the characteristics of both Life and Matter and their points of similarity and distinction. I have discussed evolution and then described an alternate theory namely the **Vedic theory of evolution of consciousness** as opposed to Darwin's theory of evolution of species. The theory of evolution of consciousness is based on creation of various species by God so as to accommodate the varied desires of an infinite number of living beings.

**The Vedic theory of evolution of consciousness marks the dawning of a new era in which consciousness will come to be incorporated as an essential item in our scientific theories about life and its origin.**

I have also discussed in this book the moral and spiritual ramifications of these theories. These fundamental theories of life have far reaching moral consequences on the course of development and well being of mankind. The significance of these theories cannot be over estimated as these are fundamental theories of life. The course of mankind depends on its thinking as regards life and thinking of mankind is greatly influenced by what is taught in schools about life and its origin. Hence we must discuss these and choose the path of Truth so that our present and future well being ensues. The path of truth will take us to happiness. The path of falsehood will jeopardise our well being. Hence this discussion: *creation vs. evolution* is very important. By teaching Darwin's theory of evolution mankind is on the perilous course of a godless society where the moral fabric of society is being eroded. And without morality what kind of present or future can we expect? Morality is essential for the development of mind and spiritual consciousness. Morality is essential for the well being of the individual and society.

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## 1. What is Life? – Life vs. Matter

What is Life? What are the characteristics of life? Is life an evolved form of matter or is it distinct from matter? Is life simply a product of or combination of material elements? Is it possible for material elements that have no life at all to combine to give rise to life? Life is characterised by consciousness. Matter is devoid of consciousness. How can matter which is devoid of consciousness give rise to life which is conscious? The effect must exist in the cause as well. These are some pertinent questions to ask when we analyse what life is. These questions are the basis of a scientific analysis of life and the debate: **creation vs. evolution**. It is essential to first define the fundamentals of life namely what life is and what its characteristics are before we can speculate on the origin of life.

In schools and universities we have been studying science which is so far generally limited to the study of matter only in the form of atoms, molecules and chemicals. Whatever study of life is done also presumes that matter combined to form life. But such an assumption that matter combines to form life is not only an erroneous assumption but is also a reprehensible theory with evil connotations and dangerous and destructive moral, physical and spiritual consequences for mankind. So far our study is limited

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to the study of matter in science. But what is of more importance to us? Life or matter? After all we are all living beings. I am far more important to me than all the matter surrounding me, even though I may presently be dependent on matter to some extent. Therefore our primary emphasis should be on the study of life and not exclusively on the study of matter. We should study life, its characteristics and its relation and interaction with matter. In the words of one Nobel laureate who studied chemistry, “In my search for life I ended up with studying molecules and chemicals only which have no life at all. Now in my old age I am retracing my steps, for somewhere along the line life seems to have slipped through my fingers.”

Generally in science we deal with matter, time and activity. Some biologists speak of dead matter and living matter without realising that to speak of living matter is a contradiction. Matter is not living. Matter is insentient as opposed to life which is sentient. Life displays the capacity to be, to will and to act whereas matter only exists without the capacity to will or to act.

Life has the characteristic that a living being has desires and is conscious. Desire and consciousness are the chief characteristics of life. Matter is unconscious and devoid of desire. Therefore the Vedic model of the universe includes both life and matter as two distinct energies emanating from a single source that being the cause of both of them must also be conscious since the effect must exist in the cause as well.

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The two potencies of God in this universe are:

**1. Life** - the conscious living beings i.e. the souls. The souls are fundamental units of life. The souls are indivisible, irreducible and eternal. They cannot be added together or subdivided.

Life is not a product of matter. Life does not arise from a combination of material elements. Life is non-material.

**2. Matter** which is devoid of consciousness but is pervaded by the consciousness of God who directs every particle of matter according to his laws. Matter is constituted of eight basic material elements:

- There are three subtle elements namely mind, intelligence and false ego.

- There are five basic elements in varying proportions in each atom which form gross matter. These are: bhumih (earth), apah (water), analah (fire), vayuh (air) and kham (ether). These Sanskrit terms refer to the characteristic of the elements of earth, water, fire, air and ether. Every atom is constituted of these five basic elements. These may be known by the following characteristics:

- Earth - particles like neutrons and protons that form the nucleus of the atom.
- Water – the cohesive force between various atoms?

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- Fire – the latent energy which is released on fission of atom.
- Air – the movement of the electrons around the nucleus.
- Ether – the space within an atom in which movement of electrons takes place.

The Vedic model of the universe stresses the unity of all life. Life is defined as the marginal potency of the supreme life, and matter is defined as his external potency. Both of these potencies, Life and Matter are actually distinct from each other. Just as sunshine and heat are the energies of the sun, similarly matter and the living beings are the potencies of the Supreme Being. Just as when we speak of the sunshine we refer to the sun similarly the identity of the living beings is with reference to their origin, the Supreme. Living beings have an identity dependent on the Supreme.

By marginal potency is meant that living beings are on the margin and have the capacity to choose whether to be under the influence of matter or under the direct influence of the Supreme Person. Those living beings who violate the laws governing life, that is, whose desires are not in harmony with those of the Supreme Person, are ensnared and entrapped by the glare of the external potency consisting of matter which is inert and thus they lose their capacity for a full display of their consciousness whereas those who are in harmony with the laws governing life enjoy full freedom of their consciousness. The consciousness of those averse to

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God thus becomes stunted due to bondage within matter and is exhibited in the three phases - wakefulness, dreaming and deep sleep; whereas those who love God live with full consciousness unimpeded by matter.

We should understand that life is a superior potency because it displays consciousness and that matter which is inert is an inferior potency. Nevertheless life can be covered by matter if the living being asserts an independent identity as an enjoyer of his senses. The chief function of matter is to act as a curtain between the living being and reality by covering the living being and thus curb his freedom by putting him under the influence of matter. The living being covered by matter in the shape of a material body thus forgets his actual spiritual identity as the separated potency of the Supreme meant for his pleasure and is allowed to pursue his own dream of an independent enjoyer of his sense. Thus he assumes a false identity and tries to be the lord by lording it over matter through his senses. But since this is based on a false conception of his identity as an enjoyer it leads to misery only. Thus matter acts as a curtain between the living being and Reality. The Reality is that there is only one supreme and we are meant to serve His senses for His pleasure. In that natural state of loving service to the Supreme the living beings live in harmony with His will and enjoy the bliss of love with Him. But those living beings who deny this Reality are allowed to pursue their false desire by making them forgetful of Reality

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by the agency or covering of matter. Thus the living being falls into a dream state as an enjoyer of his senses, which because it is a false proposition, is never to be fulfilled. Covered by a material body he forgets his real identity and identifying his self with the body he pursues bodily sense pleasures which never fulfil his real spiritual self and instead award him all misery since bodily sense pleasures are by nature transient like a dream. How can the eternal living being find any satisfaction in a temporary dream based on a false bodily conception of his self? His desire for gratifying his senses is the cause of his separation from the Supreme. So long as the living being persists in lording it over matter by gratification of his senses he denies the real Lord and remains apparently separated from him by the curtain of matter. He thus remains entrapped and embodied in a material body that befits his mentality. Actually the living being should not have taken on a material body. The natural healthy condition of life is to live as a spiritual body without the covering of a material body.

Therefore it is important to note that life and matter are actually two separate and distinct potencies. In this world the living being is trapped within a material body and therefore he seems indistinguishable from the material body but the fact is that the living being is actually completely distinct from the material body. He is only residing within the body. The living being within the body is like a passenger sitting in a car. He is not the body anymore than a passenger is the car.

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The basic understanding of spiritual knowledge is that I am not this body. I am the spiritual being residing within this body. I am not made up of matter. I belong to the category of life because I am conscious. That means that I have awareness. Everyone knows that consciousness exists. All around us we see matter which has no consciousness since it is by nature inert. Matter is not living. No matter how you combine matter you cannot create life or consciousness. You may take all the ingredients such as different chemicals, DNA or amino acids etc. but you cannot create life out of matter. Sometimes scientists speak of these chemicals as the basic building blocks of life. But that is a totally erroneous and misleading theory. Matter, in any arrangement of different chemicals, can never be the basic building block of life because life is a higher order potency than matter and is not made up of matter. It is absurd to speak of life as made up of such and such chemicals or material elements. Life is not a product of matter. Rather matter and life both come from the Supreme life. Life is distinct from matter.

Sometimes scientists speculate whether life exists on other planets and they look for certain material ingredients in the form of Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Carbon etc. to conjecture if there could be life there. But the fact is that material ingredients do not give rise to or form life. And just because on earth certain material elements are present in material bodies does not mean that the same material elements or



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combinations should be found elsewhere in the material bodies on other planets. The material bodies in other planets could be constituted of the material elements found there which are suitable for habitation in those atmospheres. Or else they could have bodies made up of subtle matter consisting of mind, intelligence and false ego. However material elements do not constitute life and therefore simply to seek material elements or their combinations seems like an erroneous method of detecting life. According to the Vedas, life exists everywhere. Life is transcendental to matter and exists everywhere on land, in air, water, fire, ether and beyond the material world as well. The majority of life exists in the world of life where matter is absent.

**If we wish to detect the presence of life then we have to devise some method of detecting consciousness and desire.** There are two types of consciousness. One is the consciousness of the Supreme Being and his consciousness is present everywhere and pervades even the smallest particle. He is omniscient. The other consciousness is that of living beings like us. So we have to distinguish between these two types of consciousness. The consciousness of the Supreme Being is all pervasive whereas our consciousness is limited to our individual body. For detecting life we need to detect and identify the consciousness of the minute living beings like us.

“Just as the sun spreads sunshine all over the universe, similarly the living being residing within the

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body spreads consciousness throughout the body.” - Bhagvad Gita.

**The chief characteristics of life are desire and consciousness.** Consciousness is our primary experience. Everyone is conscious or aware that they are conscious. Consciousness is not the experience of matter and does not arise out of matter. Consciousness is the primary experience and characteristic of every living being. It is only through the medium of consciousness that I am aware of myself, my body, my desires, thoughts, words, actions and my surroundings and environment. It is only through the medium of consciousness that I can observe, study and manipulate matter. Therefore consciousness is my primary experience. Without being conscious I cannot know my self, others or matter. Matter is unconscious and can never observe or study itself or anything else. So if I was made up of matter then how could I be conscious and observe anything?

Therefore the conclusion is that since I am not made up of matter, I am distinct from my body which is made up of matter. I am the conscious living being residing within this material body. And that is the difference between a living body and a dead body. The dead body displays no consciousness unlike the living body which exhibits consciousness. The difference is that when the living being or life leaves the body the body drops dead and stops exhibiting consciousness. The fact is that the body was always made up of inert matter but because of the presence of life i.e. the soul,

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it exhibited the traits of consciousness. Just as energy or matter cannot be destroyed but may be transformed into other forms such as the conversion of heat to light or matter to atomic energy, similarly life can also never be destroyed though it can become covered by matter in the form of a material body.

According to the principle of conservation of energy, matter cannot be destroyed but may be converted into energy. Energy is conserved though it may change from one form to another. Similarly life is also conserved. It is never created or destroyed. Life cannot die. Death only means that life has left the body made up of matter and will continue in a different environment by acquiring another material body or else be liberated from matter altogether. In any case the principle of conservation of life is always maintained. Life can never be annihilated.

Life is permanent. It can never be created or destroyed. It may get covered up by matter in the shape of a material body but it can never be destroyed. Through different bodily changes in one's life one can see one's body changing gradually from childhood to youth to middle age and finally to old age but one can remember that he is the same person even though the body is changing. For example I remember that I once was a child. That means that I, the owner of the body once had a child's body but now the same I has an adult body. That means that though the body is slowly changing, I am unchanging. My identity is the same as before. I once resided in a child's body and now the

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same 'I' am residing in an adult body. From common usage and experience also we can see that if I was not the same person, my parents would no longer consider me their son; my childhood friends when they meet me would not consider me the same person. Everyone recognises the fact that I am the same person. My identity is unchanging. Even though the contents of my body and my mind have changed, my experiences have become wider and the contents of my memory have grown or changed yet I am the same person because I am unchanging and am distinct from my mind and my body. My remembrance of my childhood body, youthful body and the different stages of my body is proof that I am the same unchanging person. Otherwise if I were to become a different person through my gradual bodily changes then how could I remember these changes as happening to my body? Therefore the conclusion is that the living being is eternal and unchanging even though the body is changing. In support of this the Bhagvad Gita says,

“As the embodied soul continually passes in this body from boyhood to youth and then to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death. The self-realized soul is not bewildered by such a change.”

By soul is meant the actual person, the living being. The soul means the spiritual person. The actual person is never the body. He is the spiritual person residing in the body, though some people have the false notion that they are this body and they have a soul. Actual knowledge is: *“I am not my body. I am the soul*

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*resident in my body. I am an eternal spiritual person presently residing in this temporary material body. “*

To stress the permanence or eternity of life, the Bhagvad Gita says: “For the soul there is never birth or death. He is unborn, eternal, ever existing and undying. The soul can never be cut into pieces by any weapon, nor can he be burned by fire nor killed by water or wind. The individual soul is unbreakable, insoluble, everlasting, unchangeable immutable and eternally the same.”

If I am eternal then why am I accepting the imposition of birth, disease, old age and death which pertain to the body, upon me? These are undesirable and are imposed upon me because of false ego only. Though these experiences can never actually kill the living being and are like a bad dream only, yet they put the living being in an unhappy state. I am eternal and I should be living my eternal life free from the clutches of birth, disease, old age and death. Therefore in this rare human body we should endeavour to regain our healthy life which is one of immortality and bliss.

In this chapter we have discussed the distinction between life and matter. It has also been discussed that life is not a product or combination of matter. Life is an independent entity. Life and matter both originate from the Supreme Life. The following table summarises the main attributes of distinction and similarity between life and matter:

## What is Life? Life vs. Matter

| <b>LIFE</b>   | <b>MATTER</b>   |
|---|---|
| 1. Life displays the characteristics of consciousness and desire.   | 1. Matter is devoid of consciousness and desire.  |
| 2. Life is endowed with minute freewill. Thinking, feeling and willing are the traits of life. Living beings are sentient.  | 2. Matter is devoid of thinking, feeling or willing. Matter is insentient.  |
| 3. Life cannot be destroyed but may be covered by matter in the shape of a material body.   | 3. Matter cannot be destroyed but may be transformed into other shapes or converted into energy.                                    |
| 4. The principle of conservation of life always holds true. Life is eternal.  | 4. The principle of conservation of matter or equivalent energy always holds true. Matter in the form of mass or energy is eternal. |
| 5. Life is indivisible and irreducible to sub-components. Each living being is eternally a person irreducible to other sub-components and is not made up of two or more | 5. Matter is divisible indeterminately and is reducible to its sub constituents.  |

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>persons and cannot be merged with other persons. The identity and individuality of every person is eternally spiritual and unchangeable.</p>  |   |
| <p>6. The number of living beings is infinite.</p>   | <p>6. The number of material particles is infinite.</p>   |
| <p>7. Each living being is a unique person with his personality traits. He is the basic unit of life and is not constituted of any sub-components.</p>   | <p>7. The basic constituents of material particles are the same everywhere. Each atom is constituted of the same five basic elements in varying proportions.</p>  |
| <p>8. The function of life is to love the supreme living being and to render loving service unto him and thus live blissfully. However those averse to God, by misuse of their freewill, get covered by a material body and forget reality. The function of life is to live blissfully in divine love.</p> | <p>8. The function of matter is to cover the rebellious living beings who are averse to loving God, and thereby act as a curtain between them and the reality, God, thus making them forgetful of reality. The function of matter is to imprison those averse to God.</p> |

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There are an infinite number of souls and each soul is a unique person with his different personality traits. The Vedas describe the spiritual dimensions of the soul as one ten thousandth the size of the tip of a hair. The heart is described as the seat of the soul. In case of a heart transplant the soul gets a new seat i.e. the soul changes his seat from the old to the new heart, but stays in the same body. The soul supplies energy (which can be perceived as electric pulses) to make the heart beat and supplies consciousness to blood which carries consciousness to the brain and all other parts of the body. Thus the soul permeates the whole body by consciousness. If the supply of blood and thereby the consciousness it carries is choked to any part of the body that part becomes numb and paralysed. The soul being spiritual transcends matter and cannot be seen by our material eyes but its presence can be understood by the presence of consciousness in the body.

**When, why and where from does the soul come to this material world?** Since life does not originate from matter therefore it stands to reason that life does not come from the material world. Then where do the souls i.e. the living beings come from? The soul is embodied within a material body here but why?

Life originates from God but if the living beings had seen God who is all attractive then his all attractive personality with his beauty, charms and activities would have attracted the living beings and there would have been no question of their being ensnared by the material world which is but a pale shadow of reality.



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How can a person who has seen the captivating beauty of God be attracted to this material world? So obviously the souls in this material world have not seen God otherwise they would not have fallen to this material world. If they had seen God they would have been attracted to Him and would be living in His abode. In the Bhagvad Gita, Lord Krishna says that one who goes to his eternal abode of bliss never returns to this material world so full of suffering. The living beings in the spiritual planets love God and are therefore infallible and not prone to falling to the material world. There is no influence of the material potency in the spiritual planets because the living beings there love God. However those living beings who are in the *brahmjyoti*, the brilliant effulgence of God, who are free of material desire but have not yet manifested their natural love for God are prone to be afflicted with material desire and consequent fall down because one who has not taken shelter of love of God is liable to seek relationships elsewhere and fall down to this mortal world since no one can live without relationships for long.

So then where did we come from? It is said that the living beings originate from God into the brilliant effulgence which covers the person of God. God is covered by his brilliant effulgence (called the *brahmjyoti*) and he is visible only by his grace to those who love him. At their very origin in eternity the souls, exercising their minute free will, either go to God if they are humble; or else out of false pride get ensnared

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by the material world which presents to them the opportunity to lord it over matter through their senses and exploit and enjoy it. The souls being infinitesimal are prone to false pride and misuse of their free will, unlike the lord who being infinite is infallible. Instead of being humble and acknowledging the only real lord, God, the souls get trapped in matter because they desire to be the lord themselves. Real freedom and bliss come to those who love God but those who misuse their free will and desire to be the lord themselves end up being imprisoned in this mortal world of birth and death.

The jeev-atma (Sanskrit term for the living being or the soul) in his pure state has a pure consciousness which is characterised by complete serenity, clarity and freedom from distraction. The fall down of the jeev-atma begins with false ego which arises due to the soul's desire to be the lord himself or in other words due to false pride. False ego is the false conception of one's identity as a separate lord. Ego means identity. True ego is that I am a spiritual person (soul) meant to serve God. This false ego causes a person to acquire a false conception of one's identity as one's mind or body. God's material potency is invested with the three modes of material nature viz. goodness, passion and ignorance which regulate the workings of the material nature and the diversity within it. This false ego is characterised as serene, active or dull according to how it is influenced by the modes of goodness, passion and ignorance respectively. It is from these three

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classifications of false ego that the mind, the senses of perception, the organs of action and the gross elements evolve.

From false ego under the influence of the mode of goodness arises the material mind; from false ego in the mode of passion comes the material intelligence, the senses for acquiring knowledge and the senses of action. Impelled by the energy of God, false ego under the influence of the mode of ignorance gives rise to all the elements and the sense objects beginning with the subtle element sound. From sound come the ethereal sky and the sense of hearing. Thus from the subtle element sound, progressing gradually all the elements - ethereal sky, air, fire, water and earth respectively and the corresponding objects of the senses - sound, touch, form, taste and smell and the respective senses of hearing, touch, sight, taste and smell become manifest. The jeev-atma first gets a covering of subtle matter in the form of false ego, material mind and intelligence. From this subtle body consisting of false ego, mind and intelligence develops his physical body in a species of life befitting his mentality. This subject matter of the manifestation of the material world and the embodiment of the soul (jeev-atma) within a material body is expounded in detail in the *Sankhya* philosophy of Lord Kapil in Srimad Bhagvatam.

Sound is the beginning of the elements of the material world and conversely spiritual sound is the means of liberation of the soul (*jeev-atma*) from matter. Sound is a most potent energy and certain

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sound mantras are used for specific effects. The liberation of the *jeev-atma* from the bondage of matter can be effected by means of ***Meditation by spiritual sound.***

## 2. Proof of God's existence

As regards belief in God there are three categories of people – the theists, atheists and agnostics. The debate whether God exists or not is still on especially among the young. Rational people want proof that is convincing to their reason and intelligence. And rightly so! Blind faith and irrationality are dangerous and may turn one into a fanatic and a lunatic. Simply because someone has blind faith in a false concept is not going to make the false concept true. Faith should be based on reason and should not merely be an accident of birth, whims or irrationality. A man should not abandon his reason and take to blind faith. God has bestowed man with intelligence so that we may use our reason to understand the truth. All knowledge including faith should be subjected to the scrutiny of reason. Our intelligence and reason should be the guides in our faith, beliefs and actions.

I was an agnostic when I was young. I wanted proof but I could not find it in books or from other people. Nor could I come to any conclusion on my own because of lack of knowledge. And there was no subject in school on spirituality. So I remained an agnostic until I found convincing evidence for God's

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existence. This chapter is for the inquisitive man of reason who wants proof of God's existence.

Some people say, "Show me God." They want to limit proof to sight. But sight is not the only proof. Proof may also be through other senses such as hearing, touch, smell and taste along with sight. And above the senses such as sight is the mind and intelligence. Proof may consist of observation, logical deduction, knowledge based on experience and scriptural evidence.

Before we argue the existence of God, let us first consider what proof there is for the existence of the soul.

"Just as the sun spreads sunshine throughout the universe, similarly the soul dwelling within the body spreads consciousness throughout the body." - *Bhagvad Gita*.

The soul cannot be seen by material instruments or eyes because of its subtle nature but we can infer its presence by the presence of consciousness in the body, just as we cannot see the electron but we can infer its existence by the streak of light across our electronic oscilloscope.

*Similarly we can observe the existence of an all pervading consciousness everywhere and from this we can infer the existence of God.*

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How do we observe the existence of the all pervading consciousness?

We can observe that matter is subject to certain laws of science such as the law of gravitation. Every material particle is subject to these laws which means that a consciousness exists enforcing these laws on every particle of matter. Otherwise why should matter which is inert and insentient follow any law at all since matter by itself has no consciousness or awareness of anything or any law? Without consciousness no law can be enforced. The Vedas describe that God has expanded himself everywhere so that he is present within every material particle also and thus imposes his laws everywhere.

**What is a law of science?** Law is a rule imposed by a force exerted directly or indirectly by a conscious person. Without the consciousness of a person who will impose the law? It is the force exerted by a conscious person, God, on material particles in conformity with his will which we know as the laws of science. These laws are consistent and this is the reason why we have been able to observe and formulate them. Without a conscious person exerting a calculated force these laws cannot be imposed. Matter is unconscious and insentient and cannot even know, much less follow and act, according to a law. Take, for example, the law of gravitation. How would matter know how much attractive force should there be between two bodies of mass? Only a conscious person whose consciousness pervades every material particle

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can know and exert these forces. This all pervading consciousness is the consciousness of God who is present in even the smallest particle of matter and makes it obey his laws? Law implies a lawmaker and enforcer. It is not that the laws exist and work of their own accord. And if one says that the law is made by nature then we have to ask who made this nature.

Otherwise also, we can observe God's consciousness in the creation, order and management of the universe. Newton once created a model system of the sun and the various planets rotating around it. One of his atheistic friends praised the model and asked Newton who made it? To this Newton replied, 'No one.' The friend objected to this and said how that could be possible. At this, Newton pointed to the skies and said, "When I show you the real universe, the sun and the stars and the planets and say that someone made these, you say that no one made these. But when you see this tiny model of the planetary system you insist that someone made this."

Thus Newton pointed out to his atheistic friend that someone made all this. Everyone and every thing has a creator. Things do not create themselves. It requires intelligence to design and create and intelligence pertains to a conscious person. Science and philosophy mean that there is a reason for everything including creation which implies a creator.

When we see a painting we know someone painted it though we may not know who the painter is and we



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may not have seen him painting it. If we look at the flowers we can therefore say that someone created and painted them. God's consciousness is at work everywhere and his work is proof of his existence though we cannot see him directly because of our limited vision. We may not be able to see him with our eyes but we can understand his existence with our intelligence. All around us we can see his creation in the form of the universe, the fruits, the vegetables, the birds, beasts, mankind and so many other species of life.

If we just examine the variety of fruits such as orange, mango, pomegranate, pineapple, peach, banana, strawberry, cherry, coconut, grapes etc. and look at the various dry fruits such as almond, cashew nut, pistachio, peanut we can appreciate the mystic power and intelligence of God. He has created these wonderful fruits and nuts and packed them up so nicely. Or shall we deny him and say that no one created all this! Yet if someone makes an artificial model of a cherry, banana or an orange we would be loathe to believing that it got created by itself.

Similarly the variety of voices produced by various species such as the birds, beasts and humans is fascinating. The *koyal* (cuckoo bird) sings; the *ghugee* bird produces a flute's sound; the lions roar and the humans speak in a wide repertoire of ways. Someone has obviously designed and created this immense variety of voice instruments, the vocal chords, of various species.

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If we examine how the embryo in the womb of a mother grows to become a baby we can appreciate the ingenuity of the designer. The mother does not know how the baby is growing. The mechanical arrangement of the genetic code etc. is not sufficient in itself. The growth of the baby requires the presence of a conscious supervisor who imposes his laws on the mechanical arrangement.

If we observe how a cow eats grass and produces milk we can appreciate this wonder. The cow does not know how she produces milk. Everything in nature indicates the presence of an all pervading consciousness. Einstein therefore remarked that by studying science he could appreciate the existence of a supreme intelligence in the face of which we must feel humble.

The creation, order and management of the universe and all the wondrous things in it point to the existence of a supremely intelligent being. If we examine any organ of ours such as our eyes we can understand how wonderful and intricate is the design of this auto-focus camera, the eye. Or are we to say that our eyes were not designed or created by anyone. That they just evolved on their own because Darwin says so! It is a pity that such blind faith as the dogma of evolution which is contrary to reason is passed off as a scientific theory.

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*Again the unity in the scheme of the universe, as also the fact that two or more persons cannot be supreme, point to the existence of one Supreme Being.*

**Finally the question may be put that since everything and everyone is created and caused by someone, then who created God?** All the living beings such as us and the various species are caused by God. The souls are caused by God just as the rays of the sun are said to be caused by the sun. But **who is the cause of God?**

To know who the cause of God is let us first find out from the scriptures who God is. It is described in the Brahma Samhita:

*“Ishvarah param Krishna, sachidanand vighraha;  
anadir adir Govinda, sarva karana karanam.”*

“Krishna who is known as Govinda is the supreme Godhead. He has an eternal omniscient blissful spiritual body. He is without beginning and He is the origin of all. He has no other origin and He is the prime cause of all causes.”

The Srimad Bhagvatam also starts with the verse, “O my Lord Krishna, son of Vasudeva, O all pervading Personality of God, I offer my respectful obeisance unto You. I meditate upon Lord Krishna because He is the Absolute Truth and the primeval cause of all causes of the creation, sustenance and destruction of the manifest universes. He is directly and indirectly

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conscious of all manifestations, and He is independent because there is no other cause beyond Him.”

**So He is God who is not caused or created by anyone. He is the prime cause of all causes.** He is the cause of all His potencies of which we are but a part. Although our normal experience is that of things created and caused by someone yet there is an original person who is not created or caused. He is the Absolute Truth and the cause of all that be.

### **Addendum:**

For one who wants to know more about God there is plenty of scriptural and historical evidence available in India. For scriptural evidence one may read the Bhagvad Gita and Srimad Bhagvatam in which the visits of God on earth along with his teachings, his qualities and activities are described. The Ramayan and Mahabharat are also replete with pastimes of God. And the historical evidence is available in various pilgrimages such as Mathura-Vrindavan, Dwarka, Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Rameshvaram etc. in India and the Ashok Vatika and other places in Sri Lanka where the battle between Bhagvan Raam and Ravana was fought.

# Evolution

Darwin had theorised that life started in the sea from material elements which combined by chance under certain material conditions to form the basic cells of living organisms. These further evolved when the necessity arose into higher aquatic forms and the evolution further proceeded onto reptiles, birds, beasts and finally to monkey. According to Darwin the monkey evolved itself to man with intermediate links which have remained missing. A fanciful tale indeed that the monkey evolved into a man! Who would believe that his forefathers were monkeys? Experience shows that human beings beget humans as their offspring and monkeys beget monkeys as their offspring. Every man and woman knows that their parents were human beings and not monkeys and similarly their parents know that their parents were humans too. So if you go back into the past like that it is clear by logical deduction that humans were born of humans always. The terms gradual evolution of monkeys to man is only an unproved irrational theory based on blind faith since it has no proof and is contrary to common experience. Then why aren't the present day monkeys evolving

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into man? Darwin had assumed that there were intermediate missing links during this evolution but further research by scientists has revealed no such missing intermediate links. Darwin himself has written that if these missing links are not there then his theory of evolution breaks down. Further Darwin speaks of life arising by chance and evolving according to necessity. **Chance is contrary to reason.** Things happen by reason i.e. cause and effect and not by chance. The term chance or accident is only used when we can offer no explanation. If everything was happening by chance then how did the question of necessity arise? Actually everything is happening according to the subtle laws of karma (deeds performed by thoughts, words and action). All that we are reaping is simply the fruit of our past good or bad karma.

Once when I was writing a computer program for someone who believed in evolution I was asked when it will be ready, to which I replied in jest that it is evolving and will be ready in due course of natural evolution. The point I was making was that everything is designed and created by someone. Things, animate or inanimate, don't just evolve by themselves. Everyone and everything is made by conscious intelligence. Every organ and part of our body reveals an intricate design of the designer and creator. Someone has created the genes and programmed the genetic codes. It is not that the programme of the genetic code evolved by itself. Every event has a cause

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to it and is not by chance or accident. The terms chance or accident are used when we do not know the cause to explain an incident. Sometimes we can see the gross cause but the subtle causes are not always known to us.

The theory of evolution implies a denial of God. It is based on chance and necessity and not on the use of intelligence whereas we can see from our everyday experience that we create everything by the use of our intelligence. Therefore I have given proof of God so as to establish that God exists and He is the creator because His supreme intelligence and mystic power is required for the intelligent design of various species and the universe. Without intelligence nothing can be designed and without the mystic power of God not even the ingredients required for the creation of the universe can be produced.

The theory of evolution relies on the automatic evolution of species over a million billion years. This is a completely false proposition that is contrary to reason. Simply the use of the alibi of Time does not prove anything and make it scientific. Science means observation, theory and proof. Without proof a theory remains in the realm of faith only.

Monkeys give birth to monkeys, donkeys to donkeys and swans to swans. This is a universal fact and rule for all species. Has anyone seen a monkey give birth to a man or the missing links? To say that monkeys gradually evolved to man over a period of

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Time when no one was looking is the biggest joke and fraud on the intelligence of man! The use of the alibi of Time is without any evidence and therefore invalid.

**There is a fundamental flaw in theories, such as Darwin's, which postulate that material elements combined somehow to form life.** When the fundamentals of a theory are wrong the theory is obviously wrong. No matter how you combine matter in the form of material ingredients like H, N, O, C etc. to form DNA molecules but material elements can never combine to produce life. All material elements and their combinations are devoid of consciousness. Consciousness and desire are the primary symptoms of life and these symptoms are absent in material elements and their combinations as well. Since consciousness is absent in material elements how can their combinations give rise to consciousness? The effect must exist in the cause as well. So how can material elements give rise to life whose primary symptom is consciousness?

Matter is insentient, unconscious and lifeless. Matter cannot give rise to life, which is conscious and has desires and feelings. Such theories which claim that matter combined to form life are based on blind faith only and are contrary to evidence. It is unfortunate that these theories are propagated as scientific theories. Where is the proof that material elements can be combined to give rise to life and



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consciousness? The fundamental material sciences such as quantum physics also point to the existence of a conscious observer separate from the observed material system. Life is transcendental to matter and is of a higher order than matter. Life and matter are distinct and separate. Life is not a product of matter. Life is an independent entity and is not a product or combination of matter.

Science means theory and evidence or demonstration by experiment. If life can be produced by the combination of material elements without using life for such production then let the scientist who claims that life originated from material elements demonstrate it. Actually life does not arise out of matter or its combination.

**Life comes from life. All life and matter originate from the supreme life.**

That life comes from life is seen in our everyday experience. Experience shows that a living man and woman unite sexually to produce a baby. The sperm which carries life is injected into the egg and then only the egg starts developing into an embryo. The egg has all the material ingredients but only when the living being, the soul, residing within the sperm gets injected into the egg does it start to develop and grow. Without the presence of life, the egg remains dormant and gets discarded eventually.

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Without the aid of life no further life can be produced. You can take all the material ingredients and combine them in any which way into DNA molecules etc. but without using life, no life, not even a single living cell, can be produced. Amino acids and DNA are not life or the basic building blocks of life. They are simply a material covering for certain life forms but by themselves do not constitute life. Life is not a combination of matter but is an independent entity. Hence all theories regarding the evolution of matter into life simply fall in the realm of dogma and blind faith contrary to reason and evidence.

## **4. Evolution of Consciousness - The Vedic theory**

The Vedic theory of evolution of consciousness is based on the creation of various species by God so as to accommodate the varied desires of an infinite number of living beings. Darwin's theory of evolution lacks the concept of consciousness and fails to recognise life as distinct from matter. Darwin imagined that there was a missing link between man and monkey but no one has ever found its existence. Consciousness is the missing link between illusion and reality. Rather than the evolution of bodies as per Darwin, the Vedic theory refers to the evolution of consciousness of the individual by the process of transmigration of the soul through the various species of life which are designed and created by God. This transmigration of the soul into another body after death is termed as re-birth or reincarnation. The old dead body is lost altogether to dust, but the individual person, the soul, acquires a new body which then develops from re-birth onwards.

The subtle body of mind, intelligence and false ego carries the soul into another womb after death. The subtle body is invisible to our eyes and hence the

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process of transmigration of life is invisible. I have discussed in detail this process of transmigration of life into various species in a separate book titled “The Meaning of Life” in a related subject namely “Reincarnation” with reasoning and proof. The species one takes birth in depends upon the mentality one has developed during one’s life. Every individual remains the same person and the continuity of his life and individuality is assured but the body changes from one life time to another. The body is like a garment for the soul.

“As the embodied soul continually passes, in this body, from childhood to youth and then to old age, similarly the soul passes into another body at death.”

“As a person puts on new clothes discarding the old worn out ones similarly the soul discards the old body and acquires a new one.”

The mentality of the individual changes with time as he desires and contacts different sense objects within his mind but the individual remains the same person. As the air carries different aromas so the mind of the individual carries different conceptions and desires, giving rise to different gross bodies after the demise of one body after another. The mind is the director of the individual soul’s destiny. Therefore if he wishes to stop this artificial imposition of the cycle of birth, growth, decay and death pertaining to the body upon himself then he needs to purify his mind of all desires

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of gratification of his senses and come to his pure desire of love of God.

Consciousness is originally pure like water but becomes coloured and contaminated by some type of material mentality due to contact with sensual desires arising in the mind. We have to come to our pure consciousness so as to become situated in our natural permanent life relieved of the miseries of the cycle of birth and death.

Other species of life have no choice. But in the human form the consciousness can evolve both upwards and downwards because humans have freewill and can exercise choice in the use or misuse of their will. It is not that our mind will automatically be elevated. Elevation of the mind requires effort through various processes such as pious work, restraint of the senses and the mind, meditation on God, whereas it is easy for the mind to become degraded because the natural tendency of man is towards sensual pleasures. It is easy to fall prey to sense objects and thus fall to the animal level. The gate to hell through lust, greed, anger etc. is wide open whereas the gate to heaven is narrow. Only those situated in the mode of goodness go to heaven. And narrower still is the path of liberation of the soul from material bondage; only those with a pure mind are liberated. Hell and heaven are ephemeral just like everything material that we experience here and after lives in suitable bodies in hell or heaven, the journey of the soul through various species continues until one can liberate oneself from

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material bondage by complete purification of the mind. Therefore hell and heaven that are both temporary are not our interest. Our real interest lies in liberation of the soul from material bondage altogether.

Though life is of the same quality in all species be they plants, insects, reptiles, aquatics, birds, beasts or humans yet there is differentiation in the evolution of consciousness on the material platform. Consciousness evolves as life transmigrates through various species according to one's past karma (deeds performed by our thoughts, words and actions) till one acquires a human body. According to the *Padam Puran* there are 8.4 million species of life forms in the universe comprising of 900000 species of aquatics, 2 million species of plants and trees, 1.1 million species of small living beings, insects and reptiles, 1 million species of birds, 3 million species of beasts and 400000 human species. The soul transmigrates through many of the 8 million forms of non-human species before being granted the invaluable human body. Consciousness evolves as the soul transmigrates from the lower life forms to the higher life forms through successive births and deaths. The manifestation of consciousness depends upon the species one takes birth in. Different life forms i.e. species impose different degrees of limitation on the manifestation of consciousness. Once the human body is acquired then the person has free will and developed faculty for thinking and he can mould his consciousness according to his desire. He can upgrade or degrade his mentality as he chooses and this will

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decide his future destiny during and after this life. From the human body he can go to any species of life according to the consciousness he cultivates or else liberate himself from the bondage of matter altogether to attain immortality and bliss. This liberation from the bondage of a material body is achieved by complete purification of our consciousness by cultivating divine love which is the desired aim of human life.

Of the two manifest potencies [life and matter] living beings are superior to dull matter. Living beings who have developed sense perception are superior to those who have no sense perception. Among those with sense perception, those with the sense of taste are superior to those who have only the sense of touch. Superior to these are those with the sense of smell and superior still are those with the sense of hearing and more superior are those with the sense of sight. For example it is said that the trees have the sense of touch, and the fish have the sense of taste also. Therefore the fish is more evolved than the trees. The bees have the sense of smell also; therefore the bees are higher in the evolution of consciousness than the fish. And the serpents have the sense of hearing also; therefore they are higher than the bees. The snake can hear the frog's croaking and thus locate and eat him. Consciousness becomes increasingly manifest as the various senses are manifested. The senses in order of increasing development of consciousness are the sense of touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight.

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Better than those who can hear are those who can see and distinguish between forms. Better than them are those who have developed upper and lower sets of teeth, and better still are those who have many legs. For example, living beings with many legs like the worms and centipedes are superior to grass and plants. The four legged animals are more evolved than the many legged living beings; and the humans are more evolved than all these.

The quality of mind among human beings distinguishes the development of their consciousness. The mind functions according to the influence of the three modes of nature viz. goodness, passion and ignorance that are manifest within the minds of everyone in combination in different proportions.

The mode of goodness is illuminating and clarity of mind, knowledge, happiness, virtue and good qualities develop in the mind because of it. One predominantly in the mode of goodness is peaceful and self-controlled. The mode of passion is characterized by intense lusty desires and activity to enjoy one's senses and causes anxiety and struggle. When the mode of ignorance is predominant in the mind the person experiences lamentation, illusion, depression and madness. The mode of ignorance covers one's consciousness and makes one foolish and dull and the person displays anger, violence and wickedness and indulges in false hopes and excessive sleep.



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The mode of goodness endows one with great concentration and memory; the mode of passion distorts the intelligence due to unhealthy contact of the senses with sense objects and the mode of ignorance ruins the mind by madness, inability to concentrate and dullness.

The quality of passion is superior to that of ignorance and the quality of goodness is superior to that of passion. Therefore those who are predominantly influenced by the mode of passion are superior to those whose minds manifest the predominance of the mode of ignorance. And those whose minds are predominated by the mode of goodness are superior to those who are mainly under the influence of the modes of passion and ignorance.

Among those who are predominantly in the mode of goodness called the brahmans, one who is learned in the scriptures (the Vedas) is the best. The word Veda means knowledge. And among those who have studied the Vedas the one who knows the purpose of the Vedas is the best. Among these, the one who can explain the knowledge of the Vedas and dissipate all doubts is the best. And better still is one who follows the real religious principles. Better than him is one who is free from all material contamination and is situated in pure consciousness. Such a person is a liberated soul. And the most highly evolved is the person who has dedicated his life to serving God and who has no interest other than God. The person in whose heart love of God is manifest is fully developed in

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consciousness. Such a person knows that the supreme spirit resides in the hearts of all living beings in all species of life and seeing the essential unity of all life in all its diversity, he respects all life.

## **5. Moral implications**

God is the basis of morality. God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. He imposes the fruit of our karma (deeds performed by our thoughts, words and actions) upon us. Life is eternal. Our present life is not the beginning nor shall it be the end of us. No one can escape the fruits of their karma. As you sow so shall you reap. No one else besides God can administer justice according to our karma. Without God morality has no locus standing and the erosion of moral values is the consequence of a godless society. The only thing we can have in a godless society is the government's law enforcing agencies to implement some law and order. Of course God cannot be wished away. He is within our hearts and He is our voice of conscience.

In this book I have described the Vedic theory of Life which incorporates consciousness as the primary characteristic of life. I have discussed certain theories namely the theory of evolution of life from material elements and Darwin's theory of evolution and their invalidity in previous chapters. I have also described

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an alternate theory namely the **Vedic theory of evolution of consciousness** as opposed to Darwin's theory of evolution of species. The Vedic theory of evolution of consciousness is based on creation of various species by God so as to accommodate the varied desires of an infinite number of living beings.

These fundamental theories of life have far reaching moral consequences on the course of development and well being of mankind. The significance of these theories cannot be over estimated as these are fundamental theories of life. The course of mankind depends on its thinking as regards life and thinking of mankind is greatly influenced by what is taught in schools about life and its origin. Hence we must discuss these and choose the path of Truth so that our present and future well being ensues. The path of truth will take us to happiness. The path of falsehood will jeopardise our well being. Hence this discussion: *creation vs. evolution* is very important. By teaching that life is a product of material elements or by teaching Darwin's theory of evolution mankind is on the perilous course of a godless society where the moral fabric of society is being eroded. And without morality what kind of present or future can we expect? Morality is essential for the development of mind and spiritual consciousness. Morality is essential for the well being of the individual and society.

It is reprehensible that such irrational theories are being taught in the name of science. These theories have an evil connotation to them and make the young

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impressionable students view life as simply a combination of matter which therefore deserves no considerations of morality or spirituality. Thus life seems meaningless. The theory of evolution of man from the monkeys or the theory of evolution of life from matter has contributed directly to the breakdown of ethics and theism. After all, if man is a descendant of the monkey then what need is there for morality for monkeys or their descendants? Shall we teach our children that they are descendants of the monkeys and then expect them to behave like human beings! And also what morality is required for life if life were simply a combination of matter? If life was simply made up of matter then it would not matter how we treated each other being made up of matter. No one need respect life or grieve for the death of life if life was simply an evolved form of matter. Where is the place of feelings or the quest for a meaning in life if living beings are simply made up of dust? Morality rests on respect for life and the continuity of life beyond death and the subsequent accountability of our good or bad deeds.

The theory of evolution negates morality whereas the theory that God created us upholds morality. The creationist emulates the Supreme Father knowing God to be his creator and ideal. The evolutionist apes the ape, his ancestor and forefather!



The author belongs to the Chaitanya Gaudiya spiritual tradition in India. Previously he worked as a systems analyst with Govt. of Canada after graduation in electrical engineering and computer sciences from IIT Delhi and University of Ottawa.

In this book I have given the Vedic theory of Life which incorporates consciousness as the primary characteristic of life. I have given a scientific analysis of what life is and described the characteristics of both Life and Matter and their points of similarity and distinction. I have discussed evolution and then described an alternate theory namely the Vedic theory of evolution of consciousness as opposed to Darwin's theory of evolution of species. The theory of evolution of consciousness is based on creation of various species by God so as to accommodate the varied desires of an infinite number of living beings.

The Vedic theory of evolution of consciousness marks the dawning of a new era in which consciousness will come to be incorporated as an essential item in our scientific theories about life and its origin.



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