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Anekantavada

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Truth is something that all cultures claim to revere, but perhaps we fear it as much as we desire it. I find it intriguing that one of the oldest fragments of the Christian Gospels that sits in a museum in Dublin, is a piece of parchment from the Gospel of John dating to the second Century AD. The fragment quotes Pontius Pilate as he confronts Jesus: “And Pilate asked: ‘What is Truth?’”

Humanity, it seems, is always looking for the truth. But perhaps we play lip service to the term and don’t want to know it. Is it because “truth” is tough to bear? Roman Catholic Church had difficulties accepting Galileo’s truth that the earth is round. We have an expression in India: *Satyameva Jayate* – “*victory is always to the truth.*” Mahatma Gandhi revered truth so much that he titled his autobiography “My Experiments with Truth”. In the introduction he states: “I worship God as Truth only. I have not yet found Him, but I seek for him. I am prepared to sacrifice things dearest to me in pursuit of this quest, even if the sacrifice demands my very life.”

Western philosophers view truth in different ways employing different theories, like *correspondence theory*, *coherence theory*, *consensus theory*, *pragmatic theory*, *pluralistic theory*, *redundancy theory* and so on. They often separate formal, that is mathematical truth, from historical truth. Eastern and western approaches to discovering the truth are quite different. The Western view in essence is Einstein’s objective truth based upon intellectual non-hindering observations. The current state of materialism is probably at such a high level due to the scientific discoveries humanity has made. The truth of science, materialists believe, comes closest to the absolute truth unless it is proven untrue. The implication here is that even materialists would have to agree there is no such thing as *absolute* and *forever* unchanging truth in nature. Einstein’s discovery of *Relativity* made *Newtonian Mechanics* limited. The Eastern view is Tagore’s truth, based upon subjective experience; it is unique but never absolute. Recall the experience of the blind men of Hindustan and an elephant, or the Jain concept of Anekantavada, or Anek Vad, that is many sidedness, or the many paths to the mountain top.

Philosopher Alfred Whitehead seems to agree with the Indian view. He states, “There is no whole truth; all truths are half truths. Treating them as the whole truth is to play with the devil”. Immanuel Kant, perhaps due to the influence of eastern

traditions, viewed truth (Self Realization?) as determined by employing all human faculties including intellect and intuition.

So what are the Anekantavada currently in matters of main street political economy, markets, and money? The debt of over 15 trillion dollars is a big albatross to American economy. There are three ways to get out of the debt in general. One way is to grow out of the debt as we do in leveraged real estate; as the rents go up, the burden of the mortgage diminishes. Another way is an outright default. The third way, also known as financial repression, is by devaluing the dollar, or employing inflation. For example, five % rate of inflation for ten years knocks down the value of debt from 100 to about 60. The Fed would like to tackle the debt burden employing both higher GDP growth and a controlled but higher rate of inflation keeping the interest rate close to zero. So far the Fed does not seem to have achieved either of them. The GDP growth is very weak, and the desired rate of inflation in wages is close to zero. In fact, there is inflation in undesirable places obstructing the growth of GDP; the price of energy and commodities are rising, inflicting pain on every household.

This is what analyst Clive Maund (May 2011) had to say about Fed: The Fed is aware its loose money policy is pushing the dollar ever closer to the abyss and towards a painfully high rate of inflation. He believes that they engineered a financial system that essentially turned the rest of the inhabitants of this planet into servitude to the United States, with their reserve currency status for the US dollar. They, as a winner of World War II, have cajoled the rest of the world into handing over its savings to be used to support a sumptuous standard of living in the US and a big military to police the globe in furtherance of US interests. He also implies that the Fed and Too Big to Fail banks engineered the 2008/09 market melt-down to prop up the dollar and the Treasury market.

The Fed is expected to wheel out quantitative easing #3 (QE3) in a timely manner. If they may not do it the first thing that will happen is the threat of higher interest rates that will cause the commodity markets and stock markets to tank.

Commodities and stocks have not been doing well lately because there is no real economic recovery, much less because of genuine demand for end use. They were going up earlier because of the huge leverage employed in these markets by speculators who have been borrowing money at zero or near zero rates and pyramiding speculative positions. As soon as these markets perceive a threat to the supply of cheap money they will tank and the drop will be magnified by margin calls. The Fed has indeed achieved this result by stating that it is not going to do QE3. They will have QE3 in all probability anyway to save its cronies in the big Wall Street banks from the threatening consequences of a derivatives implosion. When they do QE3 after all, the commodities and stocks road show can get rolling

again. Just imagine how much money will be made by the elites who are in on this game plan. What we have described is a hypothesis, and as of June 2012, commodities have been clobbered. A reporter asked Bernie Madoff sarcastically when he was taken to the jail, “How do you feel about becoming the operator of the largest Ponzi scheme ever in the history?” Madoff replied, “No, I do not hold that title, the largest Ponzi scheme operator is Uncle Sam”.

This is what Mark Mobius, a famed fund manager of emerging markets, had said about derivatives: “*There is definitely going to be another [financial crisis](#) because we haven't solved any of the things that caused the previous crisis*”. The main culprit will again be derivatives, whose effective regulation has been repeatedly stymied by the major financial houses. They make a heck of a lot more money designing and peddling these financial products and employing a high frequency trading algorithm when the clients can't quite figure out their true market value or the risks they entail.

Before the U.S. housing bubble burst, securitized debt and derivatives accounted for roughly 80 per cent of global liquidity and amounted to about five times global GDP. Derivatives totalled about \$350-trillion before the crisis. Since then derivatives have grown to about \$700 trillion, over 10 times world GDP. As derivatives expert Satyajit Das has warned, if a bunch of big banks, interlinked through derivatives, run into serious trouble again, we'll be staring at another disaster. “*Derivatives will play their traditional part, which is communicating the risk at the speed of light. And in the period of history that we have just gone through, nobody has corrected anything. So we don't have any more circuit-breakers than we did then.*” Making matters worse, the surviving too-big-to-fail banks are bigger than before the crisis. Mark Twain once observed: “*It is not worthwhile to try to keep history from repeating itself, for man's character will always make the preventing of the repetitions impossible.*”

Often I wonder why America would buy resources from other countries and restrict American companies from drilling within their own boundaries. Buy natural resources, like oil, with worthless fiat dollars as long as it can. Drain out resources of other countries, before they extract what is within their land. If and when other countries realize what America has in its planning, the end result will be nationalization of their own natural resources. The ultimate outcome would be much higher prices of precious natural resources.

Who is the greatest enemy, perceived by America in particular, and by the West in general? This question was asked to Julian Assange of the Wikileaks. His answer was music to my ears.... he said it is Ignorance, the view held in our Eastern scriptures. As I have expressed often, the good and evil (or the God and Devil) are

a pair of opposites, where the evil is ignorance or the darkness and the good is the truth or the light. The darkness is also lies and misinformation propagated by ambitious politicians and their surrogates in the news media.

Among the most important discoveries made by humanity are the Internet and cell phones. However, Nature always creates the opposite, not only of good things of life but also of bad things. The Internet is also the tool of the power hungry empire builders. They use it for spying and spreading lies for their advantage. Facebook, Google, and Yahoo, all provide automated interfaces for America's Intelligence free of charge.

(Articles of Mr. Doshi, a writer, trader and philanthropist, are available at www.nalandainternational.org)

Professor Debashish Banerji's response on *Anekantavada*:

On the subject of Anekantavada, this is the Jain philosophy based on ancient Sankhya, which believed there is one *prakriti* but many *purushas*. The Gita modifies this view by saying that the idea of many *purushas* is an illusion of ego. Gita postulates ego, *ahamkara*, as an attribute of *prakriti*. Since *prakriti*'s attribute of *ahamkara* makes us experience ourselves as separate, we believe there is radical plurality, *anekantavada*. But if one realizes this and overcomes ego, then one finds that there is One Purusha or *Purushottama* who has become all the beings of this world. Gita asserts it is possible to have the experience of the One Purusha, which each of us is and all of us are, by eradication of ego and grace of God. But when we speak of it, we will return to relativity and speak of it differently. This is also the meaning of the Veds' statement "The Truth is One, the sages speak of it differently" (*ekam sat vipra bahudha badanti*). The story of the four blind brahmins and the elephant from the Upanishads deals, on the other hand, not with wise men (*vipra*) but with blind men, that is ignorant men, men who believe in their separate existence due to the existence of *ahamkara*. If they overcame this blindness, they would no longer be blind, they would see the elephant as one reality. They may still describe it differently, but each would understand that what the other said was another description of the same. This is because *purusha* is the knower, *prakriti* is the expresser.

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