

THE UNIVERSAL MIND

timeless and ageless

"The Universal Mind is not separated from us and we are not separated from it, we have to shift our awareness from self (ego) before a true stream of real data can go back and forth between our conscious mind and the Universal Mind"

■ Dr. Gautam Chatterjee

Beyond every 'I' there is a super 'I' which is logically unfathomable and scientifically unarguable. Beyond 'I' there exists something that we tend to ignore because of our limitations or we brush it aside as we cannot counteract it with logic. Can you name any indigenous tribal society in the world that does not talk of 'trance conversation with the other world'? Every one within the plurality of religion, regional configuration or at the individualistic level nurtures the enigma called the 'other world'. Connection to the 'other world' is mystery yet the concept is universal.

"The mind is one and principle is one. Perfect truth is reduced to unity; the essential principle is never a duality. The mind and principle can never be separated into two."

Several thousand years ago, in the pre-historic era, people were hunter-gatherers. They used to take shelter beneath gigantic rocks and boulders and in caves. They feared nature yet they aspired to record their life and times on stone. These pre-historic engravings are the 'Rock Art Heritage' of the world. They are the first records of human endeavour. These hunter-gatherers had to deal with extremes of geography and climate, it became especially important that they be able to interpret anything in the environment in order to survive. In all primitive cultures, human qualities were ascribed to animals and other natural phenomena in order to gain some insight into what might likely be expected to happen. The more extreme the geography and climate, the more importance this interpreting of "the signs" became. This belief in various forms of nature spirit which may effect health and disease, luck and misfortune and one's state of

awareness in relation to natural phenomena was called shamanism and is very widespread across human cultures. These traditions are very old, and run back into the paleolithic, emerging with the earliest fertility goddess figurines, and representing the skills of the hunt as seen engraved in caves. A shaman is both priest and medium and often develops a variety of psychic faculties including aura reading, clairvoyance, divination, etc. Everywhere, in ethnic tribal societies, shamanistic practices have been commonplace. For thousands of years there was no science or medicine, or religion as we know it. Only the shaman stood between the known and the unknown. They were consulted in times of crisis and in matters of life and death. Shamanic cultures require the development of internal vision as a prerequisite for becoming a shaman.

Prehistoric rock shelters are scattered all over the world – in Australia, South America, Africa, Asia and Europe. There exists immense physical distance between these continents, there was no logical communication system in those times, yet the rock art of all these areas have a certain similarity: the stick man, the x-ray man, animals with x-ray depictions of their wombs... These distantly separated rock art sites of several continents remained primarily universal. This is the play of 'Universal Mind'. Universal wisdom dawned upon many individuals worldwide. The concept of *swastika* as a symbol finds mention in ancient Europe as well as in the Indian sub continent. The idea of Shiva *linga* or phallus worship is found in Maya Civilization as well as in China where it is known as *Kuie*. When Marconi was working on the radio, at the same time Jagadish Chandra Bose was also

working on the same principles but by virtue of time, proximity and patronage, Marconi got the patent. It is really amazing how a single thought lands on several minds at the same time which is broadly a play of Universal Mind which we call 'intuition'.

The four directions plus upward and downward constitute the spatial continuum (yu). What has gone by in the past and what is to come in the future constitute the temporal continuum (chou). The universe (these continua) is my mind, and my mind is the universe. Sages appeared tens of thousands of generations ago. They shared this mind; they shared this principle. Sages will appear tens of thousands of generations to come. They will share this mind; they will share this principle. Over the four seas sages appear. They share this mind; they share this principle.

— Lu Xiangshan

This mind, through endless kalpas without beginning, has never varied. It has never lived or died, appeared or disappeared, increased or decreased. It's not pure or impure, good or evil, past or future. It's not true or false. It's not male or female. It doesn't appear as a monk or a layman, an elder or a novice, a sage or a fool, a buddha or a mortal. It strives for no realization and suffers no karma. It has no strength or form. It's like space. You can't possess it and you can't lose it. Its movements can't be blocked by mountains, rivers, or rock walls... No karma can restrain this real body. But this mind is subtle and hard to see. It's not the same as the sensual mind. Everyone wants to see this mind, and those who move their hands and feet by its light are as many as the grains of sand along the Ganges, but when you ask them, they can't explain it. It's theirs to use. Why don't they see it?

... Only the wise know this mind, this mind called dharma-nature, this mind called liberation. Neither life nor death can restrain this mind. Nothing can. It's also called the Unstoppable Tathagata, the Incomprehensible, the Sacred Self, the Immortal, the Great Sage. Its names vary but not its essence.

— The Zen Teaching of Bodhidharma

Every mind has a 'knowledge system' and the process of Education, perception, experiencing and learning remain its base. But there is also an innate wisdom and from where it comes we do not know. On self-analysis we will discover that there is information in our mind that we try to arrange logically and try to investigate keeping in mind our fabric of knowledge and experience. But there is some incomprehensible knowledge that comes to us and we refer to it as 'intuition. Intuitive pulses appear irrational yet they guide us and even forewarn us.

Experience shows that the spirit is nothing but awareness. Whoever has greater awareness has greater spirit... When the spirit becomes greater and passes beyond all bounds, the spirits of all things become obedient to it.

— The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rumi

Since Universal Mind is omniscient, it follows that all knowledge (and therefore all power) is available to any individual that "contacts", "merges with", or "realizes itself as identical to" Universal Mind. Such contact or merging occurs momentarily during meditation states. Once when I was doing *sadhana* I saw black and white dry rain falling in broad sunlight. Slowly the black also turned to white rain. Then I was able to converse with my *ishta raam* (the formless sound). My logical mind argued and counter argued the whole episode. I described this phenomena to my Guru, Dr. Viswa Mitterji who told me that celestial rain of eternal knowledge pours continuously and we need to act as vessels — clean, empty and properly placed to receive the celestial rain i.e. the vast eternal energy fields

Man is shut up at present in his surface individual consciousness and knows the world only through his outward mind and senses and by interpreting their contacts with the world. By Yoga there can open in him a consciousness which becomes one with that of the world; he becomes directly aware of a universal Being, universal states, universal Force and Power, universal Mind, Life, Matter and lives in conscious relations with these things. He is then said to have cosmic consciousness

— Aurobindo Ghose, philosopher, poet, and mystic.

Generally we have two selves. One is the conscious self which actualizes the thought and action and there is another self which works as 'guide' and forewarns us. The basic distinction of these two is that the conscious state tells us what we wish and the inner self talks about the broader concept beyond the wish of conscious desire.

The other day at the magic hour of dawn (*Brahma Muhurtam*), I dreamt I was talking to the Editor of 'U'. I had not talked to her for more than eight months. When I telephoned her I discovered that she was planning a special issue on intuition and she asked me, "Why don't you write on intuition and I give you four days!" Intuition has many surprises in store for us.

Get in touch with the Universal Mind, start your journey towards the Supreme 'I', towards eternal wisdom... If we can develop conscious data collection from the Universal Mind then there are no limits to our potential as human beings.

As in any area that is foreign or new to us, it is best if we pursue the truth ourselves. Only through careful analysis, practice and application can we discover for ourselves if this is a truth.



The author is a freelance journalist. He works with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). He has authored eleven books and scripted over a hundred documentaries on Indian culture and heritage.