

The Zoo Hypothesis and Indian Philosophy A Comparative Study



Jayprakash S. Chauhan

Associate Professor,
Deptt. of Chemistry,
C.U.Shah Science College
Ahmedabad, Gujarat



Ajit V. Pandya

HOD & Associate Professor,
Deptt. of Biochemistry,
C.U.Shah Science College
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The most important and interesting scientific problem of our civilization is to find extraterrestrial super intelligent life. Why such extraterrestrial super intelligent life does not contact us has been explained by Zoo hypothesis. The existence of super intelligent power and a situation just similar to the Zoo hypothesis has been explained in Indian philosophy. A comparative study of Zoo hypothesis and Indian philosophy has been presented in this paper.

Keywords: Extraterrestrial, Zoo Hypothesis, Indian Philosophy, Civilization.

Introduction

The most interesting scientific problem of our civilization involves the question of the existence of extraterrestrial super intelligent life. If it exists, then is it trying to contact us? This question was raised by many workers such as Jahn A. Ball¹, Bracewell², Cocconi and Morrison³, Operin and Cerenkov⁴, Cameron⁵, Shklovskii and Sagan⁶ etc. Few scientists have the opinion that such civilizations does exist in our galaxy and they are much more advanced than us. They think that they may be observing us but we are so primitive that they avoid contacting us. For such highly intelligent civilization we may be just like a zoo. Few of the thinkers think that these civilizations are much older than ours. Even many physicists are working on the subject but no satisfactory result has been obtained. We sometimes hear the rumors that some people have seen the unidentified objects in the sky. We think of these as aliens coming from other highly evolved civilization. But, then there are no scientific evidences or proofs of such events. So this is a very difficult problem. The Indian philosophy has clear solution of such problems. The ideas which originated some six hundred or seven hundred years ago seem to be more realistic and practical. Saint Kabir was a great philosopher and in other words was a truth finder of that time. His ideas or philosophy are just similar to the zoo hypothesis. So in this article we have tried our level best to carry out a comparative study of the two philosophies. The ideas discussed are not new but even though they are interesting

Zoo Hypothesis

The zoo hypothesis predicts that we shall never find the super intelligent life or super humans because they do not want to be found. Technologically they are much more advanced and they have the technological ability to insure this.

Our earth and human beings and also the animal species, as it is hypothesized, may be under close observation. Just like the animals in a zoo, which are not aware of it. This monitoring could be carried out by the use of automatic equipment or by using advanced technology located on the Earth or elsewhere in the solar system which relays back to its masters news of our progress. Further it is hypothesized that we would be able to understand this secret when we reach a higher state of technological advancement.

Enrico Fermi was a physicist. He asked: "If there are extraterrestrials, where are they?" The fact that no convincing evidence had been found of extraterrestrial activity in or near the solar system suggested to him that there were no intelligent extraterrestrial societies in the Galaxy. "If they existed," he said, "they would be here."

The Indian Philosophy

The philosophy that we are discussing is of a great saint, a great poet, a great philosopher, a great yogi and a great religious teacher (*sad guru*) who lived around 700 years ago. He was born in the year 1440 AD and died in 1518 AD. Path of Kabir is a philosophy. Majority of this religious community are Hindus, Buddhist and Jains. Few of the Muslims too believes in his preaching's. His followers are found throughout the world. He preached the ultimate truth of the realization of the supreme god. He

preached the people how to get out of the vicious circle of the life. He preached them that they are in a zoo like state.⁷ Ravindranath Tagore was impressed by his philosophy and he translated his poems in the book 'Hundred Poems of Kabir'.⁸ Osho (Rajneesh) has spoken a lot about the methods of his meditations. His principles are dominant in the Indian philosophy.

This philosophy can be described in brief as follows.

There was no sun, no earth, no universe and no galaxies. There existed only the super power. He has infinite power. The supreme God was all alone. The supreme God (*Satya-Purush* meaning the true lord) wished to multiply. He first created the *Kal-Purush* (*Kal* meaning time and *Purush* means lord). *Kal-Purush* was considered as the son of all mighty supreme God. *Kal-Purush* had the capacity to create the infinite universe. He created the universe. He is supposed to be responsible for the creation of all living things including insects, plants, trees, birds, and animals and at last the man. The civilization on the earth is created just like a zoo. He has strong hold over the souls of this planet earth. The *Kal-Purush* (Time) has created his own empire in which it is very difficult to escape from the world. It is just like a zoo. The other organisms except man of this earth are even not aware that they are kept as prisoners in a zoo. Even majority of humans are unaware of this zoo like trapping. They are born here, die and again get reborn on this planet. In Hindu Philosophy this happens because of *Karma-bandhan*.⁹

The super power i.e. the *Satya-Purush* (Meaning the true lord) has the capacity to free the subject of the zoo, but does not interfere in the governance of the *Kal-Purush*. In turn the subjects or persons who are dedicated to supreme god and practice the techniques of *Sukshma-yoga* or *Raj-yoga* (Yogic meditation) are freed from this planet. They go to the everlasting, infinite and omnipresent world of happiness called *Satya-Lok* (Meaning true world). The philosophy says that *Raj-yoga* is nothing but a technique to die before once death. In this technique a person leaves the body (made up of five elements) and enter into the extraterrestrial world or everlasting world and re-enters into the earthly body. When the yogi reaches this state of realization, he becomes aware that the Self is free of the support of the body, space, heaven and earth. His consciousness rises above the physical and astral forms, and then even death becomes his servant. This state of consciousness is one of unity with God. They say that this is a secret technique. This technique is important for the freedom from the infinite universe. This requires a deep research because it is again a philosophy.

In the end, let me quote a poem of Kabir Sahib.¹⁰

Tell me, O Swan, your ancient tale.
From what land do you come,
O Swan? to what shore will you fly?
Where would you take your rest,
O Swan, and what do you seek?

Even this morning, O Swan, awake, arise,
follow me! There is a land where no doubt nor sorrow
have rule:

where the terror of Death is no more.
There the woods of spring are a-bloom,
and the fragrant scent 'He is I' is borne
on the wind: There the bee of the heart
is deeply immersed, and desires no
other joy.

Conclusions

The principle of zoo hypothesis is probably not true and incomplete. I hope that it can provide some sort of inspiration for further research. Among other hypothesis given are, the laboratory hypothesis. According to this we may be in an artificial laboratory condition. We are an experiment in their laboratory. This is known as *Petri-dish Hypothesis*. We do not have any proof of such idea. One might suppose that extraterrestrial civilizations have not yet found us or that they know we are here but they are uninterested in us. These are just hypothesis and further research is needed.

The views of Indian philosophy may be summarized as.

1. There is no other civilization. Even if it exists we will not be able to see it with our physical senses. We have the limitation to observe only the physical world like ours.
2. Human beings and all living things are part of a zoo which is created by supreme god
3. Zoo keeper is the *Kal-Purush* (The Lord-Time) whose work is to take care of zoo.
4. The super power (creator of zoo) is hidden around us. We should realize it and thus get out of the zoo.

In short the Indian philosophical ideas predict that we would not be able to trace any of the extraterrestrial intelligent humans or such masters in the future. The search is completely in wrong direction. If we want to meet our master, we must become introvert. The omnipresent power is within us. It needs realization.

Billions of dollars are spent every year for such extraterrestrial search. But no result is obtained. If such wealth is used for the welfare of our civilization It would be fruitful.

References

1. John A. Ball, *ICARUS*-347-349(1973)
2. R. N. Brace well, Communications from superior galactic communities, *Nature* 186 (1960) 670–671.
3. G. Cocoon, P. Morrison, Searching for interstellar communications, *Nature* 184 (1959) 844–846.
4. OPARIN, A., FESENKOV, F. (1960). *The Universe*, 2nd Ed. Foreign Languages publishing House, Moscow.
5. Cameron, A. G.W., Ed. (1973).” *Interstellar Communication*.” W.A.Benjamin, Inc., New York.
6. SHKLOVSKII, I.S., AND SAGAN, Carl, (1966).’ *Intelligent Life in the Universe*”. Holden Day and Delta-Dell, San Francisco and New York.
7. *Kabir Mansoor* & philosophy of Kabir sect.
8. *Bijak*-Religious book of Kabir Sect.
9. *The Bhagwat Geeta*-The sacred book of Hindu Philosophy.
10. *Hundred Poems of Kabir*-Translated by Rbindranath Tagore.