

VEDIC COSMOLOGY IN GAUDIYA VAISHNAVA PERSPECTIVES: SCIENTIFIC IMPLICATIONS AND SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS

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Abstract

If one looks up at the night sky full of stars, planets and their organized movements the curious questions pop up in every inquisitive mind is that where did it all come from, what is its present structure and how will it evolve over time. The present day scientists will attempt to answer the questions with some version of Big Bang theory to explain its origin. There are limited understanding on the structure of the universe with a few observations and with no clue regarding the destiny of the universe. Alternatively, the Vedic literatures of ancient India provides a comprehensive explanation to the origin of life and universe, the structure of physical world and future developments of the universe. As per Vedanta, there are unlimited universes primarily created by the Supreme Intelligent Being-Maha Vishnu along with conscious living entities with a grand vision and purpose to reform them. The secondary creator Lord Brahma creates the planetary systems which operate in the time scale of his day equal to 8.64 billion years. Surya Siddhanta mentions angular velocity of

various planets, day and night, eclipses which has excellent agreement with scientific data. Several puranas describe the size, shape, structure and characteristics of the physical world. Finally, the universes come to an end after 311 trillion years. This process of creation, sustenance and dissolution of the universe is cyclic in nature. Vedic literature is quite vast; it will be worthwhile for scientists and students of science to investigate several concepts of cosmology to integrate in their research to develop a holistic understanding of the universe including the deeper principles of nature like consciousness. This may bring a new field cosmology in future. Additionally, a deep understanding of the universe would enable one to understanding the purpose of the universe and one's own existence to aspire for ultimate peace and happiness.