

# Science, Spirituality and Srinivasan

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Science, Spirituality and Srinivasan are all three inseparable. My family has known Mahadeva Srinivasan and his family for many years. There are very many interesting things that I have learned from this great gentleman.

Dr Srinivasan was born into a Theosophical family and grew up in the international headquarters estate of The Theosophical Society. His higher academic pursuits and his career with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) took him away from Chennai. In his career, Dr. Srinivasan rose to become the Head of the Department of Neutron Physics and was the Associate Director of BARC. He was famous for the Trombay calculation formulated by him.

He lost his wife pretty early in life and brought up his three daughters extremely well. Dr. Srinivasan returned to Chennai and settled very near his childhood home. It seemed to be natural for him to return to two subjects—one being science and spirituality and the other being cold fusion or condensed matter nuclear science (CMNS). Much has been written in respect to his contribution in the field of CMNS.<sup>1</sup> Some of us got to know more about this passion of his when he was chosen to chair the ICCF16 proceedings in Chennai in the year 2011. He appointed me as the Chairman of the Conference Management Committee, while he himself was the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the entire conference, in all its aspects.

As far as Science, Spirituality and Social Service go, some of us who also belong to The Theosophical Society and were his colleagues in that work got to see his keen interest in the interface between Science and Spirituality. He was a true Theosophist in every sense of the word and a constant Seeker of Truth. His life was an example of the three objects of The Theosophical Society, which are:

1. To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or color.
2. To encourage the study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy and Science.
3. To investigate unexplained laws of Nature and the powers latent in man.

The motto of The Theosophical Society is, "There is no religion higher than truth."

One of Dr. Srinivasan's first subjects of interest was called "occult chemistry" and was the subject of a book by two Senior Theosophists, Dr. Annie Besant and Bishop C.W. Leadbeater.<sup>2</sup> The illustrations in this book drew such great attention from him that he got more and more interested in the subject and wrote and gave several presentations.<sup>3</sup> The structure of the atom as drawn and published in this book was extremely interesting, as it was done at a time when the electron microscope was not available to carry on this investigation.

A subject that attracted Dr. Srinivasan's attention was distant viewing, particularly the de-classified work carried out by Dr. Ed May and his team in the American CIA. We had the pleasure of hosting Dr. May at The Theosophical Society and at our home. This was arranged entirely by Dr. Srinivasan. There was a significant presence that evening of the world famous scientist Dr. Rupert Sheldrake. Dr. Sheldrake's research into "morphic resonance" was the other subject that Dr. Srinivasan often spoke about. It involved very spiritual aspects and included certain collective aspects of consciousness. The other interesting part of the work of Dr. Sheldrake was the psychological relationship and communication between humans and animals.

Yet another area where Dr. Srinivasan had sustained interest was in the Global Consciousness Project pioneered by Dr. Roger Nelson. Dr. Nelson had spoken at The Theosophical Society at Dr. Srinivasan's invitation and shared various interesting facts about human consciousness and its impact. Dr. Srinivasan had interest in various other interface areas between science and spirituality, including the impact of mind on matter and quantum physics, as discovered by contemporary scientists. An important area besides CMNS in which he took keen interest was zero-point energy.

It would be important to mention also the path-breaking work of his friend, Dr. G. Srinivasan, who wrote about the Sankhya Karikas, which are an important part of the Hindu Philosophy into which he had investigated. He discovered the relationship between these spiritual aphorisms and the origin of the universe. Dr. M. Srinivasan frequently spoke about this work. His contribution to the Theosophy Science Study Group will always be remembered.

He was a philanthropist who was involved in environmental activities and activities in the field of social service. He was involved in cleaning campaigns, ecological conservation and preservation of flora, fauna and natural life.

On the spiritual side, I had known him as a co-speaker and participant in gatherings not only of The Theosophical Society but organizations including the teachings of Sri Aurobindo, The Kanchipuram Mutt, a well-known center which was the seat of an important Pontiff in Hinduism. It should be mentioned that Dr. Srinivasan took an interest in a few educational institutions which were value-based and associated with The Theosophical Society.

Dr. Srinivasan was a very youthful and athletic gentleman who swam in the sea until late in life and could interact in an engaging manner with people of all ages, including the youth.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that the closest friends of Dr. Srinivasan were those who used to walk with him every day, and also active members of The Theosophical Society. They expected him to live a healthy life for about a 100 years; unfortunately, this did not happen.

I do hope he will rest in peace and carry on his interests in what we Theosophists call the Higher Planes of Consciousness, while being an inspiration to many of us.

#### References

1. Frazier, C.L. 2020. "The Passing of Indian Cold Fusion Researcher Mahadeva Srinivasan," *Infinite Energy*, 26, 153, 10-12. See the *IE* memorial and other supporting documents, <https://www.infinite-energy.com/resources/mahadeva-srinivasan.html>
2. Besant, A. and Leadbeater, C.W. 1908. *Occult Chemistry: Investigations by Clairvoyant Magnification into the Structure of the Atoms of the Periodic Table and Some Compounds*.
3. See, for instance, Srinivasan, M. 2001. "'Occult Chemistry': The Amazing Phenomenon of Extra-Sensory Perception of Nuclear Structure and Subatomic Particles," *Infinite Energy*, 6, 36, 20-24. Originally published in *The Hindu Sunday Magazine*, 1994.