

### Issue 3 | Volume 13 | July 2023

### **Balavin Kural**

A BDS monthly newsletter

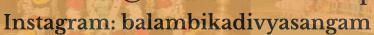




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### Devotee Speaks: "Ganesh - The Principle Of Unity", by Smt. Roopa V Rajan



Ganesha is the figure of cosmic consciousness. He is the principle of unity. Ganesha is the unifying force found within us and throughout the universe. Ganesha and Ganapati are two Sanskrit words. In the name Ganesha, Gana refers to Power or Group and Esha means ruler. Hence, Ganesha is a ruler of a group and also ruler of power. In the word Ganapathi, Pathi means spouse which means spouse of power. Ganapathi is the spouse of the group. In Vedic Hinduism, we automatically involve Ganasha before we start any work. And Ganasha

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Let's explore some examples. Background color matching is when animals such as deer, squirrels, rabbits and butterflies move into and live in surroundings that match their color, such as dry grass, flowers, or sand. Disruptive coloration is often noticed in animals which have more than one color, or a pattern of colors, that causes

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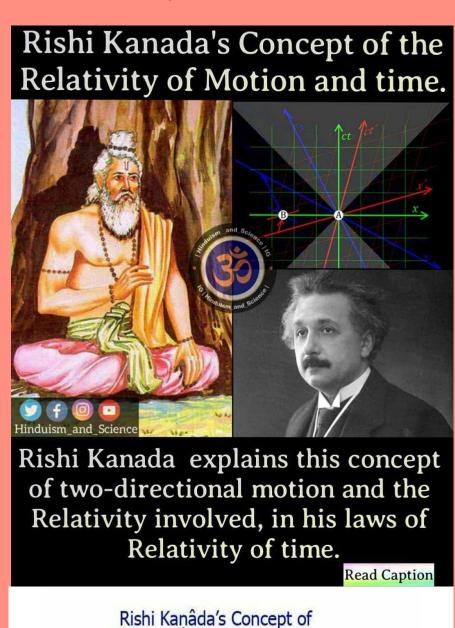
# Know your Mythology: "Guru Dronacharya and his foremost disciple", by Thulasinathan Kandasamy

After the renowned test of Dronacharya, where he asked all his disciples to aim at a bird perched on a tree,



he was thinking about Vibhatsu's (Arjuna) focus when every other disciple said they saw the bird, the tree and sometimes even Drona himself. Vibhatsu was the only one who said, "I see an eye", to which Drona replied, "Could you describe the bird for me?" Arjuna replied, saying, "I cannot master; I only see an eye." Drona was absolutely delighted, and he asked Arjuna to shoot the

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Relativity of motion and time

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In Vedic Hinduism, we automatically involve Ganesha before we start any work. And Ganesha becomes a unifying force, he becomes the ruler of a new thing which can be an atom, molecule, or co workers, or the collection of planets can also be formed as a group.

In the human body too, the same Ganesha principle applies, where atoms form cells and cells compose organs. An organ is formed by a

group of cells working together for a common process. Each of our organs is also part of a system, such as the cardiovascular, digestive or reproductive, endocrine system and so forth. The principle holds true no matter how large or how small the elements are in question. Human ego interacts with the universe through the mind, personality, desires, goals, and a host of other qualities which are almost never in agreement with one another. For example, a person with a weight problem, there is an I in that person who is telling and wants to eat big portions, but there is another I in the same person, who wants to lose weight. These two I's are parts of the ego of the same person, but are actually in direct conflict with one another. Although this conflict is within, it usually plays out in the drama of our unfolding lives. A person who longs for a meaningful relationship but may sabotage it. This is also ego and is a state of inner disagreement and turmoil.

The path offered by Ganesha, where he helps in unification of all the various I's into a coherent unity. This will accomplish peace and mental clarity. Ganesha weaves a positive "Can do" spirit into our everyday ego.

The eighty ninth upanishad gives the mantra "Om Gum ganapataye Namaha". This mantra works as the remover of obstacles.

Obstacles refer to our blockages to true inner unity. The negative and artificial barriers which we have created, among the various I's that compose our multifaceted ego. One important note is Ego, mind personality is a necessary and natural part of our evolutionary process that is directly involved with the physical body. But to develop

properly in the evolutionary process, a balance among needs and desires is a requisite. When needs and desires are balanced, one can have clear thinking. Also, there will be tangible Will power. This balanced decision is good for progress.

Balambika Charanam.

#### **Image courtesy:**

https://www.indastro.com/astrology-articles/ what-significance-ganesh-chaturthi.html

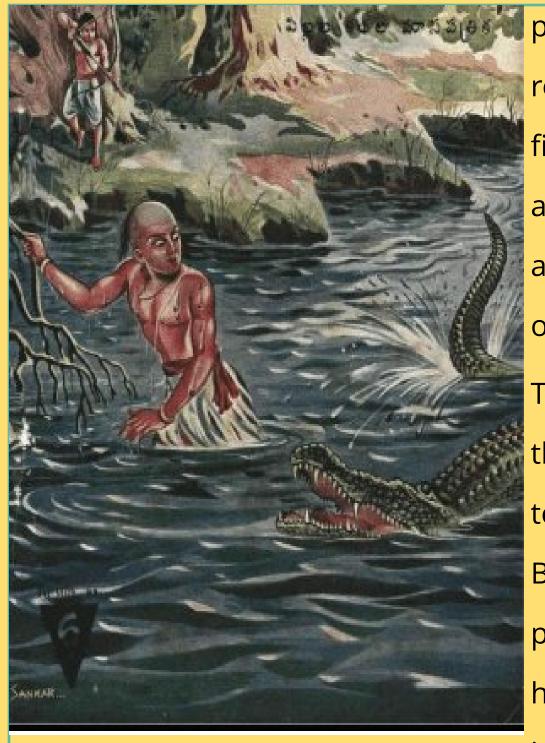
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Vibhatsu's (Arjuna) focus when every other disciple said they saw the bird, the tree and sometimes even Drona himself. Vibhatsu was the only one who said, "I see an eye", to which Drona replied, "Could you describe the bird for me?" Arjuna replied, saying, "I cannot master; I only see an eye." Drona was absolutely delighted, and he asked Arjuna to shoot the arrow. In an instant, as soon as the command was given, Arjuna released the arrow. The arrow struck the bird's head, and it fell to the ground. Drona already thought that Drupada had already been conquered with all his allies.

Sometime later, Drona went with all his pupils to the banks of the river Ganga to bathe in its sacred streams. As soon as Drona plunged into the stream, a powerful alligator caught Drona by his thigh and held him in a death grip. Drona saw this situation as an opportunity to test his disciples further. He yelled, "My apprentices! Somebody



please kill this monster and rescue me". No sooner had he finished the sentence than the alligator was killed by five swift arrows from the bow of none other than Arjuna himself.

The other pupils stood stunned; they were nowhere near ready to deal with such a scenario. But the speed at which Arjuna picked his bow up and reacted happened within a span of the incident's occurrence itself.

After witnessing this readiness, Drona concluded Arjuna to be the foremost of all his pupils and became extremely happy. The monster that Arjuna cut into pieces by arrows released Drona's thigh and gave up. Drona, the illustrious son of Bharadwaja, addressed mighty Arjuna and said, "I give you a very superior and irresistible weapon called Brahmashira with the methods of hurling it and recalling it. However, you must never use it against any human enemy. Or else it might burn the whole universe. O, child, this weapon has no peer in the three worlds. If any non-human enemy contends against you, use this to end the fight with your success.

Pledging to what Drona said, Vibhatsu received the great weapon with folded hands and full of reverence and praise of his guru.

Drona said, "This world will never see a bowman who is superior to you. No enemy can vanquish you. Your achievements will be outstanding". The master was true to his words; he did not teach this weapon in all its nuances, even to his son Aswathaman. While his son learned to invoke this weapon, he did not know how to withdraw it safely.

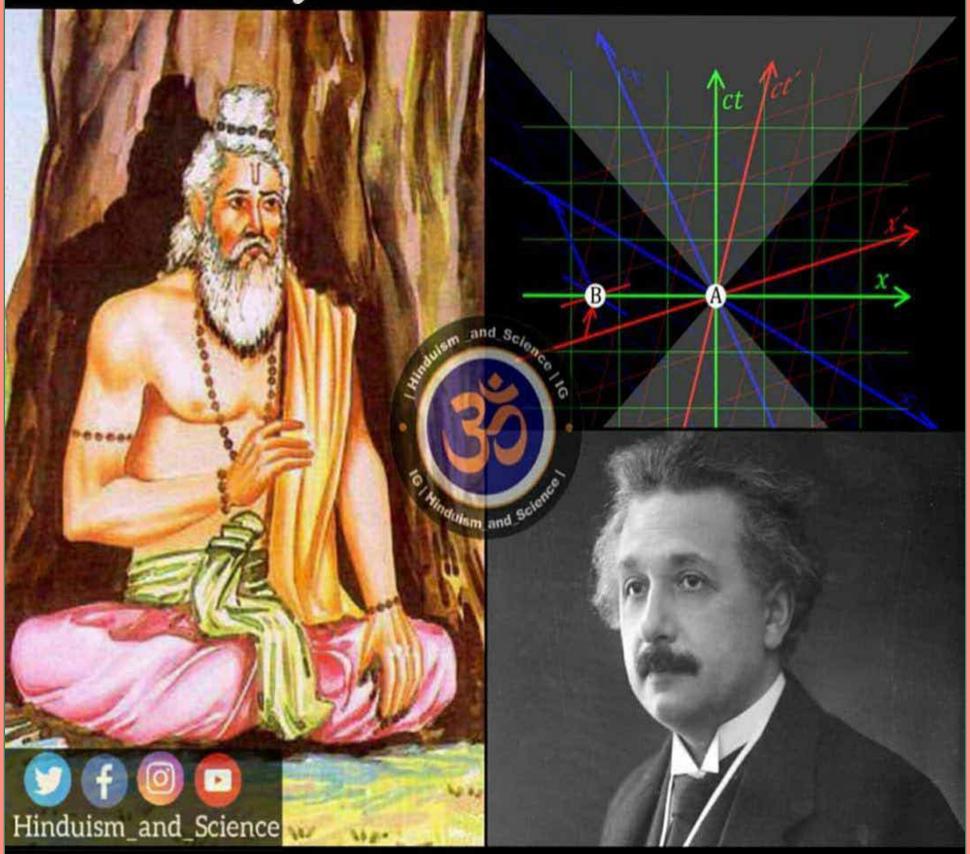
Then, he asked his pupils to get water from the river and fill a container making several trips to the river; whoever came first would get some special knowledge. After announcing this test, Drona gave his pupils vessels; Aswathaman was the only one who got a pot with a wider mouth. Drona thought his son Aswathaman would come faster; However, Arjuna came faster each time, and then Drona realised that Arjuna had used the Varunastra to fill it with water quickly and have a better chance at gaining more knowledge. Drona, who was amazed at such displays of quick thinking and a genuine thirst for knowledge, was the perfect pupil and realised that he upasaka. The relationship between this guru and the student is still told to this said and will be in the aeons day to come.

#### **Image courtesy:**

https://anamikaghose.wordpress.com/
drona-took-an-exam-of-pandavas-and-sons-of-dhritarashtra/
https://glorioushinduism.com/2018/06/15/dronacharya/

Did you know? "Rishi Kanada's Concept of the Relativity of Motion and Time"

# Rishi Kanada's Concept of the Relativity of Motion and time.



Rishi Kanada explains this concept of two-directional motion and the Relativity involved, in his laws of Relativity of time.

**Read Caption** 

# Rishi Kaṇâda's Concept of Relativity of motion and time



1.



2.



purpose of clearing up the understanding of the disciples as well as for the sake of brevity.

### एकदिक्काभ्यामेककालाभ्यां सन्निक्कष्टवित्रकृष्टाभ्यां परमपरञ्च ॥ ७ । २ । २१ ॥

एकदिक्कान्यां Eka-dikkâbhyâm, lying in the same direction. एककालान्यां Ekakâlâbhyâm, existing at the same time सन्दिश्चित्रशान्यां Sannikrişţa-vipkrarişţâbhyâm, near and remote. पर Param, prior. अपर Aparam posterior. च Cha, and.

-Induism\_and\_Science





# Science Snippets: "The Natural Camouflagers", by Latha Chakravarthy

Animals use many defense mechanisms to protect themselves from surrounding dangers. Most often, a simple tactic of concealing themselves to blend in with their habitat is the most effective in warding off that danger. There are five basic methods by which animals blend into their surroundings: background color matching, disruptive coloration, self-decoration, active camouflage, and mimesis. Let's explore some examples. Background color matching is when animals such as deer, squirrels, rabbits and butterflies move into and live in surroundings that match their color, such as dry grass, flowers, or sand. Disruptive coloration is often noticed in animals which have more than one color, or a pattern of colors, that causes predators to



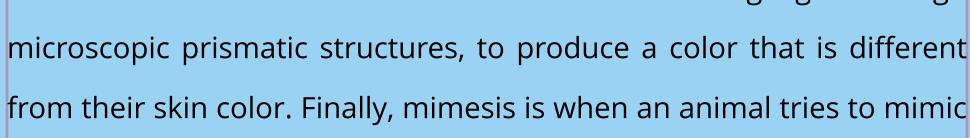
identify them incorrectly. For example, butterflies with large spots on them are mistaken by birds as eyes of a large animal; frogs and toads with blends of brown and green are mistaken as

mud and moss. Self-decoration is another smart technique where the animal dresses up with what's available around them to blend in. Turtles grow algae on their shells, while sea urchins gather rocks and shells around them to mix with their surroundings. Next, there is



active camouflage where animals such as octopuses, chameleons, arctic foxes and hares, and flounder fish change their skin colors and patterns by several techniques such as changing the size of their

changing the size of their skin cells, or by absorbing certain wavelengths of light through natural pigments in their skin called biochromes, or by reflecting or scattering light through





something that its predator might not be interested in.

Stick insects and grasshoppers are probably the most famous in this category. By staying still

they resemble twigs and leaves, long enough to ward off potential threats. The animal planet is filled with a myriad of such smart camouflagers who may have deceived us one too many times. Driven solely by divine instinct they have managed to survive the travails of



evolution and continue to make it through!

Can you try to spot the animals playing hide-and-seek in the pictures below?Go for it.....



#### **Image Courtesy:**

https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/camouflage-nature-examples