



Amma Cannot Be Defined by Our Analysis

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ISRO, the Indian Space Research Organization, is a government agency dedicated to the development of space technology. Its satellites do everything from facilitating communication, to managing mineral resources to tracking cyclones. Through its tele-education project, ISRO transfers virtual classrooms from major universities to less-privileged institutions. And through telemedicine, ISRO helps institutions like Amma's AIMS Hospital assist rural health clinics. When ISRO's chairman, Dr. Madhavan Nair, came for Amma's darshan in Bangalore in 2004, he spent some time talking with Amritapuri.org.

When did you first meet Amma?

"I had heard of Her almost 10 years back, but my first opportunity to visit Her was at Her Amitapuri Ashram with President Kalam. We travelled together and had a half-hour session with Her. What a fantastic experience!

"That a person of Amma's background was talking authoritatively on technology and charity to people and how harmony had to be brought among all these! Today, again, the way She is motivating people!

"I see top-class experts gathered here. We speak of 'brain drain'—people going away to other places for work—but as a single person She has provided attractive courses to bring them back and serve the people as part of their work! So I see something very divine and attractive. A type of force emanates from Her. I think it cannot be defined by our analysis."

What can you say about the connection between science and spirituality?

"I think the divide between the two is very narrow. The scientist is trying to find out the ultimate truth about Nature. At the same time, spirituality tries to find the ultimate truth through body, soul and divinity. There are millions of questions that science can't answer. There is a power beyond all of us and that's what makes things happen—which has been the origin of the universe itself. There may be a lot of commonality as well as opposites between the two, but on entirely different themes. Through science and technology, we are trying to seek material benefits and improve the quality of life, whereas spirituality tries to find mental peace and harmony in Nature."

So one doesn't go without the other?

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"According to me, both go together."



So, what role does spirituality play in your professional life?

"Even when you talk about very complex problems, some subjectivity is involved. You won't have 100 percent of the facts before you can take a decision. Then something comes from the inner mind—you may call it intuition, or sixth sense. But that quite often helps you arrive at the right decision and taking the right path."

Would ISRO be willing to participate in any of Amma's projects?

"We have already joined hands with Amma's institutions like AIMS at Cochin. Telemedicine connects metro hospitals like AIMS in Cochin to remote areas through satellite links. Thus AIMS provides expert medical advice to poor patients in the Lakshadweep Islands and the northeast region of India. We have provided software and training for telemedicine at AIMS and are discussing expanding this connectivity to the other three institutions [Coimbatore, Amritapuri and Bangalore] too so virtual classrooms can be transmitted back and forth.

— Minu & Devadath