

Life in Muscles, Metals and Plants

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It was a Friday Evening Discourse at the Royal Institution. It was a place where eminent scientists used to assemble and communicate to each other their own endeavors towards the improvement of natural knowledge. The date was 10th May 1901.

That evening, Sir Michael Foster, Secretary of the Royal Society had specially invited an Indian scientist to speak on certain startling discoveries he had made. His subject related to a comparative study of the curves of molecular reaction in inorganic substances and in living animal tissues.

He had found a striking resemblance between the curves of metal response and muscle response. It appeared for instance that like living muscles, metals could also get fatigued, and vegetable plants showed clear sensitiveness of a living being!

The Indian scientist stood before the most eminent scientific personalities. With serene confidence and extraordinary clarity he presented his startling results and demonstrated each of them with a series of precise experiments.

His concluding words were startling He said:

"I have shown you this evening autographic records of the history of stress and strain in the living and nonliving. How similar are the writings! So similar indeed that you cannot tell one apart from the other. Among such phenomena, how can we draw a line of demarcation and say, here the physical ends, and there the physiological beings? Such absolute barriers do not exist.

It was when I came upon the mute witness of these self-made records, and

perceived in them one phase of a pervading unity that bears within it all things -the mote that quivers in ripples of light, the teeming life upon our earth, and the radiant suns that shine about us-it was then that I understood for the first time a little of that message proclaimed by my ancestors on the banks of the Ganges thirty centuries ago: "They who see but one, in all the changing manifoldness of this universe, unto them belongs Eternal Truth-unto none else, unto none else!"

The listeners stared in appreciative amazement- not only towards this brilliant contribution to science but also to the spiritual note at the end. Sir William Crookes even urged that the last quotation spoken by that great Indian should not be omitted when the address was published.

The Name of that Indian scientist was JAGDISH CHANDRA BOSE.

Thirty Centuries ago those on the banks of the Ganges knew the Eternal Truth....

1901 may sound far back; but in 1966 one Huckster, a lie-detector-machine-expert found that a plant was reading his mind! And an egg was emotionally disturbed.

(Dini Avaz, Vol. 1-2, February-March 1976) "Secret life of Plants" by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird (1975 Penguin) contains amazing accounts of life and living of the vegetable kingdom.

The Zoroastrian Science as revealed by Ilme-khshnoom teaches that the vegetable kingdom contains certain fragments separated from the 'Ruvan' (souls) of the humans. So also animal and mineral kingdoms. (See Khurshedji Suntok's article in the next issue.)

- K. N. Dastoor