



tHE World iS RelATive

- Prashant Pathak

Just like any usual day you wake up in the morning and you had a dream; what you saw in the dream was a sphere (just a sphere) and you told your mom about this. Your mom asked you how big it was. Here you can't say exactly how big it was because you saw only a sphere, no background, that's why you couldn't answer the question. And why you needed background was because you couldn't tell about its size absolutely. Size is a relative term, which you use right from the time you are born. Everything we see around us, we compare with other things to know about size and other properties, and this is the world of the 'relative'.

We always use 'relative' but mostly we never observe it. One nice example of something 'relative' would be the example of observing an aeroplane. I assume that you first saw it in the sky and then at some airport. Now, can anyone tell the approximate size of an aeroplane flying in sky? No, it is difficult to tell, because you have not compared the size of an aeroplane with anything before! And then after that, when you see it at some airport you admire how big it is relative to that thing you saw flying in the sky, have you ever noticed this...this 'relative'?

Suppose you are preparing for a competitive examination and you think that getting selected in the exam is relative to others not getting selected. This is correct because getting selected is indeed relative! Others reduce or increase your relative chance of selection because the number of seats are fixed (when it is not percentage based). If you think like this and start disturbing others you may not get selected at all! In fact it is also relative to the time you give to your study, which will reduce, so never try this.

What we have discussed till now is a physical view of the term 'relative'. Now let's see it in a philosophical way.



What we think, what we feel, whatever we do...everything is relative. You can't say what is right, what is wrong; if anything according to you is good, it might not be good according to others. For example: you can't say a person is not nice. While judging others you don't define others, rather, you define yourself with your thinking or your feelings. Your thinking differs from others because it is totally built by the environment you have experienced, mainly at the growing stages; after that you

judge things based on your thinking built before. You change your thinking afterwards because of the people you interact with and get influenced. Similarly, your taste, smell and other things are also relative. For example, you are given a dish to taste, you try it and you compare it with the best taste you ever had and then give your answer .

So, from now on remember that everything is relative before doing or saying anything to others, because you can be wrong in your way of thinking!

