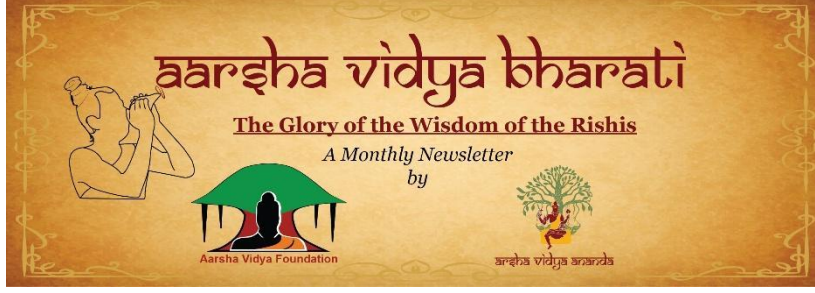


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# Aarsha Vidya Bharati – Dec 2023

## Agrahayana - Pausa 2080

A monthly newsletter that will bring you more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom



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This is one of many articles from our monthly newsletter. Access the [dec 2023 issue](#) and read any of [the articles](#).

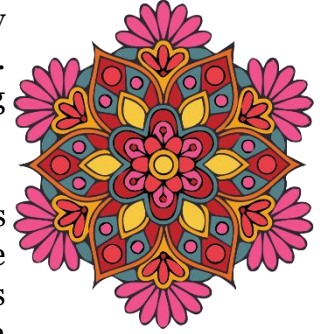
## The Lie of Objectivity - The Interplay of Subject and Experience in Truth Seeking

By Baldeep Singh, Dubai

When we think of being objective, we take pride in our ability to decide without the influence of personal biases. In science, objectivity is key as it guides researchers to undisputed truths. This pursuit of knowledge has brought us amazing advances in technology and medicine. But what if, in our chase for objective truths, we're inadvertently lying to ourselves?

### Objectivity: The Lighthouse of Science

Science thrives on objectivity. Objectivity helps make sure that experiments can be repeated and understood everywhere. When a scientist observes a phenomenon, they remove personal feelings and opinions. In short, objectivity helps us with a consistent understanding of the physical world. In this paradigm, being too subjective is often akin to being unreliable.



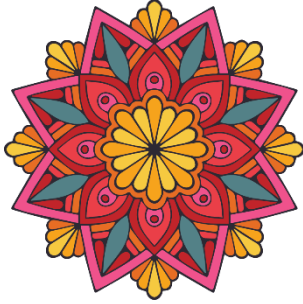
Young's double-slit experiment (check footnote), introduces us to nuances that challenge this paradigm. When particles are observed, they behave differently than when left unobserved. It's as if the mere act of observation, the insertion of a 'subject' (a conscious observer), alters the very fabric of reality. This experiment challenges the core of objectivity, suggesting that the observer and the observed might be inexplicably linked.

### The Subject at the Heart of Vedanta

The *Maṇḍūkya Upaniṣad* and *Gauḍapāda's Kārikā-s* help us see that the very act of detaching the subject from experience is seen not as a purification but as a dilution. Every experience, every moment of cognition, is intertwined with the experiencer. To ignore the subject is, in essence, to deny a crucial part of the truth.

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Imagine holding a pen in your hand and saying it exists. While this commonplace statement seems straightforward, isn't this assertion avoiding a fundamental truth that it's YOU, a conscious being experiencing the pen in existence? The verse by verse hammering (read brilliance) of *Gauḍapāda* Acharya makes us realise that it's our consciousness which lends the pen its existence in the first place!



So, to separate the observer and observation is to pull apart the very fabric of existence. Here, objectivity, in its extreme form, isn't just incomplete; it's a lie 😊 For in every experience, the pure subject—consciousness—echoes its presence. To negate this echo is to negate the essence of the experience.

This article isn't a call to abandon scientific objectivity. Instead, it's an invitation to broaden it.

To conclude, as we walk the tightrope between objectivity and subjectivity, it's crucial to remember that neither can be ignored. While science grants us insights into the external mechanics of the universe, the teachings of Vedanta remind us not to lose ourselves in the process. For in every objective truth, the silent whisper of the subject (our true self) beckons, urging us to recognize and honor its indelible presence.

Footnote - [a nice animation explaining the double-slit experiment can be found here.](#)