

## THE QUEST FOR CERTAINTY



Buddha declared:

**The Absolute Truth is that there is nothing absolute in the world, that everything is relative, conditioned and impermanent, and that there is no unchanging, everlasting, absolute substance like Self, Soul, or Ātman within or without.**

***DEFINITION: Absolute means, "Viewed independently; not comparative or relative; ultimate; intrinsic."***

This postulate may appear self-contradictory to some, but it essentially says, "There are no absolute certainties." This is reflected in one of the most ancient hymns, **The Creation Hymn of Rig Veda.**

All certainties are relative. This statement does not degrade any certainty we have. It simply means that one can always come up with a better certainty.

That is how science makes progress. Einstein declared the speed of light to be a universal constant. This is a certainty for now, but there may possibly be a wider context in which the speed of light is a special case.

Similarly, in the field of spirituality, we cannot be absolutely certain that self or soul is permanent. The phenomenon that is described as self or soul must be open to further investigation.

There is no progress possible for a person who believes that his certainties are absolute.

One can always improve upon a certainty one has.

