

## **Whither Scientific Quest for Reality?**

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Philosophy and Science have the same objective – the quest for ultimate reality. Helped tremendously by technology which it has given rise to, science in the past few hundred years has not only advanced our knowledge regarding the familiar world of our day to day living, but has also extended the boundaries of our knowledge both in the directions of the ultra small and the ultra large and most interestingly established fascinating connections between them. Also science has delineated the complex structures and intricate functionings of the human brain and its accessories. With all this wonderful information at its command and with mathematics as its perennial governor, where is science heading in the quest for reality? Some scientists believe that science in 2002, has certainly reached the stage where it is moving towards a grand synthesis and unification that implies the presence of an underlying, a spontaneously active universal substratum which perhaps is the ultimate reality. If so, is this reality in its essence, though not in detail, similar to the reality that is highlighted in some of the scriptures and what some of the mystics have claimed, they have direct experience of? Does this similarity, if present, have any meaning? Is so, to whom ?

(The speaker after a brief presentation, would like to raise a debate on these issues)