

#MARTYRED SONS

The Gift of India

Sarojini Naidu (1879 -1949)

Lo! I have flung to the East and West.
Priceless treasures torn from my breast, And
yielded the sons of my stricken womb. To
the drum-beats of duty, the sabres of doom



Is there aught you need that my hands withhold.
Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold?
Lo! I have flung to the East and West
Priceless treasures torn from my breast,
And yielded the sons of my stricken womb.
To the drum-beats of duty, the sabres of doom.
Gathered like pearls in their alien graves
Silent they sleep by the Persian waves,
Scattered like shells on Egyptian sands,
They lie with pale brows and brave, broken hands,
They are strewn like blossoms mown down by chance
On the blood-brown meadows of Flanders and France.
Can ye measure the grief of the tears I weep
Or compass the woe of the watch I keep?
Or the pride that thrills thro' my heart's despair
And the hope that comforts the anguish of prayer?
And the far sad glorious vision I see
Of the torn red banners of Victory?
When the terror and tumult of hate shall cease
And life be refashioned on anvils of peace,
And your love shall offer memorial thanks
To the comrades who fought in your dauntless ranks,
And you honour the deeds of the deathless ones
Remember the blood of thy martyred sons!

#FROZEN

Back To Life

The Earth's frozen layers are not just a graveyard of the past, but a potential laboratory for preserving the genetic heritage of our planet

Scientists revived a plant from 32,000-year-old seeds found frozen in the Siberian permafrost, making this the oldest organism ever brought back to life.
Researchers discovered the seeds of the Silene stenophylla plant buried 124 feet beneath the earth near the Kolyma River. Tucked away inside an Ice Age squirrel's burrow, the seeds were preserved at a constant 19°F (-7°C), a deep freeze that effectively prevented cellular decay since the era of woolly mammoths. While the mature seeds were damaged, scientists extracted viable tissue from immature samples and placed them in a sterile growth medium. The result was a successful regeneration, leading to plants that not only flowered but also produced fertile seeds of their own, displaying subtle evolutionary differences from their modern-day descendants.
This extraordinary feat does more than just resurrect a lost piece of history; it provides a vital blueprint for the future of biodiversity. By studying how these cells remained viable across thirty-two millennia, experts hope to enhance the longevity of modern seed banks like the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. As permafrost continues to yield living fragments of ancient ecosystems, the discovery suggests that Earth's frozen layers are not just a graveyard of the past, but a potential laboratory for preserving the genetic heritage of our planet against future global disasters.



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The Execution Of Lady Jane Grey

On the morning of February 12, 1554, Jane's husband, Lord Guilford Dudley, was publicly executed on Tower Hill. Jane watched the grim spectacle from her window before being led out to a scaffold constructed on Tower Green.



Anjali Sharma
Senior Journalist & Wildlife Enthusiast

his description will change the way the way you look at paintings for the rest of your life. It is the Execution of Lady Jane Grey, created in 1834 by French master painter, Paul Delaroche.
It is home to a detail that is so ingenious, you might not ever fully grasp it. And it is hidden amongst set of minor details that make this artwork one of the most sensational creations of the millennia.
There are five very important characters in the picture, and at the centre stage, is 17 year old Lady Jane Grey. Here, Delaroche imagines her final moments. Where is the block? she thinks. What must I do? To her left, the ladies in waiting devastated. One brought to her knees, clutching the outer clothes and jewels of her mistress, the other facing the wall unable to bear the burden. Both of their necks exposed, foreshadowing what is to come.
This painting, "The Execution of Lady Jane Grey" (1833) by French Romantic artist Paul Delaroche, is a masterpiece of 19th-century history painting. It depicts the final moments of Lady Jane Grey, the "Nine-Day Queen" of England, who was executed for high treason in 1554 at the age of 16 or 17.
Delaroche used theatrical lighting and meticulous detail to create a poignant scene of martyrdom and innocence. Lady Jane Grey in her shimmering white satin dress symbolizes purity and innocence. Blindfolded, she is shown in a state of extreme vulnerability. Sir John Brydges is the Lieutenant of the Tower (the man in the fur-trimmed cloak) and gently guides Jane towards the block. The straw on the floor was historically laid down to soak up the victim's blood. The dark, shallow, stage-like background focuses all attention on the central tragedy.
To the right, the executioner, waiting casually and at the centre with the Queen, the Lieutenant, guiding her hand, coaxing her forward with whispers, towards her final moment on earth. A scene of heart wrenching cruelty, no doubt, and yet, the true genius of Delaroche only reveals itself at the moment that you realize that the event in question, which really took place, happened some say, outdoors. And here, inside the story of his greatest painting, he paints the background as a monochromatic wall and paints the edges of the executioner's platform to create the illusion of a stage, and emphasizes a lighting so dramatic and ostentatious, you feel as though you are watching a performance. The figures are painted to such a precise scale, we, the audience, are no longer watching the passage of a real historical event, but a theatrical account of history, worth every ounce of drama.
Lady Jane Grey was a reluctant monarch, placed on the throne in July 1553 by her powerful father-in-law, the Duke of Northumberland, to maintain Protestant rule after the death of King Edward VI. Lady Jane Grey was the great-granddaughter of Henry VII of England and first cousin once removed to his grandson, the short-lived Edward VI. After Edward's death, she was proclaimed queen, being given precedence over Henry VIII's daughters, Mary and Elizabeth.
Two weeks after the death of her brother, Mary, who had the support of the English people, claimed the throne, which Jane relinquished, having reigned for only nine days. Jane, her husband Lord Guilford Dudley and her father, were imprisoned in the Tower of London on charges of high treason. Jane's trial was conducted in November, but the death penalty handed to her was temporarily suspended. In February 1554, Jane's father, who had been released, was one of the rebel leaders in Wyatt's rebellion. On Friday 12 February, Mary had Jane, then aged 17, and her husband beheaded. Her father's beheading followed eleven days later.
The Privy Council had quickly buckled to pressure and declared Edward's half-sister, Mary Tudor, the rightful queen. Jane's reign lasted just nine days. She was deposed, convicted of high treason, and imprisoned. Although she might have been spared, a subsequent Protestant rebellion in early 1554 sealed her fate, as Queen Mary viewed the young noblewoman as an enduring threat to her crown.
On the morning of February 12, 1554, Jane's husband, Lord Guilford Dudley, was publicly executed on Tower Hill. Jane watched the grim spectacle from her window before being led out to a scaffold constructed on Tower Green.
As a courtesy to her royal status, she was granted a private execution within the fortress walls

#PAUL DELAROCHE

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Celebrating the Tree of Life

bserved every year on September 2, World Coconut Day celebrates the versatile "tree of life" and its vital role in the livelihoods, cultures, and economies of tropical regions. From nourishing coconut water and nutrient-rich flesh to coir, oil, and eco-friendly products, every part of the coconut tree offers value. In India, it holds religious significance, symbolising prosperity and purity, and is used in festivals, rituals, and cuisine. The day also highlights the need for sustainable coconut farming to support farmers and protect biodiversity. As global demand grows, World Coconut Day serves as a reminder of this humble fruit's immense global impact.

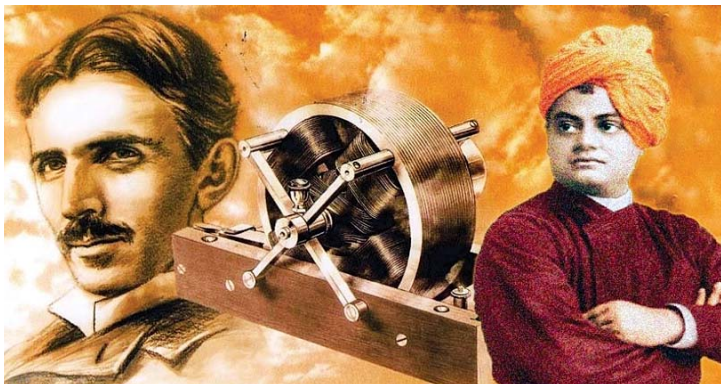


#AKASH AND PRAN

When Nikola Tesla Met Swami Vivekananda

That matter itself was a concentrated form of energy, Einstein had expressed the unity that Tesla had long suspected and Vivekananda had philosophically described

In February 1896, an extraordinary meeting took place in New York City between two of the most remarkable minds of their age. On one side of the dining table sat Nikola Tesla, the brilliant inventor whose revolutionary work with electricity was reshaping the modern world. Opposite him sat Swami Vivekananda, the charismatic Hindu monk whose lectures on Vedanta and spirituality had captivated audiences across America after his famous appearance at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893.
The dinner was arranged by the celebrated French actress Sarah Bernhardt, who had become fascinated by Vivekananda after hearing him speak. Bernhardt admired intellectuals, artists, and thinkers, and she believed Tesla and Vivekananda would find common ground in their shared interest in the mysteries of existence and the hidden forces governing the universe. She was right.
Five days after the meeting, Vivekananda wrote a letter describing the discussion that had taken place that evening. According to his account, he explained to Tesla two important Sanskrit concepts from Hindu philosophy: Akasha and Prana. In Vedantic thought, Akasha refers to the primordial substance from which all matter originates, a subtle universal essence existing before the formation of physical atoms. Prana, meanwhile, is described as the universal cosmic energy that acts upon Akasha to create movement, force, and life throughout the universe.
For Vivekananda, these were not merely religious ideas but profound philosophical principles about the structure of reality itself. Tesla listened with intense interest. At the time, scientists were struggling to

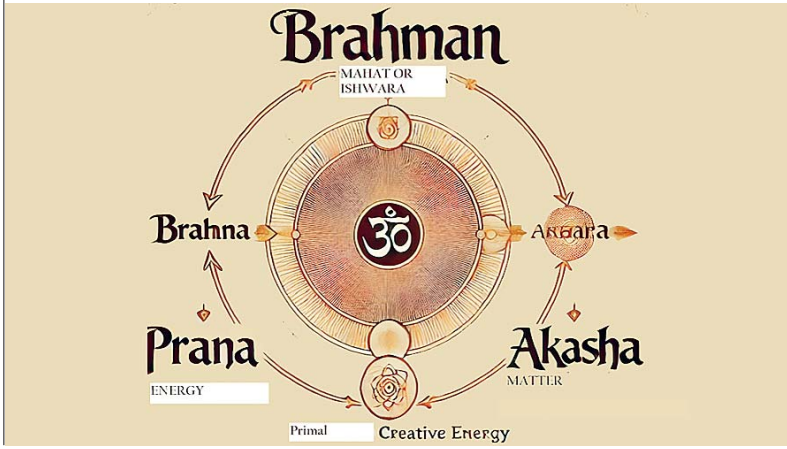


understand the deeper relationship between matter, force, and energy. Electricity had become one of the great scientific frontiers of the nineteenth century, and Tesla stood at the center of that revolution. Yet, he believed there was an even deeper unity beneath the physical world, a hidden connection linking matter and energy together.
The concepts of Akasha and Prana appeared to resonate strongly with Tesla's own theories and intuitions. He became deeply intrigued by the possibility that ancient philosophical traditions had anticipated truths modern science was only beginning to explore. Over the following years, Tesla continued attempting to develop a scientific framework that could explain matter and energy as different forms of the same underlying reality.
Tesla's fascination with these ideas became publicly visible in 1907 when he published an article titled "Man's Greatest Achievement." In the article, he directly referred to the Sanskrit terms Akasha and Prana, using them in his discussion of cosmic energy, matter, and the forces governing the universe. It was an unusual and remarkable moment in intellectual history: one of the world's most celebrated inventors openly engaging with concepts drawn from Indian philosophy while search-

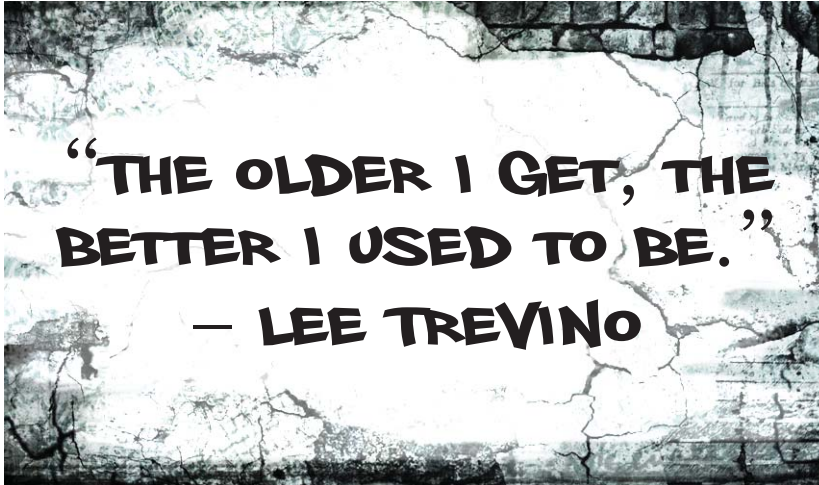
ing for a scientific understanding of the cosmos. Despite his brilliance, however, Tesla was unable to mathematically prove the connection he believed existed between matter and energy. While he pursued this vision through electrical experimentation and theoretical speculation, another thinker in Europe was quietly solving the problem through mathematics.
In 1905, a relatively unknown patent clerk working in Switzerland published a series of scientific papers that would forever transform physics. His name was Albert Einstein. Among his groundbreaking discoveries was the famous equation:

$$E=mc^2E=mc^2$$

Einstein's equation demonstrated that mass and energy were fundamentally equivalent, that matter itself was a concentrated form of energy. In a sense, Einstein had mathematically expressed the unity that Tesla had long suspected and that Vivekananda had philosophically described through the concepts of Akasha and Prana. Of course, modern physics and Vedantic philosophy are not identical systems, and scholars caution against oversimplifying the relationship between scientific theories and spiritual ideas. Nevertheless, the meeting between Tesla and Vivekananda remains one of history's most fascinating intellectual encounters because it represents a rare moment when Eastern philosophy and Western science directly engaged with one another at the highest level.
Tesla approached the mystery through invention and experimentation. Vivekananda approached it through consciousness and metaphysical insight. Einstein eventually revealed it through mathematical physics. Yet all three, in different ways, were searching for the same thing: a deeper understanding of the hidden unity underlying the universe.



THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman