CULTURE, CIVILIZATION AND HUMAN DESTINY : A PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE

ABSTRACT
of
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(Abstract)

Key Words : Culture, Civilization, Techniques, Values, Human Destiny, History, Modernity, Postmodernity, Liquid Modernity, Globalisation, Consumerism, Multiculturalism, Cultural Pluralism, Identity.

History has been a process of human self-creation dialectically related to creation of culture and building of civilization. Presently human species has reached a critical juncture of history and civilization where the peril of self-destruction has become an equally real possibility. To-day the dangers of self-annihilation as well as opportunities for transcending the present state of civilization, by breaking new cultural grounds through apprehension and realisation of more just and humane value-consciousness, are far greater than ever before.

The crossroads of promise and peril confronting humanity makes it necessary to look afresh at issues concerning human destiny with all the seriousness that they deserve. The problematic of human destiny has a necessary reference to the nature of culture and present level of human civilization. Culture is an important element of ontological structure of human consciousness as human
beings are both creators and creations of culture. The relationship of humans to the world is mediated through culture, and culture is embedded in universal features of human consciousness and species. Civilization in its broadest connotations is an objectification and systematisation of the cultural creations. The present state-of-affairs contains the dual seeds of promise and peril **because of and despite** the present state of civilization. This necessitates that any serious consideration of human destiny be taken up in conjunction with the concept of culture and civilization. Therefore the study takes up the issue of human destiny in conjunction with conceptual consideration of culture and present state of civilization.

The study analyses the cultural and civilizational factors that influence human destiny in general, and in the light of that analysis, it seeks to discuss the human destiny at present. Within this framework an effort is made to delineate the factors that result in decline and growth of cultures. The study is based upon analytical approach. It analyses the concepts and problems arising in the cultural, civilizational and historical contexts. Relationship between
various concepts and contexts is analysed in order to
delineate theoretical and conceptual basis of relation
between culture, civilization, tradition, human creativity,
finitude, transcendence, facticity, cultural growth and
decline, civilizational progress, techniques, values, human
destiny, environment, nature, consumerism, globalistion,
cultural pluralism, multiculturalism, etc. Various
characterisations of present state of affairs - e.g. modernity,
postmodernity, liquid modernity, etc. – are analysed in
order to comprehend the present cultural and civilizational
crisis, and on the basis of this discussion the study seeks
to indicate as to how the present crisis can be overcome.