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CHAPTER- I

"Concept of human being in Islam and Buddhism"

Islam means peace, submission, and obedience. It aims at welfare and well being, prospect in success in both the worlds -- Duniya and Akhirat - the temporal and permanent world for it followers. They (Followers) believe in one God (Allah), His angels, His books, His prophets with the faiths that the prophet - the seal of the prophet was graced with Holy Quran the last and final of all the sacred books.

Technically Islam is used to denote the system of beliefs and rituals based on the Quran and the Saying of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and blessing be Upon Him). Grammatically it is derived from the word "Aslama" which means he submitted. In the Holy Quran it denotes the characteristic attitude of the true believers in the religion of God. The word Islam is not based on the name of the founder of Islam but it is the characteristic and qualitative name based on the meaning of Islam. This word is mentioned at many places in Holy Quran. (Al-Imran.19); (Al-Imran. 85);
As far as the existence of mankind is concerned it is highly important in Islam. We are informed by the Holy Quran that all human beings were created from a single person Prophet Adam (Alaihissalam) and from Adam his mate was created and from the twain were created countless man and women (Al-Nisa-1), Prophet Adam(Alaiissalam) was created out of mud.

Says the Holy Quran.

"We created man from sounding clay from mud moulded into shape."(1)

According to Islam Allah is the Sole creator of human being without any support from any body else. As already mentioned, man was created out of mud and by the especial power of Allah, he before coming in his final state as human being has to pass through various stages and after certain period of time he is died and will be raised again on the Day of Judgement.

Says the Holy Quran

"Ye shall surely travels from stage to stage"(2)"
“Says the Holy Quran”

“Man we did create from a quintessence of clay, then we placed him as (a drop) of sperm in a place of rest firmly fixed then we made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood.

Then of that clot we made a (foetus) lump, then we made out that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh, then we developed out of it another creatures.

So blessed be Allah the best to create. After that at length ye will die. Again on the day of Judgement will ye be raised up."(3)

Moreover; man has been created in the best of moulds and his welfare in both the worlds depends on the right belief and right action.

Say the Holy Quran.

“we have indeed created man in the best of moulds, then do we abase him (to be) the lowest of the low.
Except such as believe and do righteous deeds, for they shall have a reward unfailing.”(4a)

Allah the Almighty not only has created human being in the base of mould but also has straightened and made him powerful enough.

Says the Holy Quran

“It is we who created them, and we have made their frame strong but when we will we shall exchange their likes.”(4b)

Human being is so important (in the eye’s of Allah) that all the universe including earth and sky - has been created for him.

Says the Holy Quran.

“And he has subjected to you as from him all that is in the heavens and on earth behold in that are signs indeed for those who reflect.”(5)

Allah has created life and death for human beings to test them.
Says the Holy Quran.

"He (Allah) who created death and life, that He may try which of you is best indeed."(6)

Human being has not been created in waste they will have to account of their deeds on the day of Judgement after resurrection (and resurrection is a reality,) as barren and lifeless, earth comes to life after rain fall.

Says the Holy Quran.

"mankind if ye have a doubt about resurrection (consider) that we created you out of dust, then out of sperm and out of leech like clot, then out of morsel of flesh, partly formed and Partly unformed in order that we may manifest (Our power) to you and we cause whom we will to rest in the wombs for an appointed firm, then do we bring you out as babes then (foster you)that ye may reach your age of full strength and some of you are called to die, and some are sent
back to the feeblest, old age, so that they know nothing after having known (much) and (further) thou seest the earth barren and lifeless but when we pour down rain on it, it is stirred (to life) it swells and it puts forth every kind of beautiful growth (in pairs). This is so because Allah is the reality it is He who gives life to the death and it is who has power over all things.”

According to Islam a man is born only once and his time of death best known only to Allah is fixed which can neither be pre-poned nor postponed.

Says the Holy Quran.

“And spend some thing (in charity) out of the substance which we have bestowed on you, before death, should come to any of you and he should say ”O my Lord” Why didst thou not give me respite for a little while? I should then have
given (Largely) in charity, and I should have been one of the doers of good.

But to no Soul will Allah grant respite when the time appointed (for it) has come,
and Allah is well acquainted with(all)
that you do.”(8)

Hence he should always do good deeds so that he maybe happy and gay in both the worlds.

According to Islam a man after death is not simply finished but get transferred from this temporal world to the next world called Here After. Islam gives very much importance to the life of Here After life so much so that the Holy Quran claims that the Here After life is the real life.

Says the Holy Quran.

“And if indeed thou ask them who it is that sends dawn rain from the sky
and gives life there with to the earth after its death they will
certainly reply “Allah” say praise
be to Allah but most of them understand not.”(9)
The temporariness of this world and the permanency of
Here After is again claimed by the Holy Quran, in the
following verses.

"know ye (all) that the life of
this world is but play and a pastime
adornment and mutual boasting and
multiplying (in rivalry) among
yourselves riches and children.
Here is similitude how rain and
the growth which it brings forth,
delight (the heart of) the tillers,
soon its withers Thou wilt see it
grow yellow, then it become dry
and crumbles away, but in the Here
After is a chastisement severe
(for the devotees of wrong) and
forgiveness from Allah and His
goods pleasure (for the devotees of Allah)
and what is the life of this world
but good and chattels of deception."(10)
"Be ye foremost (in seeking) forgiveness from your Lord and a garden (of Bliss) the width whereof is as the width of heaven and earth prepared for those who believe in Allah and His messengers, that is the grace of Allah which He bestows on whom He pleases and Allah is the Lord of Grace abounding." (11) 

The concept of the Here After life as given by Islam is very useful for the human beings in this world as well as in the next world. On account of this concept every individual who is well conversant about Here After knows very well that good deeds in this mundane world will lead him to the Paradise permanently but bad deeds will throw him into the Hell. Hence he will try to do good deeds and refrain himself from the evil deeds the result will be the maintenance of good world order.

The Here After life is very much scientific and is based on the third law of motion (Newton) i.e., Law of action reaction. If an individual obeys the Creator of the universe he
will be given his due return but if he disobeys he will be paid
in the same coin and because this temporary world is so small
even in comparison with the solar system that is and every
wishes of each and every body can not be fulfilled. The Lord
God (Allah) has created the life Here After otherwise
objection might have been raise that in this temporary world
even the cruel, the transgressor and the dis-obedient some
time pass a life of happiness and merriment and the honest,
the just and the right ones pass a life of misery and trouble,
Allah the creator of the universe has finished this objection
by means of Here After life, He will throw the Cruel and the
transgressor into the hell and the honest and the obedient
ones will have their abode in the Paradise in the Here After
life.

It is noteworthy that Islam informs the Barzakh life (life
of grave) a life between temporal world and the Here After.
The time period of this life (life of grave) is between death
and resurrection or between death and the Day Judgement. In
Barzakh he good ones get a little taste of their life of
Paradise and the evil doers will get some taste of their life of
Hell.
Says the Holy Quran.

"Allah will established in strength
those who believe with the world
that stands firm. in this world and
in the Here After but Allah will leave
to stray those who do wrong, Allah
doeth what he willeth."^{(12)}

many Islamic scholars claim that this verse is concern
with the grave life.

Moreover it is reported in the traditions of the Prophet
Mohammed (Peace and Blessing be Upon Him) that in the
grave every body Muslim or non- Muslim man or women is
asked three question's:-

1) ربا (Who is your Lord sustainer)
2) دينك (what is your religion)
3) رسولك (who is your Messenger)

or the countenance of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and-
Blessing be Upon Him)will be brought before the concerned
person in the grave and would be asked (Do you Know-
Him?)-i.e Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), The person will be
treated according to the right and wrong answers.

**B- BUDDHISM**

Before considering the concept of human beings in Buddhism one must know what Buddhism itself is? Though it is directly concerned with name of its founder the reality is (That) "Buddhism\(^{(13)}\) is the understanding of the teaching for which the technical word is *sasana* or *dhamma* of Gautam, the Buddha, and the religion and the philosophy which have grown around that teaching during the master's lifetime and during the succeeding centuries after his great passing away *mahaparinirvana*". The basic minimum which makes a man as Buddhist is the belief in three shelters (*Buddha, Dhamma, Shangha*) and acceptance of the four Right Truths (*Aryasat*) i.e., *Dukkha, Tanha, Nibbana, Magga*\(^{(14)}\)

Buddhism as a religion without the concept of God may be included in the category of mystic religion in as much as it strives for inner purity and intuitive realisation of the oneness of the universe.\(^{(15)}\) Buddhism is explained briefly in the well known and often quoted statement "whatever is born is subject to destruction. The fundamental teaching of
Buddhism is that every things is impermanent (anicca) substanceless (anatta) and full of suffering (Dukkha). These three fundamental points are called three marks or lakksanas of existence and are extended to the mark of shunya (void).

According to the Buddhism every thing is transient and changing but on account of their ignorance human beings think the things are permanent and eternal. origination, cessation, construction and destruction are never at rest. there is no being, there is only becoming. According to Buddhism the universe is in a state of constant flux the world is a wheel of becoming or bhavachaka which goes on and on. No body knows the beginning or the end of the world, Sansara, that which moves on.

In Buddhism the conception of soul, self, ego or I-ness is illusion born out of ignorance or avijja, what than a man is ? The Buddhism answers that a being is composed of state of mind and matter which are always in flux.

According to Buddhism a man is like Chariot; as a Chariot is nothing but the combination of yoke spoke frame
work etc. Without these parts there is no existence of Chariot, so also a man is combination of five states of mind and matter these five states of any being particularly human beings are following.

1) **Rupa**(Matter)

2) **Vedana** (Sensations of pleasure, pain and difference)

3) **samajna** (Cognition)

4) **Samskara** (Synthetic mental states) or Karma-formations

5) **Vijnana** (Consciousness) \(^{20}\)

**Buddhism and Conditioned genesis(existence)**

According to Buddhism, all things and beings \(^{21}\) are inter-dependent, relative and condition. Nothing is produced in this world without any cause or condition. In Buddhism, the law of conditioned genesis (theory of dependent, origination has the following twelve constituencies:-

1) **Avijja**(ignorance)

2) **Samkhara** (Karma foundations)
3) Vinnana (Consciousness)

4) Namarupa (Mental & Physical State)

5) Salayatana (Six mental & Physical faculties)

6) Phassa (contact)

7) Vedana (sensation)

8) Tanha (Thirst)

9) Upadana (Grasping)

10) Bhava (Becoming)

11) Jati (Birth)

12) Jaramarana (Death & Decay)

Thus conditioned by Avijja arises Samkhara and Conditioned by Samkhara arises Vinnana and conditioned by Vinnana arises Namarupa, (Mental and Physical State) and conditioned by Namarupa arises Salayatana, (Six mental & Physical facilities) and conditioned by Salayatana arises Phasa, (Contact) and conditioned by Salayatana arises Phasa, (contact) and Conditioned by Phasa arises Vedana (Sensation) and conditioned Vedana arises Tanha (thirst) and conditioned by Tanha arises Upadana (Grasping)
and Conditioned Upadana arises Bhava (process of becoming) and conditioned Bhava arises Jata, (birth) and conditioned by Jati arises Jaramarana (Decay & Death)

If the order of this conditioned genesis is reversed then cycle of birth and death will come to end. however in general the conditioned of process goes on still a man enters Nirvana and liberated. In Buddhism, there is no concept of the first cause(God, etc.) Each and every existence is to be viewed as the conditioned process.

**Human being & Karma (Action)**

Though Buddhism, believes in the doctrine of Karma. Yet if does not believe that the results of some body’s actions can be wiped out through grace or prayer or by some omnipotent and omniscient deity etc except by following, the Buddhistic Eight Fold path. Buddhism, believes that -Karma is the law itself and that bad (akushala) actions will bring degenerating effects, and the aushala or good action (will bring) good results. Every volitional actions produces its impressions and these impressions determine our direction of life, The totality of impressions of actions,
accumulated during the entire span of some body’s life is transmitted as his karma to his next birth.

The essence of the very first verse of Dammapadha is that a man is the sum - total of what he thought (or mentally acted) in the past. The difference that we find in the character of different individuals- some are cruel, some are compassionate, etc- are due the past Karma they have accumulated. Buddhism aims at purification of mind by performing good deeds and good thought of charity, love, generosity, kindness and compassion. It is general experience that the effect of a good action is satisfaction peace and happiness and the result of an bad deed is dissatisfaction insecurity.

**Buddhism & Rebirth**

Buddhism believes in the rebirth of man till he is fully liberated is has realised Nirvana. However it does not believe in any permanent ATMAN (Soul) which takes rebirth or finally enters into Nirvana.

Buddhism does not believed any kind of transmigration of an identical entity. There is nothing which comes out of
one body at death and enters into another at rebirth. Life is a continuum a process of becoming. The graving or Tanha gives rise to clinging or update and that to existence or bhava and that to rebirth or Jati. The life forces or the five kandans do not die but continue to take some other shape or form in the new life. The five Khandas or Physical or mental process have themselves the power to take a new form.\(^{(24)}\)

After Buddha death Buddhist schools conceived the idea of Santati or Santana, i.e., Continuity of the life forces. There is continuity but nothing remains the same foreven two consecutive moments. Therefore there is nothing permanent or unchanging and no immortal Soul\(^{(25)}\) (atam). Which undergoes transmigration. It is a series that continues with transmigration. without any break and changing in every moment. The well known example of a lame of fire clarifies the rebirth theory, which burns all through the night. It can be called neither the same nor different. According to Buddhism as long as there is a craving to live, to becoming human being takes a new form at birth in a continuous
process, and the Samsara or the cycle of continuity goes on. The driving process of life continue in the cycle of death and birth and come to a stop only when some body attain the highest bliss\textsuperscript{(2h)} (Nirvana). Then one can say as is often found quoted in the Buddhist texts.

According to Buddhism reincarnation is the reality. Death does not end personal existence. And nothing has ever been created, so nothing can be destroyed. Rebirth is immediate upon death. The physical form of the body merely the shell of more essential existence. This existence continues whether in one form or another. The individual through the process of trained contemplation and meditation made be able to recall at least the rough lineaments of a former existence, but whether or not this is so, life, ever obedient to the Karmic principle, persists through death.\textsuperscript{(27)}

**Human Being and mental Culture**

In Buddhism mental culture as very much important\textsuperscript{(28)} mental power is considered with out limit. As it is generally well known that a rightly guided might is better then even the best friend and a confused or misdirected my is worse then
enemy. Buddhism tries to set the mind in the right direction by means of meditation because mental thought leads to intention and choice and all these three a highly important in development of human personality. A right mind can make the human existence (full of happiness and merriment) while the wrong one can mark it. The ago statement about mental important in human life it also supported by the following shalok (poem of Dhammapada)

“A misdirectly mind can engulf a man
in the worst misery which even an enemy
can not and the right mental attitude can
do more good than even ones parents.”

(Dhammapad. 42-43)

Internal purification or chitta - vishuddhi is more important than outward rituals. A dip in the Ganga with a defiled mind will not bring salvation. Right mental attitude - cultivation of feelings of compassion or Karma friendliness or maitri, becoming happy in the happiness of other mudita-can alone bring peace and happiness to all.
Status of human existence in Buddhism

Human existence is so much important in Buddhism. That Nirvana is not possible in any other existence \(^{(29)}\) birds, beats, angels and every other existence created by natural forces as claimed by Buddhism. It is human existence alone which is appropriate for the attainment of Nirvana, hence; it is high important in Buddhism. Although man means the one who is born to suffer and die \(^{(30)}\) alone yet man’s nature is like a dense tickets that has no in internee and is difficult to penetrate. In comparison of an animal is much easier to understand \(^{(31)}\). Because Buddha aims at cessation of Dukkha and Tanha to attain Nirvana, hence does not recognise cast, colour, language and regional differences. Buddhism aims at rising the Quality of life with out considering outwards. Any one who so ever enters Buddhism gets his due place.

Existence and status of Human being

According to Islam all man & women are children of Adam \(^{(32)}\) and Eve (Hawwa) and Adam was created out of mud \(^{(33)}\), hence all human being have been created from mud hence all are equal. The clans and tribes, simple means a
matter of recognition amount different group and the people, the so called cast, creed, colour, language differences etc. have no importance in Islam there is no place for regionalism, for example a component of Prophet Mohammed (Peace and Blessing be Upon Him) name Suhaib was from Rome and Salman was from Iran (Persia) and Bilal from Abisinia and many others from other different countries including slaves were the companions of the Prophet like Ammar, Yasser, etc. They had higher importance than many Qurishi leaders of the time. Even the ladies achieved high educational and social Status under Islam like Aisha. (RA) Fatma (RA) Ummikalsum (RA), Ummisalma(RA) and Saiyeda Khadija(RA).

Though Human existence itself is very much important in Islam because God has created it in the best of mould yet the important of Human being lies in the qualities and characteristic, God himself like “Muttaqin” (The lover and the doer of pious work).

Let us see the Islamic scriptures:

“We have indeed created man in the best of moulds.”(31)
The most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is the most Righteous of you."(32)
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