Chapter Six

Conclusion

Soul is the most essential element of life in a living being. Most common and comprehensive but mysterious to the “life” in being. Philosophers call it soul. Most probably, only man evinces curiosity regarding the mysteries of life and death and it is the excellence of man. The ancient philosophers, theologians and prophets of different religions who were curious of the mysteries of the world, observed natural events in the living beings, contemplated deep on their nature, causes and sources and ultimately they made persistent experiments on soul’s capabilities and abilities and thereby discovered many mysterious secrets about soul.

In the Greek concept of soul it is found that soul is a spiritual permanent entity. The epic poet Homer thinks that soul is identified with the last breath. Regarding soul the Homeric view(s) can be assimilated together with that of orphic religion established by Orphants.

Aristotle has scientifically bridged up the platonic gulf between body and soul, between Ideal and the real. In his hands, body and soul are taken in terms of hand and glove relationship. Aristotle regards that soul is no more a separate element, but a logical entity. It moves the body as its actuality. It is the animating principle that vitalizes the function of the body's potential capacities. In other words, soul and body constitute a single substance, the former is the cause and origin of the later. Plotinus, Philo and
Proclus were the leading Neoplatonic philosophers who combined the doctrine of ‘World-soul' of stoics with platonic duality and Aristotelian anima as an interacting threefold entity. In order to establish a relation between the Absolute God and the World, philo locates an intermediary in Logos the divine ‘Reason' in men. The ‘Logos' is otherwise known as ‘the first born son of God and the image of God.

It goes to prove that platonism and Neo platonism emphasized the duality between body and soul as well as stressed the need for soul's purification. But ‘Proclus' Chain of Eros made the process of longing mutual rather than one-sided endeavour. To this, the Christian concept of ‘God as Agape' (love) added a new dimension. The “Holy Bible” declares that ‘God is love,' and sent.

Christ, His only begotten son to love the world and redeem mankind.

It is evident that the philosophy of Hinduism means a guide to the right path of life. Rig veda declares, “Truth is one : sages call it by different name” Further, the upanishads hold; “that all the paths lead to the same goal just as cows of variegated colours give the same white milk”. The soul of man is the pivot on which the philosophy of the Upanishads revolves.

The Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Christianity show that there is a corollary to the law of Karma. Each and every jiva obtained his body according to his Karma. We reap as we sow. They maintain the doctrine of
Karma. The great message was to mankind that birth and caste are of no consequence and that Karma is all in all.

The concept of rebirth is found in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Christianity. But the Hinajana sect of Buddhism has no concept of soul. They certainly believe in the doctrine of Karma.

Buddha observes that the whole human life is full of sorrows and sufferings. All those pains and sufferings caused by the jivas themselves in their past lives.

Ahimsa (non-injury) is the most prominent moral view in Jainism as it is not found in any other religion. Jainism observes that all particles of matter are living by souls. So, they are very precautious against the destruction of any life in earth, air and water. They regard all the creatures equally.

It is obvious that the modern Indian philosophy is entirely traditional. It reinterpretes the classical Indian thought in a new form and reveals to us the essential truths of the past with a new orientation. All the philosophers of this period are highly influenced by the teaching of Upanishadic philosophy and the Bagavadgita. It is observed that they interprete these only in a novel way. All the thinkers of this period believe in rebirth and emphasized on Karma.

Islam and Christianity believe in common monotheism, the doctrine of heaven and Hell, the day of judgement and the transcendence of God.
Both the 'Holy Qur'an' and the 'Holy Bible' proclaim that Adam was formed out of dust and breathed into his nostril the soul of God.

The Christians established the doctrine of trinity. Christianity holds that God is certainly love, and out there to receive and redeem the sinners of the sin. Islam and Christianity obviously believe in the immortality of soul. Islam holds that Allah will raise all the souls from their graves and the souls will be appeared before God on the day of judgement and then Allah will tell all the souls of their deeds. It is evident that not a single soul will be oppressed in the least, and they will be rewarded only for their past deeds.

Islam declares that in the day of Hereafter when the good actions of men out weight the bad actions, then he will achieve grand success. All the souls will be gathered in the dooms day to account about their activities performed in their worldly life. Islam holds that human's life will be eternal and infinite in the world of hereafter. Nobody will die even after a capital punishment. There will be 'Fire' of Hell for impious souls.

An evident idea is given by Qur'anic verse that in the next life the disbelievers will become the fuel of Hell-fire. Every man will have to face Hell. And as the man believing or unbelieving, will have to suffer from death pain more or less, of course, the impious soul will be the inhabitant of the Hell.

It is noteworthy that believing souls will pass over the Hell and enter the paradise. Islam holds that the paradise is promised for righteous soul
which is prepared by Almighty Allah. A similar type of approach is also
evident from the "Holy Bible" in which emphasis is laid on the Day of Judgement.

A comparative study of the concept of soul in Islam and Christianity
reveals the fundamental facts that human being cannot/shouldn’t under-
mine the vital essence of their being (soul) which conditions their moral
and spiritual self to a great extent. At a time when materialistic outlook has
overpowered the whole world the awareness of the manysided nuances
of soul in two important religions/philosophies of the world has a powerful
role to play in securing amity, fraternity, unity, world peace and a broad
and universal view of humanity at large.

It may be opined that spiritual knowledge is the best knowledge among all
knowledge and soul’s knowledge is the best knowledge among spiritual
knowledge.

So this knowledge should be well acquainted with the students. Hence
such pure, ethical, religious and knowledgeable topic should be introduced
in the course of educational institutions.

1. Now-a-days, when the civilization and people have become
increasingly materialistic, mechanical and body oriented, it is necessary
to go in guest of the soul and then it will make the people aware of the
essential principle of human nature with emphasis on soul’s philosophical
spiritual, moral and other implications.
2. Some seminar, symposium and religious meeting can be organised from time to time to make the people and society feel that out of body, all souls are originated from one source (Almighty) and this awareness and realization will certainly mitigate the dangerous passion for casteism, communalism, racialism, religious fundamentalism and sectarian violence, thereby contributing immensely to peace, prosperity, amity and harmony in a chaotic social condition of the present time.

3. Now-a-days students are spiritually and ethically laged behind, mental degradation is occured. So special courses on soul can be provided in educational institutions from primary level to university to broaden their mental horizon and vision which would facilitate mutual tolerance, good will and fellow feeling among different religions thereby augmenting the process of National Integration.

4. From dawn of history, Men have been suffering from social, ethical and religious degradation on violence due to the lack of spiritual learning or soul's knowledge. So soul's knowledge should be spread from man to man to be brotherly each other under the sun.