

Article

Karma: The Unknown Factor in Life

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Abstract

This paper illustrates and discusses conscious parts of a body, relation between karma and soul, karma and inheritance, karma and passion, karma and curse, law of karma, spiritual code of a soul, genius children, great souls, purpose of spirituality being purification of karma and finally, the need for scientific analysis. These topics are presented with known facts available in the literature.

Keywords: God, soul, karma, law of karma, curse, attributes, code, great soul, spirituality.

1. Introduction

The study of conscious parts of body-mind, intelligence, false ego, soul, super soul and karma are complex and it has been a topic of hot discussion and research interest in the field of modern science and human civilization for many centuries. The great saints, yogis and philosophers have spent their time and energy, developing theories by studying religious texts such as Vedas, Puranas and Bhagavad Gita¹ etc in understanding the intricate process of Body, Mind and Soul; birth and death cycle in terms of devotional and spiritual activities. As per Vedic literature, life comes from the life^{1, 2} which is based on karma. The karma determines future birth. Karma is an executed deed or the consequences of Kriya. A Kriya is an activity to which karma is the result of it. A good action creates good karma as does good intent whereas a bad karma does the harm, so does bad intent.

The results of these activities depend on the five Panchbhutas (air, sky, fire, water and earth); five Gnanendriyas (five sense organs: ears – hearing, skin - touch, eye -vision, tongue - taste , nose - smell); five Karmendriyas (represent the physical organs of action: mouth - speech, hands – grasping, legs- walking, reproductive organs - procreation, Anus- elimination); body, mind, intelligence, false ego and soul. The consequences of these activities which are performed knowingly or unknowingly are termed as Karmas play important role in our life.

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Depending on the degree of merits and demerits of the karma, one may go to higher or lower levels either in this birth or next births. Birth of extraordinary children in our society may be the result of transfer of pure souls from previous birth. Karmas may lead to curse also. When things are beyond our control, we humans approach God to control the situation through prayers and devotional services. Spiritual activities act like a medicine to purify karmas. Hence, the karma which is an unknown factor plays a major role for success and failure in our life, needs scientific analysis.

2. Karma, Soul & Attributes

The five cosmic principles - Panchbhutas also known as Panachatatava, are created by the supreme Lord for survival of eighty four lakhs living entities on this earth planet. All these living species are part of the supreme Lord¹. These organisms do work and perform activities for own existence, hence no living entity is idle. They do some or other activities every second for their survival with comfortable stay. The activities are dependent on climatic, environmental conditions and other inhabited places. Humans are God gifted thinking animals. The activities of these humans depend on Panchbuthas, Karmendiryas, Gananedriyas, mind, intelligence, and false ego¹. The karma which is the results of kriyas (activity) is an unknown factor in life, solely depend on the above elements. These elements make the living entity to perform activity in every moment of life which leads to a karma.

The living entities become conditioned when they will come in contact with the material nature. Material nature consists of three attributes -modes (gunas) i) mode of goodness (Satwa guna), ii) mode of passion (Rajogun) and iii) mode of ignorance (Tamoguna) and similarly eatables are also three types- eatables in goodness, passion and ignorance.

These attributes affect every aspect of person's life and every one possess a mixture of three gunas. The Satwa guna is a quality of goodness, virtuous and purity. The quality of Rajoguna is sensual enjoyment and pleasure, the last one Tamoguna quality of darkness and ignorance. The karmas may be of spiritual or materialistic type - righteous or evil, moral or immoral, self or selfless services.

The soul is a subtle and conscious entity. It is bound in a physical body and it perceives the world through the sense organs. It can neither be created nor destroyed, but it is transformed from one body to other. The way we change clothes every day, the soul will also change its body after each death¹. As long as soul is present, the body has life, once the soul departs, the body is

said to be dead and get decomposed and it is either buried or burnt as per the traditional customs. The body dies and but soul will never die. In other words, a body is a home whereas soul is a land. On the same land new houses are built. Hence the soul takes a new form of any species depending on your past life karma and whatever he/ she remembers at the time of quitting body it will be attained¹.

The soul carries good and bad karma, based on activities of previous but it discards all material possessions. It continues to have same features after taking new birth, but they get modified slowly depending on the planetary system at the time of birth, hereditary, climatic conditions and environment of society in which he is residing. The karma of previous birth prevails and tries to influence the daily activities. They may upgrade or degrade you, depending upon your mind which drags and puzzles you for passion towards a particular field of your interest.

3. Conscious Parts

A child says, *“O Lord, I never saw you and never met you. But what is the relation, if there is any sorrow, you are remembered.”* This shows there is strong correlation between the child and Lord.

The body possess - mind, intelligence, false ego (energy content and subtle bodies) and soul is a consciousness. The Super soul (Parmatama) is present in all living entities. The five senses of a body experience feel as well as bear the pain, whereas the mind analyses it and takes decisions depending on the timely action and environmental circumstances of the place whether they are appropriate or not. The mind and soul have two way communication network. The soul always guides and gives the right judgments, but the disorderly mind sometimes takes independent decisions irrespective of the warning from the soul which may lead to the wrong karma for which the body has to bear and face the pain either in this birth or successive births.

The body continuously works from the time of birth to death. Thus karma goes on accumulated in each second, till the soul disappears from the body at the time of death. Once self-realization is achieved by a spiritual master or yogi, he can feel pain or pleasure of others through Paramatama’s consciousness - Super soul. Thus, we can say that *“[t]he body is given by the parents whereas the soul is given by the supreme Lord”*. Hence, the child is a baby of supreme Lord, so he always remembers Him.

5. Karma & Inheritance

The hidden talents and skills of child are known as Prarabdtha Karma coming from previous birth and may be inherited, reveal themselves as a passion if they are identified during the early stages. Their continuous efforts in honing their skills will enable them to become professionals. Some may have hobbies and some may have passions. When any hobby is continuously practiced it eventually converts into a passion which in turn leads to professionalism. The talents and skills in the human body characterize a person.

6. Karma & Curse

The activities which you do now, may have the impact either in this birth or successive births. Some renowned examples are interpreted here to show the correlation between karma and curse:

- i) As per Indian literature, Sharavan Kumar takes his old blind parents on Kavadi (carrying two people) to show pilgrimage places for blessings as well as pardon for their erroneous kriyas done if any, in their life. When King Dashrath (father of Sir Lord Rama) unknowingly shot Shraavan kumar, by his arrow, thinking that an animal was drinking the water in a river. When the King took the water in a pot to his thirsty old parents, they were traumatized by knowing their son's death in the lake. They cursed the King saying "the way we are suffering now, you will also be suffered by your sons". This bad karma which the King had shot him, had reflected as a curse to him, when Lord Rama went to vanvas (exile) for fourteen years, along with his wife Sita and brother Laxman. After few years the King also passed away.
- ii) The tragedies such as loss of children and spouses at early stages, thefts, failures and unkindness and lazy, mentally retarded people and beggars are the consequence of bad karmas in the last births results as curse in the present or future births.
- iii) Arjuna, the great warrior in Mahabarath war, was highly depressed when his son Abhimanyu was killed by opponents. He could not digest the demise of his son and requested the Lord to call the soul. To satisfy Arjuna, Lord called the soul and demonstrated the truth that Abhimanyu's life span was only up to that moment in the war.
- iv) The beggars living in the pilgrimage centers are elevated souls, due to their previous karma and only few are residing in the vicinity of the Lord. Therefore, devotees as per customs - parampara, knowingly or unknowingly donate money or items to poor people in religious places and needy students in the schools.

The wise and spiritual people understand its process as well as accept the facts and lead their life as per the traditions and instructions of God.

7. Karma & Passion

The karmas would force you to identify the inner signals for which resonance occurs between your inner soul and external activities. Such actions will compel you to perform or participate again and again, that will lead to your passion in a particular field.

The emphasis here is the significance of Passion. Passion determines your likes and dislikes and your inclination towards a particular field. In this process you eventually explore your talents. The passion on one particular field need not be generated in present life time, but it could be from ancestors or you might have been greatly involved in the previous birth and death cycles.

Some have passion of singing, dancing, acting and sports or academic etc. Thinking is also type of passion. This thought made author to analyze his own passion of thinking. Over the years, this hobby has made him passionate about Physics as “Thinking is my passion, the passion is for Physics, the Physics is philosophy.” The ideas of thinkers are useful for the science and society.

8. Law of Karma

The karma of past and present life and your passion can lead to success. The sinful karmas which performed knowingly and unknowingly may have adverse effects or failures in next birth or after many births. In result, they may go to lower levels and may be born as any species other than humans. The birth and death cycle process continues on this planet in any form till they accumulate pious karma by the mercy of supreme Lord, which may be prerequisite for human birth again.

Sometimes they can be nullified and mitigated by self-realization and performing your duties sincerely with social, devotional and spiritual activities by surrendering to Lord. The karmas get accumulated in each birth. In fact it is an intricate process though they are systematically arranged in spiritual plane. In case a conducive environment exists they get activated by the soul at any time in the future, not necessarily in the successive births.

The person who had good karmas in previous life times and again does some good karmas in the present, he may take birth in pious families, whereas in the converse who had bad karma and if he will continue to perform adverse activities, he may take birth in the same environment or worsen system. The huge bundle of bad karmas will lead him to failure in life. Some people who do all good activities and involves in the spiritual activities, still they will have miserable life,

because they might have had wicked or unpleasant karmas in the past births. These concepts will establish success (happiness) and failures (unhappiness) of people during their life.

The birth and death circle will continue on this earth in any form till the karmic accounts are completed. The entanglement in Karma is known as Karma bandhan. The merits or demerits of karma and its karmic accounts are carried over to the next birth. It is termed as Law of karma⁵. If one is not self- realized then he is bound by law of karma, then one says the soul is subconscious and other hand, once he is self- realized then he is not bound law of karma. Then the soul is said to be super conscious. Only Saints and Yogis can have the super conscious souls.

9. Spiritual Code of a Soul

“The body is given by mother whereas the soul is given by the supreme Lord.” The name given to you by your parents is for your body in present life. It is absolutely a momentary name. You are well known by this name in this world. Once the soul disappears, the person is said to be dead. Then suddenly he/ she is never called by that given name rather we call it by dead body. Only the Supreme Lord recognizes all souls by spiritual codes or names, and gives rebirth in any form according to his previous karma. They may take birth in higher or lower planets or may be in the same planet or may be sent to Yamaloka for punishment. The Yamaraj, Lord of Yamloka decides the degree of punishment as per the report of his secretary Chitra Gupta. The souls are distinctly identified by Supreme Lord. The body has materialistic name whereas the soul has spiritual code.

10. Genius Children

The following illustrations show the talents of children. We say they are genius by birth. It means the exhibiting activities are not learned in present birth, they are past karmas which are carried over through the soul to new birth. The video clips are collected from Youtube for examining the karma and its influences in present life.

The Fig.1.(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bghBawtUOw>)⁶ shows a child is climbing a pillar like a spider or monkey or a lizard etc.



The Fig.2 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0-6j9VwGok>)⁷ represents genius Master Sivateja, 2 years 4 months boy recognizes and remembers the names of all Indian classical ragas, while his mother recites ragas.



The Fig .3 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpqOl3J2Scs>)⁸ shows a five year-old Indian boy Master Kautilya Pandit has been given the title 'Google boy' by the local media for his incredible ability to remember facts. When his friends are learning basics in reading and writing, Master Kautilya Pandit answers complicated question about world geography, per capita income, gross domestic product and global politics.



The Fig.4 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBW4S9xcTOk>)⁹ shows a genius Master Jacob Barnett, 12 years old, who explains Quantum theory and theory of relativity etc. in mathematical form, which great scientists Schrödinger, Einstein etc. formulated after many of years research work.



These figures and the corresponding video clips of Youtube links indicate the manifestation of their karmas of previous birth which are transformed to next births.

11. Great Souls

There are many icons such as great sage Valmiki, originally Ratanakar, fierce dacoit who used to kill people and rob money and jewelries from them. Once another great sage Narada Muni met Ratanakar and advised him to serve Lord Sri Ram. He was passionate and became staunch devotee of Lord Sri Rama and finally he became as Adikavi (first poet) of Sanskrit language and author of great Indian epic Ramayan. The robber Angulimala was also turned into a kindhearted person by Lord Buddha.

There are many great people in world history such as Abraham Lincon, American President; Mahatama Gandhi, Father of Nation, India; Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, President of India; Dr. B R Ambedakar, father of Indian constitution; and Ramakrishan Paramhansa, yogi; Swamy Vivekananda, great Monk, India; Carl Friedrich Gauss, German mathematician and Physicist; A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swamy, founder of ISKCON etc. They are emphasized here as they belong to the category of great souls. Though they were born and brought up in different social and economic conditions in their life period, but their pious karmas of previous births and their passion in their art and capabilities in the present birth led their destiny to be great legends of the world.

The thoughts of Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton had great ideas in their time. But the fact is that passionate and tenacious thinkers - such great souls, based on previous life time karma tend to change the world for the better.

We humans are God gifted thinking animals. All living people cannot become professionals. Only few who possess passion (shardha) in the work, trust(viswas) in results, devotion (bakthi) and mercy (kripa) of God would certainly achieve their desired results, if not in this birth, surely the humanity as well as spiritual services go on accumulated as positive karma which might help them to be born as great souls in the next births as per the Law of karma . The present critical thinking analysis of your vision based on deep meditation in search of absolute knowledge may trigger with previous birth activities and resonant, which make you successful in your respective fields.

12. Spirituality: Medicine to Purify Karma

As per Vedas one has to undergo four stages brahmachari, Grhastha (house holder), Vanaprasatha and finally Sanayasi. Some may develop the self-realization of life from Brahmachari period, those being born with pious karmas and brought up in spiritual and devotional families or organizations.

Here few episodes are illustrated to describe how spirituality acts as medicine to purify karma:

- i) By and large all the people during the Vanprasatha (after above 50 years life) realize the importance of materialistic and spiritualistic aspects. They slowly tend towards the spirituality by attending discourses, preaching the vedic knowledge for self-realization, doing devotional services and visiting pilgrimage centers etc. The devotees in all religions do fasting on auspicious such as Ekadashis (for supreme Lord) and other auspicious days; and doing services in the name as well as for satisfying the God, will certainly accumulate merits and nullify the bad karmas of the past and present births. Some who are stanch devotees may become Sanyasi to know the transcendental knowledge and absolute truth of life.
- ii) As we know most of the old age people, couples or survivors (wife or husbands) would spend their last period of their life in sanctity or spiritual old age homes or centers, doing the devotional services in satisfying the God by reciting and hearing the glories of supreme Lord.

- iii) The Shraavan kumar (mentioned in section 6), taking his old blind parents to pilgrimage places is the accumulation of good karmas for his credit. And in other hand, in order to realize the splendors of the Lord spread out at different places are good karmas and they are prerequisite for next spiritual birth for himself as well as his parents.
- iv) André-Marie Ampère, famous French Physicist and Mathematician, on the day of his wife's death he wrote two verses, "*O Lord, God of Mercy, unite me in Heaven with those whom you have permitted me to love on earth.*" He was completely upset and her death made him very unhappy even though he had many discoveries and awards with him. He finally took asylum in the Church in reading Bible.
- v) Many healing payers and hymns in the religious texts will cure the patients. When patients are not cured and if they are in critical conditions, the medical doctors, say "Only prayers or devotional services will save patients." Then his friends and relative will rush to the spirituals services. These situations can be averted if one adopts spiritual path from the beginning.
- vi) One who knows his problems are complex and cannot be solved by anyone, he remembers the name of God and surrender to Him.

One who realizes materialistic bodies and gains are temporary, and they cannot be carried to next life, he will tend towards spirituality by surrendering to the supreme Lord for permanent places in heavenly planets. The medical doctors will provide medicines and cure the patients of existing people whereas spiritual masters and sages will provide prayers and devotional services as medicines which not only help patients of this birth but useful in the successive births to be in healthy and wealthy with spiritual knowledge. Thus spirituality acts as a medicine for present and future life. These virtuous karmas will uplift them in the next births as per the law of karma.

All great souls such as philosophers, scientists and poets etc., partially or fully are God fears. No person can quit the body without taking the name of Lord, at least once in life as He is the supreme father of all living entities. One who thinks and takes the name of supreme Lord at the time of quitting the body, he will certainly reach spiritual planets¹.

13. Need for Scientific Analysis

An astrologer or a yogi with his power of knowledge and mediation can study one's bad or good karmas of past and present life. One can make detailed study on the passage of karmas through souls of past and present life time similar to genetic studies. Some people believe that behavioral activities of a person may be based on hereditary and climatic conditions and there could be possibility of relations between Soul and DNA or any other parameter which needs detail analysis. As per the genetics we know DNA (Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid) in simple terms Gene are the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms. DNA is a molecule that carries the genetic and biological information in all cellular forms of life. It is a storing device which has the ability to store and transmit information and physical properties of a body. Similarly another parameter the Carbon Dating by which one can estimate the age of a body or material.

In fact it is a complicated process to analyze and understand the process of birth and death cycle. As per Gita¹, only supreme Lord remembers the souls of past and present life times of all living entities. One may be successful partially in understanding its process with sophisticated technology and available literature in different parts of world. We know the medical field so advanced and highly successful in curing various human diseases and transplantations etc. However we scientists have limited knowledge that we can neither transform an old man into a child, nor a dead body can be made alive.

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