

## Exploration

# Identity & Attributes of Humans in the Material World: The Goal of Human Life

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### Abstract

Since times of immemorial the birth of a human being has become a great riddle. Out of eighty-four lakhs types of creatures created by the God, the greatest gift, gifted to mankind is the intellect which makes a human distinct from other creatures. To establish a connect between human and materialistic tendency is the need of the hour. Human attributes are highly complex to be interpreted by the philosophers and scientists. Humans are trapped in the material world for self-gains and sense gratification. The precious birth of human form, their characteristics, the declining of humanity and the goal of life are systematically analyzed and presented in this paper.

**Keywords:** Living entities, body, soul, super soul, attributes, decay, goal of life.

## 1. Introduction

Material science is an experimental science whereas spiritual science is experiential science or self-realization science. The Vedic scriptures are eternal and they describe galaxies, universes, planetary systems, living entities, and human values. The corresponding cosmic elements are created according to the environment of planet for the survival of living species. As per Vedic scriptures, there are 84 lakhs living species in the universe<sup>1</sup>. They are identified with certain characteristics, which are well described in the literature. They are continuously taking the birth and death cycle as per the law of karma and free will. The law of nature says any living entity, once taken birth in the materialistic world, has to undergo birth and cycle.

All scriptures connote the human form is the best platform from which one can easily fly to higher planets as humans possess the highest consciousness and the most intelligence. This human form is obtained due to the many pious activities and the victory over many evil and cruel activities during the previous births. Millions and billions of living entities are competing and aiming to take human birth. We, humans, are the only victorious. All living entities aim to avoid the birth and death cycles and reside in the vicinity of God eternally. They can be achieved by

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proper dedication and devotional services. Those who realize this aspect will be highly successful and may escape from this miserable material world (dukhalayam).

The human body is a field of activity that possesses all necessary twenty-eight attributes, like working senses, knowledge acquiring senses, mind and intelligence, false ego, soul and super soul, etc.<sup>1</sup> The senses are the most powerful enemies, they always look for sense gratification. They are permanent tenants in the body and they never get satisfied, and finally decay and create the environment in such a way to evacuate the soul from the body, without going to higher planets. The selfish nature, self-satisfaction, ignorance of the purpose of life, and negligence of spiritual activities are causing more harm to humanity which is continually decreasing from Sataya yuga to Kaliyuga. The metaphysical analysis of space, time, and energy coordinates of living species, the field of activity, the complexity of their attributes, representative, knower of the human body, and decline of humanity are studied systematically and presented in this paper,

## 2. Metaphysical Analysis

The metaphysics is the subject which deals about science and society, and interrelation between the science and society. It deals about objects beyond the physical objects and describes abstract qualities of existence of universal objects and their nature, what sort of things exist, cause and changes undergo in the system. It analyses about self, self-awareness and self- reflection, and deep thinking of materialism and spiritualism; existence and non-existence .<sup>1,5,6</sup>

### a) Living Entities

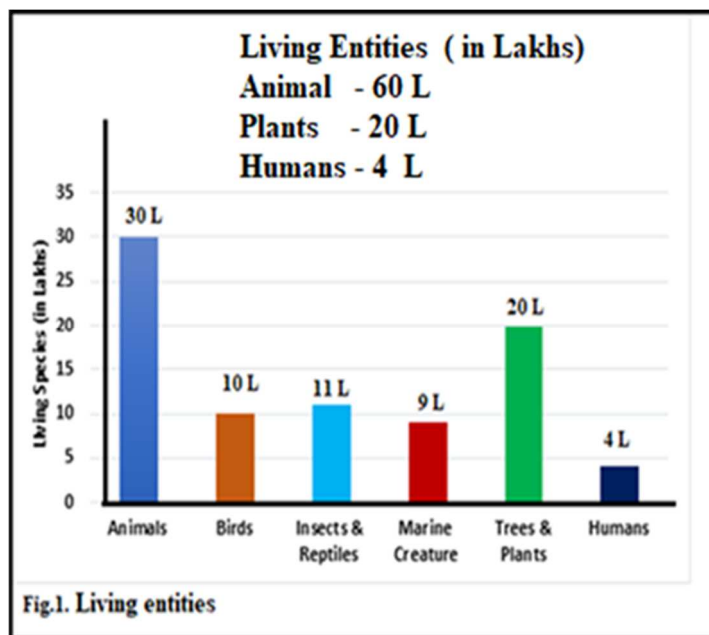
As described in the Vishnu purana and Padma purana, the living entities are identified as:

*jalaja nava-laksani sthavara laksa-vimsati krmayo rudra-sankhyakah |  
paksinam dasa-laksanam trimsal-laksan i pasavah catur-laksani manusah ||*

It says there is a total of 84 lakhs species spread into 30 Lakhs quadrupedal animals, 10 Lakhs birds, 11 Lakhs insects, and reptiles, 9 Lakhs marine creatures, 20 Lakhs trees, and plants, and 4 Lakhs human species (Fig.1). Some of the species may exist on one planet and may not be on another. As in Vedic literature, living species do exist on other planets according to their atmosphere conditions. This is also confirmed in Bhagavad-gītā (2.20). This is a vital research topic for exploration by philosophers, astrophysicists, and space scientists. The developed countries are spending enormous research grants for the exploration of living species on other planets.

The total animal kingdom species population of 60 lakhs is more prominent than that of the human species. The 80 Lakhs of other species are struggling and undergoing birth and death cycle, as per their law of Karma, and in regular competition among themselves to take birth as

the human form. The spiritual science is so beautifully and accurately designed in such a way that the living entities are created elegantly and scientifically that their bandwidth of memory power is very short so that they can only remember the incidents of the present birth and no information about the previous births and future births. Otherwise, things would have been difficult in the material world. The highly intelligent humans would have been in, a more chaotic situation knowing the history of previous births.



### b) Enormous Competition: Fortunate

As per Vedic scriptures, among many living entities, the human form is very rare to obtain. Getting human form means we must have overcome many hitches and adventures in previous births. We had completed the mission for our vision to take birth as a human form. It is the accumulation of many positive deeds as per the law of karma. There are many millions and billions of souls of living entities (humans, animals, birds, and plants) competing with us to take birth to the human form. But we are victorious to take birth as a boy or girl, maybe in scholars family or rich or poor families at any place in the world as per our deeds and prayers in the previous births which are fulfilled to the Lord.

Thus, in this contest, we are highly fortunate that we are born as humans after undergoing 84 million births or may be more or less came across through many hatreds or jealousy or many pious living entities. Thus, once such a great opportunity of the human form is obtained. One must utilize the God gifted form to raise further to higher levels of heavenly planets by fulfilling the purpose of our life and the assignment given to us, i.e. good deeds, otherwise we are the

fooler than the fooliest people in the world. We may fall back in the animal or plant kingdom as per deeds one performs in this birth. Again, it would take millions of births to get this human.

### **c) Contributions of Ancestors**

This is one of the reasons, why our ancestors, kings, and authorities constructed pilgrimage centers and temples throughout India and the world, because the successive generations, would pave the way to visit temples and get the blessings from Gods, Goddesses, rishis and saints, and scholars. During this process, the owners who constructed religious places obtains three positive deeds –i) constructing temples and thereby facilitating ii) helping other devotees for spiritual upliftment and show path to higher levels, and iii) devotees also pray to the Lord for further purification of their souls, who sacrificed their valuable time and money in constructing religious places, and direct beastly souls These three are added in their accounts of positive karma.

Glorified India for its culture has 108 dhams (religious places). These are the tradition and culture of our Vedic system. People visit the temples regularly and get their disturbed souls to get mollified into positive deeds. It is the tradition in India, people generally visit the pilgrimage places every year and on any auspicious functions for blessings and for purifying the souls in this birth and next successive births.

### **d) Identity**

According to Vedic literature, every place and activity have specific coordinates and identification in the universe in terms of space, time, and energy coordinates, and activity and actions are also recorded in the spiritual world.

Every living entity has a body, Soul and Supersoul. The body is a shelter or a home for the soul and Supersoul. Humans also have body and soul and super soul. The human body is identified by a particular material name given by the parents at the time of birth in this materialistic world. That will be carried out throughout life and he/she will always be called by that name only. This just identifies the type of body, body language, knowledge, and speech to the society. This name pertains to this material world only, but it has no sanctity in the spiritual world. The person's history is identified through the transmigrating soul depending on the law of karma. In the Vedic scripture, they are recognized by Space, Time, and Energy coordinates which determine the place of birth, time of birth, and what type of body form (Jiva, Energy) is born at the time of birth in the universe. The mantras (Hymns) are recited as Sankalpam as mentioned below.

## Sankalpam

According to Vedic literature, a sankalpam is a kind of sending coordinates of a performer in terms of space, time, and energy, which is generally performed before starting any rituals and spiritual functions.

### Space coordinates

*Shubeh Sobane Sri Mahav Vishnu Ragnaya Pravaritha Manysa, Adya Brahmane dviteeya parardhe (in the 2nd half of Brhama's life), Sveta varaha kalpe Vaivaswatha manvantare (in the 28th mahayuga ), Kaliyuge (in this kali yuga) Prathame Padhe (in the first quarter of this yuga), Jamboodveepe (place of performing. India), Bharata Varshe, Bharata Kande (in the land of Bharat), Mero Dakshine Digbhage , krishna-Godavari Madhya dishe ( exact location between the two rivers)*

### Time coordinates

*Asmin Varthamane Vyavaharike, Chnadramanen Shubhu kruth nama Samvatsare (name of year, Hindu calendar) Uttarayane Ayane ( or Dakshinayane ) Vasanth ( one of the six seasons), Mase (Month), Shukla Pakshe (or Krishna ), Subha Thithou (thithi) , Shubha Nakshatra ( star of the day) shubha deny ( day of the week).*

### Energy (Jiva) coordinates

*Shubha karane Evam Guna Vishistyam Shubha thithu Sriman Gotra, Star and Name (name of person ) sharma , Srimath Gitrasaya Srimathi Dharma Pathani (wife's Name), Samathesaya (all family members) Mamopata Durthyas dwara , Sri Parameswar Prithiyartam , asmakam, sha kutubanam ,shem shtrya, vijayrohaya, ishwarayabi vrudyaartham , dharamaarth kama moksha chaturvidha pala purushratha pala sidhayratham , putra poutrabi vrudhayrathm , skakal vidha mano vancha pala sidhyartham Sri Satayanarayana (type of worship ) pujam kareshe.*

### Pra-vara (About self)

It describes about self and ancestors details such as rishis about race, tribe and descendants of families lineage.<sup>7</sup> When one is asked to inform about the self- introduction, It is explained with proper posture by touching two ears with two hands and bending the body before him as:

*“Chatussāgara paryantam go-brahmaṇebhya subham bhavatu |  
kaundansya vasisthta, maitra varan , triyarishya pravaranvita ||  
kaundansya gotraḥ , apasthanba sutraḥ, sri krishna yajur veda ||  
mehendra jnam nama (sri pramod nama) sharma nama deya ahambho abhivadaye ||*

They represent the geographical location of the performer the universe with respect to the mother earth planet, the time of performance with respect to the origin time of Lord Brahma, and astrological details of the performer (Jiva); and his family, rishis and self; and informing the respective God to whom he worships so that he gets boons and blessing for materialistic and spiritualistic benefits for himself and family. These three space, time, and energy coordinates of a particular human, are generally informing the God while performing religious functions, saying there is a particular Jiva (soul) in this materialistic world to intimate as well as invite the God to attend the function and bless that Jiva.

These are in fact, the postal communication address of the Jiva so that they may visit or bless the performers from their heavenly planets through audio or video mode presentation or may appear physically or any representatives on their behalf. As per scriptures, it is a system of maintaining records and minutes of a meeting or rituals and devotional activities in a file in the spiritual world and in individual's souls of living entities. Thus, the souls will carry the information and be used for degerming the successive births as per the law of karma, till the final destination is reached, that is liberation.

Thus, humans are identified by a particular given name in this materialistic world whereas they are recognized by the particular soul code in the spiritual world. There are billions of souls in the material and spiritual world, they are accurately identified and located by their method of the convention (with different codes) of the spiritual world. This spiritual knowledge of identification is beyond our human material intelligence. This needs to be explored further using the Vedic scriptures.<sup>1</sup>

#### e) Field of Activity: Ksetram

During the Mahabharata war, the king Dhrtarastra asked his secretary Sanjaya:

*dhritarashtra uvacha*  
*dharma-kshetre kuru-kshetre samaveta yuyutsavah |*  
*mamakah pandavashchaiva kimakurvata Sanjaya ||*

After assembling in the place of pilgrimage at Kurukshetra,  
what did my sons and the sons of Panadu in the battlefield of the Mahabharat war.

The battlefield place is located at Kurukshetra, in Haryana, India. It was the war to establish dharmic righteous values in the society. In that war, great warriors, Lord Sri Krishna, Pandavas, Kauravas, Bhishma, Dronacharaya, relatives, friends, many more, and lakhs of soldiers were present. Arjuna, the great warrior was bewildered about how to take an appropriate decision to participate in the war and kill or not kill his grandparents, cousins, and relatives, which was a complex decision to take.

The problems were more intricate and anomalous to Arjuna than to anyone in the present world. Thus, the same situation on the battlefield does occur in everyone's mind. Thus, the human body is like a battlefield or field of activity (kshetram) at any time. The human body constitutes twenty-eight parameters like great warriors, which actively take part in decision-making and gives the orders like arrows to the senses for shooting. As a metaphor, the Supersoul asks the soul "What my senses are doing in the kshetram field of activity (human body)."

#### **f) Migration period of Soul**

As soon as the human baby comes from the mother's womb, the infant baby (soul) is unhappy to see the material world and then baby cries but the people surrounding the baby are happy to see the baby it is contradictory to the time of death, relatives cry whereas and the human soul is happy to disappear the material world. In other words, at the birth time soul cries and relatives happy whereas at death time soul is happy and relatives cry. Thus, the baby cries for leaving the previous world and entering material world.

#### **g) Attributes**

The human body is entangled by the twenty-eight (28) attributes (Table.1). The components are the five cosmic elements (Panch-mahabutas) -air, water, fire, earth, and ether. The human body is made up of five elements with 72% water, 12% earth, 6 % air, 4 % fire and the rest is ether. The percentage of first elements are remain constant but the ether (space) varies. Each element is responsible for different structures in the body. Solid parts such as teeth, bones, muscles and skin etc. are due to the earth. Saliva, urine, blood and sweat are due to the water. Fire forms hunger, thirsty, sleep, vision and complexion of the skin. Air is for all movements of expansion, contraction, vibration and suppression. Space is the hollow cavities medium for light radiations and cosmic rays etc.<sup>8</sup>

The attributes of field of activity of humans are shown in the Table.1. The five working senses (karmeindrays) – tongue, legs, hands, anus, and gentile; and the five senses for acquiring knowledge (Ganneidryas) – eyes, ears, nose, tongue, and skin, the five objectives of senses (Tatvam) -see, sound, smell, sound, and warmth; the three special attributes of humans are - mind, intelligence, and false ego; and the spiritual identity of the body is soul, and the spiritual observer within in the body with whom we discuss is Supreme Lord, known as Super Soul. The entry and exit doors of the material energy to the human body are through two eyes, two nostrils, two ears, one mouth, the anus, and the gentile, known as nine gates (Nawa Dvara), and the body is called a city of nine gates.

**Table 1.** The Attributes of field of Activity

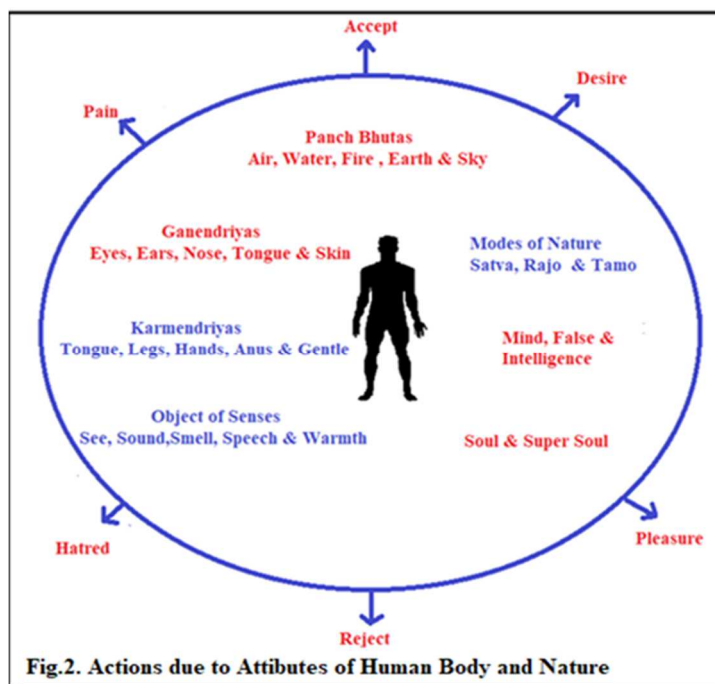
SN	Attributes		Number
	English	Sanskrit	
1	Cosmic Elements	Panch bhutas	5
2	Working Senses	Karmendriyas	5
3	Knowledgeable Senses	Ganendriys	5
4	Objects of Knowledgeable Senses	Tatvam	5
5	Mind	Manas	1
6	False Ego	Ahankar	1
7	Intelligence	Buddi	1
8	Soul	Atama	1
9	Super soul	Param Atma	1
10	Modes of Nature	Prakrithi Gunas	3
	<b>Total</b>		<b>28</b>

Thus, one can categorize the human body into three domains in terms of material and spiritual 1) material body, 2) proprietor of the body, the individual soul (the representative Supreme Lord) and 3) observer Supreme Lord in the form of Supersoul. It is similar to the Supreme Lord is the proprietor of all bodies (Universe), a king is the original king of the kingdom and the citizen is the secondary proprietor<sup>1</sup>. The mind always interacts and chats with the super soul to take appropriate decisions such as, in favor or against, go or not to go, approve or reject, diverse or union, such complicated issues and their repercussions on the constituents of the body and with the society. Sometimes the field may be like a playground or maybe a battleground During the stress or angry period, the body becomes battlefield, velocity of impulses decreases and release the stress hormones will increase, heart beating rate and blood pressure will increase, unable to think properly, most of the negative replies come when the person is under stress. Whereas during the happy mood muscles and nerves system will be relaxed, heart beat and B P will be normal. The decisions by and large will be favourable to both self and others. Hence the decisions may be categorized into six types, such as accept - reject, desire - hatred, pleasure-pain. Thus, the judgements will be purely depended on internal as well as external attributes of the human body (Fig.2).

These decisions will enforce the person to move in the material world and entangle with three modes of nature – the mode of goodness, (Sativik), the mode of passion (Rajo), and the mode of ignorance (Tamo). The mind controls and uses and all constituents. The senses are the most powerful enemies to the mind. The mind always works to satisfy senses and make them happy, but they never get satisfied.as they are greedy. During this process, the body gets deteriorated slowly. The soul decides to leave the body and suddenly disappears with no indications or symptoms. Thus, the body is said to be a dead. Then suddenly name of the body (person) goes



along with soul. The time and place of birth and death are noted to perform the safe journey of the soul in the material world and spiritual world respectively.



## h) Mind, Body and Consciousness

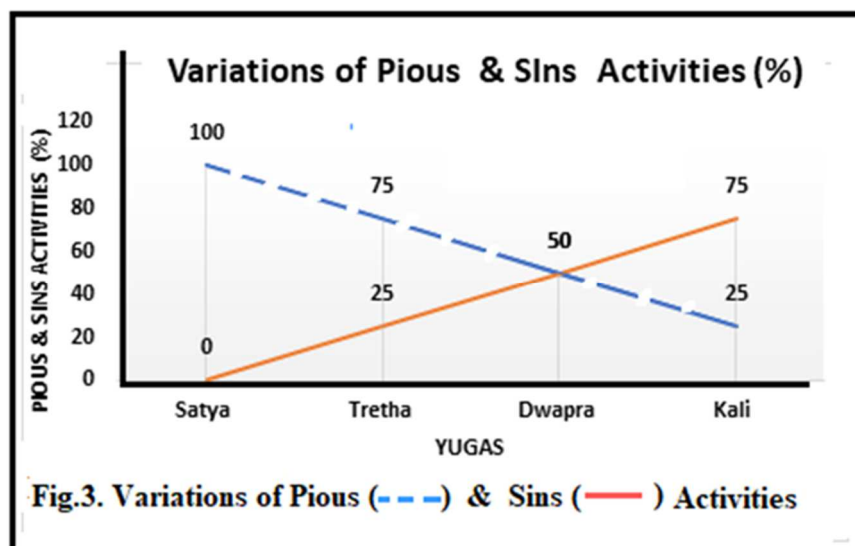
Mind (Manas) is a friend as well as an enemy. It all depends on how one is thinking about another person or an object. It has cognitive power about the opposite person, object, surroundings, space and time. It visualizes, analyses, accepts or denies and then order the senses. The senses are like serpents and wander in different directions and provoke the mind and body. The mind is restless and turbulent like ocean, always because of the greedy senses. The mind needs body and soul to function, in other words it cannot function if the body and soul do not exist. Infact the soul needs a body to reside and both come into existence for the sake of functioning of mind only. Therefore, in order to have the concentration of the mind, the senses need to be controlled. One who controls the mind is called Gosvami and one who is controlled by the senses is called Godasa or servant of senses.<sup>1</sup>

The combined effect of the mind and senses is called the consciousness (Chitha). The power of analyzing things or discriminating between the good and bad, is known intelligence (Budhi). The thinking and intellectuality of a person combine with body and senses yields uniqueness, is called ego that represents the proud of a person, termed as false ego. These can be further exemplified as moving chariot. The human body is like a chariot, senses are like horses, intelligence is a charioteer (driver), mind is the rein (straps attached to horses) and the soul is the owner of the chariot, travelling in it. Thus intelligence (driver) controls the senses (horses)

through mind (straps).<sup>9</sup> Therefore, to drive a chariot a good driver is required. Hence Lord Krishan was a charioteer to Arjuna in the Mahabharat war.

### i) Decline of Humanity

Though humans are highly intelligent and conscious, unfortunately, people are not realizing their fortunes and their intelligence for upgrading their lives to higher levels, but committing towards more sins for self-gratification rather than doing the pious activities for satisfying the Supreme Lord. The sin is not necessarily due to external acts, it depends on internal (self), intentions, state of mind and attitudes of senses. The sin or negative thoughts gets generated from the body due to the combined efforts of mind, senses, intelligence and false ego and modes of nature. Then the mind directs the karmendriys to act externally against the wishes of super soul. This act is stored as bad karma in the soul, hence the vasan (nature of bad karma) is carried through soul and that determines next birth and it may continue as bad deed till it is purified in the birth and death cycle.



This trend, in Kaliyuga is continuously decreasing and it is more rapid for the past three to four decades. We find more demonic and corruptive people are taking birth on this earth as per their previous karmas or may be using the free will of human life for sense gratification and personal gains by torturing others or killing humans and animals, and more dependent on animal food. One who eats meat, the animal of the that meat will eat him. The continuing of this process yields more non - satvik births. The sastras also confirm this and connote, that the whole world will have demonic nature by the end of this kaliyuga. The Fig.3 shows the decreasing of satvik (pious activity) and increasing of demonic nature, Tamo (Sins) from Satyayuga to Kaliyuga. The one-fourth of dharma that exists in the kaliyuga will continue to fall further by the end of this yuga. People will suffer, and face poverty and hunger. One day, the man may eat man's flesh. This is not too far to see. It is seen in some undeveloped countries.

## **j) Goal of Life**

Every work has a particular aim, in other words, there is no work without a goal. Every work needs force. The force is exerted by the energy. Every energy is controlled by an agency or system. Hence universe is also controlled by an external agent, known as Supreme Lord. In brief, the system is creating work and gives direction to complete assignments. Going to the market means to buy articles, going to a marriage function means to bless the couple and to have food, going to college means to get knowledge and a job, and participating in the games means to get a medal. Thus, question arises what is the goal of human life? Every activity has a goal. One should think, who am I, what am I, why come here, who sent me here, what is my goal?

Yes, there is a goal. One must search it out by his skills and his passion for society. There are two goals in human life - One to live comfortably in the material world and another one is to use the material platform to go to higher levels in the next birth, and especially to reside in the vicinity of God. That is what we say when a person is dead, the soul be rest in peace. All the Vedic scriptures say the human form is very rare to get. Once obtained it must be utilized properly without wasting a single minute to continue the previous journey for completing the mission to reach the higher planets, especially to the highest planets Vikutam from where the souls will not come back or fall on this material planet of earth.

All people may not get a chance to participate in the cricket or football world cup. One must put 100 % efforts to complete and win the cup, otherwise, they will be sent back to ground level. These examples say that all souls may not get a chance to be born as humans to play in the game of human life.

## **3. Conclusion**

The attributes of the human body are fabulous but complex. The individual proprietor (soul) is a representative of one's body throughout the birth and death cycle. It is like register or a chip. The knower (Super soul) is an observer and advisor to the mind. The complexity of material nature and the components of human attributes will trap senses in the material world for self-gains and sense gratification. The human form is the gifted platform to attempt to bypass the birth and death cycle and can reside in the heavenly planets if one goes systematically towards pleasing nature and other living entities, and against the desires of the senses. But the humanity in the present global scenario is decaying very rapidly due to many reasons such as selfish nature, self-benefits, degradation of devotional activities, killing animals for self-gains which will lead to unhappiness due to the increase of negative karma, and facing miserable life in the present birth as a well as successive births due to the action-reaction theory.

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