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TRANSCENDENTALISM : INDIVIDUAL, GOD AND NATURE



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RESEARCH PAPER

Religion is not in books, nor in theories, nor in dogmas, nor in talking, not even in reasoning. It is being and becoming. Religions do not come from without, but from within. You are the highest temple of God; I would rather worship you than any temple, image, or Bible. (Jul 5, 2018)

So, what is transcendentalism? Is there any idea that strikes our mind to ascertain the meaning of transcendentalism? Have you heard this term before? So, we need to unfold the notion of transcendentalism, romanticism and how it relates to each other. What is individualism? We need to know how individualism relates to the spiritualism, the “*Spota*” theory, the

existentialism, absurdity and finally reaches on to the invisible existence of God. So, it's quite important to talk on such issues.

If the finite mind of man is unable to comprehend how so great and so majestic a God as the Universal Father can descend from his eternal abode in infinite perfection to fraternize with the individual human creature, then must such a finite intellect rest assurance of divine fellowship upon the truth of the fact that an actual fragment of the living God resides within the intellect of every normal-minded and morally conscious Urantia mortal. The indwelling Thought Adjusters are a part of the eternal Deity of the Paradise Father. Man does not have to go farther than his own inner experience of the soul's contemplation of this spiritual-reality presence to find God and attempt communion with him.

I wrote one book entitled "Ubiquity", simply sent the manuscript to Cameroon. They went through the text, they read it and they published the book in Cameroon. So, in that text what exactly I have expressed is that it is all about the Nature. It's all about individuals. It's all about perception, deception. Right, the deconstructive ideas usually strike our mind. So, first I would like to bring all your attention to the meaning of transcendentalism.

In monotheistic thought, God is conceived of as the supreme being, creator deity, and principal object of faith. God is usually conceived as being omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (all-present) and as having an eternal and necessary existence. These attributes are used either in way of analogy or are taken literally. God is most often held to be incorporeal (immaterial). Incorporeality and corporeality of God are related to conceptions of transcendence (being outside nature) and immanence (being in nature) of God, with positions of synthesis such as the "immanent transcendence".

I would like to focus on a few questions. Can you please explain what you think of God, the existence of God? So, these are the transcendental ideas. Actually we are talking about something which is incomprehensible to us. There is one writer who says, "I believe in the incomprehensibility of God." God is incomprehensible. God is difficult to know, an enigma to all ! Through many religions we worship God. We have our own notions to fathom God, but I want to know your own ideas about God. Let's it be an interactive session with the students. Do

you believe in God? Very nice, I got two responses. Okay, I will tell you one story about this. It is about two names A and B. A says, "God exists." and B says, "There is no God." A is used to call every person and explains how God never dwells and B explains how God dwells. So, there is a debate on this every day. They used to talk on this issue, "God is." "God is not there." Then, the person who says God dwells, God is, God exists. In the course of time the person says, "God does not exist." And the person who says, "God does not exist." He begins to say, "God exists." Because what I feel, it's all our thinking ! A chemist when hydrogen is treated with oxygen in presence of sunlight, then there is a formation of H₂O which means water. Right, looking at a single drop of water, a chemist starts dancing in his laboratory. Yes, a chemical reaction is successful. But look at the ocean, how many chemical reactions go there? And who does all these things? Everyone thinks, "There is something behind everything." But what it is beyond human intelligence, human capabilities, human understanding, human perception and all that. Then, we come to know the notion of intuition. Right, intuition is there ! Because to understand exactly what something is beyond your understanding, you can understand something exist beyond the things. So, I will explain each and everything in the course of time. It is very easy to define things. But it's very difficult to say what it is. We all know what light means, but we do not know what it is. In the same way, we do not know what poetry means, but we do not know what it is. Because it is very difficult to fathom what something really exists, what something is. So, that's why, different religions interpret God in different ways. So, here I am not talking about the religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and all these things. Just I talk about the ideas of transcendentalism and how it is reflected in works of art. My book "Ubiquity" was published in Cameroon and one of the scholars from University of Bamenda wrote a research paper on this book entitled Transcendentalism and its comparative study between Ubiquity and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Nature reveals to us God's beauty, glory, power, wisdom, presence, creativity, and, most of all, his loving care. This is why we're drawn to spend time in the beauty of nature and to enjoy animals. To talk a walk on a beautiful day, play with your dog in the grass, or hold your cat are reliable ways for many people to connect with God's loving presence.

But, I will, first of all, focus on the concept of transcendentalism. First of all, what is transcendentalism? It means to go beyond the limits of independence of the physical universe. So, we are going beyond means where exactly we go. There is one question which was asked to me, "Where does God exist? It is interpreted that there is Light after Light. There is Darkness again. There is Light again. There is Darkness again. There is Light and that Light is the Light of God. So, here we understand transcendentalism in a triangle. Three things are there viz. God, Man and Nature. Whenever we talk about transcendentalism, we talk about existence of God, Man and Nature and how these three things relate with each other. So, it was a philosophical movement which was developed in 1820s and 1830s in the United States. Actually, it is a reaction to protest against the general states of intellectualism and spiritualism and spiritualism at that time! So, here in a romantic period, we come across Nature as William Wordsworth loves Nature. Nature is a teacher to him. There is poetry definition. I think you are quite well-familiar with that, "Poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge. Poetry is a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings taking its origin from emotions recollected in tranquility." This is the definition of poetry, but this definition gives you the mystery of nature, tranquility, spontaneity of emotions and feelings. So, if you decide to write or compose a poem tonight. Can you know that you need the tranquility of your mind, the ambience in which the poetry is composed? So, what was transcendentalism? It's the 19th century philosophical movement. Transcendentalists believe that true reality transcends or exists beyond the physical world. There is a true reality which transcends or exists beyond the physical world. In my last lecture, I said talking about deconstruction that deconstruction deconstructs itself. We are talking about absences rather than presences in every text. Every reading is a misreading to scholars. And I asked one question to all the students in my last lecture that how will you prove that you are here? It's very simple question. "How will you prove your existence here? Yes, you may say that, "We are here." That's why, we are here. How you know that it's a red light, you know that it's blue; it's green at the signal. Your presence is marked by the absences occupied by this Ghalib Auditorium. Right, this is the notion of absence over presence. Let's talk about the emergency of yes; when will you say yes? You say yes when something is not there. Yes exists as No exists. That's why, we talk about yes. It means we are looking into the absences so as to find the presence of things. So, here is one beautiful quotation that Ralph Waldo Emerson is talking about transcendentalism and great men. "Great men are they who see that spiritual is

stronger than any material force that thought rules the world.” On the arena of spiritualism, there are two types of *Brahmandas*, one is in you and one surrounds you. Every person carries the world within him. Every person is the world. We have immense knowledge of each and everything in life. We have solved to accumulate knowledge. What kind of knowledge do we accumulate? We accumulate that sort of knowledge which we have not understood. Through numerous experimentation and experiences, we think that this is the ultimate knowledge. We are talking about the Universal Knowledge, beyond the reach of human beings. Knowledge is beyond human perception, knowledge that is beyond human understanding. That is transcendentalism. Every individual wants to know the center within him. Where is the center? There is a center in every individual. We need to find it out, find the center where the center locates. In Yajurveda, it is said that in a holy person’s body at the center, there is a lotus and the lotus is in its invisible form. Someone dwells inside the lotus, that is the Truth, God, Shivam. So, it means that individual carries God within him. Whenever he undergoes *Samadhi* through his consciousness, he goes beyond the senses and sense perception. And it is nothing but super consciousness. It means a spiritual union with God. One student asked me a question that you say God, God every time. It dwells everywhere, it's in the air, everywhere ! The transcendentalists think that God dwells everywhere. So, you can fathom the meaning of God through transcendentalism. We will walk on our own feet, we will work on our own hands, we will speak to our own minds and Nations of men will for the first time exist. We believe in the seed inspired by divine soul which is also inspired by all men. Here it talks about dignity. So, it's about the transcendentalists. Americans begin with the formation with 1846 transcendental club in Boston. One magazine was very famous that is the Dial which is the means to express the ideas of transcendentalism. Dial is the expression of views of varied opinions about existentialism, naturalism and transcendentalism. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, American essayist, poet, and philosopher are leading transcendentalists. They are major strengths of the period. All ideas of transcendentalism will be clear. So, three things have been discussed here viz romanticism, transcendentalism, Gothic literature. First of all, concentrate on Gothic. Gothic refers to supernatural atmosphere whereas romanticism deals with two things viz. some elements on Gothic literature and supernatural atmosphere. It also includes Nature, individuals and subjectivity. Romanticism does nothing, but the amalgamation of the Gothic literature, elements from the Gothic literature as well as the elements from romanticism.

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