

Transcendental Impetus: A Spiritual Path

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Abstract

This paper involves an element of transcendentalism to bestow an aroma of aplomb that's a replica of the divine soul. In order to attain the spiritual path, we have to go through a perfect mind set with an evolution of felicity and fidelity. This paper attempts to show the philosophy of transcendentalism in order to attain the real state of spiritualism. This approach demonstrates the authority of the supreme power that is the greatest entity overall. There is a shade of the divine power in the writings of Emerson especially that has been dealt with the theory of soul and the over-soul regarding transcendentalism. The existence of supreme power sojourns inside human body as a soul rather than residing outside of the intuitiveness of body. There is no requisite to replicate the mind with the veneration in the shrine but there is a requisite of recognizing self in order to attain the purification of sublime power.

Keywords: Transcendental, Spiritual Path, Soul, Nature, Spirit, Over-Soul

Introduction:

Transcendental spirit has been emerged as a principle of approaching an intuition to realize the highest supremacy in order to surrender in that state. It is originated in the state of New England, US, with concepts of American intellectual thoughts and doctrines as rooted in English and German romanticism. It was inspired by the theory of skepticism marked by David Hume and the transcendental philosophy of Immanuel Kant. Hindu religious texts and scriptures especially Vedanta and Upanishads exert a massive impact to exercise the meaning of spiritualism. A core belief is the state of believing in the goodness and the virtue of people and nature basically. Transcendental philosophy is centered especially on the historical and analytical remarks of Emerson. His philosophy moreover contains the divine elements of nature. His research involves mysticism of nature. The purpose of mystery may be that God is a supreme power who has solution of each and every problem having great remedies. It is followed by the serenity of purgation and purification.

“Standing on the bare ground, my head bathed by the blithe air and uplifted into infinite space, all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eye ball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the universal being circulate through me; I am part or parcel of God” (Emerson).

Through the transcendental perception, we have to attain the real and absolute realm of

spiritualism following the ideas and beliefs. Constantly, it is an important to achieve a greater accomplishment with the state of self in the mundane world. Spiritualism is an elucidation of emerging the state of spirituality through the way of birth of transcendentalism.

Paradigm of Transcendental Wave:

Transcendental path is to be attained with the nexus of sublimity. There is an emblematic nature mentioning that every natural fact is a symbol of spiritual fact. Elements are free thoughts, self reliance, Non-conformity, idealism, the concept of circle, the principle of organic philosophy, concept of optimism, the concept of nature, mysticism and so forth. The priority of time and space is marked by Emerson to light the reflection of the spirituous wave.

“Space, time and causations are mere sensibilities that things in themselves exist, but their nature is unknowable and that intuition is independent from objective reality” (Kant).

Through his approach of transcendental idealism, Kant advocates that time and space is prior form of human intuition. He reveals a belief in immortality in order to get the highest condition of morality as possible. In the way of theism, he maintains that human understanding is limited and can never attain knowledge about God or the soul, leading numerous commentators to label him a philosophical agnostic. Transcendentalism keeps a distinction between understanding and reason where understanding is the normal way of deeming the truth through moral senses while reason is the way of getting intuition through the perception. Reason is the highest faculty of soul of which it never reasons and clues but it proves and visualizes. By contrast, the understanding tests all the time, compares, contrives but strong sight dwells in the present expedient the customary. There should be a combination of two approaches that are microcosm and macrocosm. Each part of nature contains all within it. The concept of mystic and humanistic concern has been highlighted in each and every work of Emerson. The concept of spiritualism has been also highlighted in the paradigm of transcendentalism. The Spiritualism is centered on the concept of spirit. This English term spirit seems to have been derived from the Latin word *spiritus* referring to “breath” with a replica of courage. Greek term for spirit is *Pneuma* referring to “breath” in a real sense. Hebrew term for spirit is *Ruach* referring to “wind” in a true sense. The knowledge of spirit provides the right direction of emerging the real state of supreme power. Through self reliance, the productivity of belief enriches the consciousness that’s a real entity applying to explore an abstraction called self consciousness. As a set of procedures, we can set all those elements which have been derived by Ralph Waldo Emerson. He proceeds with all transcendental elements such as self-reliance, free expressions, absolute reality, consciousness, and purification of impressions, veneration of sublimity, and replica of life, rejuvenation and so forth. The key tenet of transcendentalism is displayed in nature. This is what Emerson is writing about vicarious issues inferring to

vivacious elements of transcendentalism. He begins by stating in the introduction that all sciences have one aim, namely, to find a theory of nature. He says that nature can produce a wild delight in a man even amid sorrows. He feels as if he were a part or particle of God. To identify elements of transcendentalism in nature, human should keep looking for free thought, self confidence, self determined, self reliance, supremacy of Nature.

An Inspiration to Intuition:

“Transcendentalism, as viewed by its disciples, was a pilgrimage from the idolatrous world of creeds and rituals to the living God in the soul” (Channing).

There is an existence of Supreme power which is enriched with high moral facts, free thought, non – conformity that is treading in time and space. Emerson connects an idea of spiritualism with divinity. He gives more priority to each individual who is equally to the whole of universe where the over-soul is sojourned. God resides in the heart of each one. We are each minute aspects of the over-soul, creating and experiencing human awareness in the form of life.

“That unity, that over-soul, within which everyman’s particular being is contained and made one with all other; that is the common heart shared by all” (Emerson).

Transcendentalism, like other romantic movement, believes that believing in humanity is the best approach to conduct all human activities. It enhances the approach of self reliance and state of inner freedom. Adherents believe that individuals are capable of generating completely original insights with little attention and deference to past masters. Emerson alludes to individualism addressing that there is one man, present to all particular men only partially or through one faculty and that you must take the whole society to find the whole man. Emerson emphasizes the transcendental beliefs in the holistic power of the natural landscape in nature. We return to the reason and faith. Margaret Fuller noted that noble trees are gone already from this island to feed this caldron. In 1854, in Walden, Thoreau regards the trains which are beginning to spread across America’s landscape as a winged horse or fiery dragon that all the restless men and floating merchandise in the country for seed. Transcendentalism has been directly influenced by Indian religious texts and sects. The pure Walden water is mingled with the sacred water of the Ganges.

“I am the doubter and the doubt, / I am the hymn the Brahmin sings” (lines 11-12).

Aforesaid lines, Doubter and Doubt like ‘shame and fame’ and ‘shadow and sunlight’ are unified in Brahma. Here, Emerson refers both to God of creation and universal essence that he encompasses to Brahma and Brahman respectively. Emerson uses Brahmin to refer to Hindu priests.

“All are needed by each one; / nothing is fair or good alone” (lines 11-12).

Central to the above lines, Emerson’s idea is that truth often cannot be achieved through logical means or even through experience and reflection on experiences. Emerson evokes as self reliance, the height and perfection of man, is reliance on God. The over-soul is the celebration of mystery of the soul in matter and moment. Its mysterious existence is considered as a constituent part of one. The embodiment of the soul is in believing the state of righteousness and starkness of sublimity. God is a state of omnipresence and omnipotence as we have faith.

The over-soul functions as a continual unbroken form of the higher self which is the plane of the eternal wisdom. We, ourselves, are not capable of keeping track of our soul lessons because the over-soul is said to be veiled from the human mind by ‘sanskaras’ or impressions, acquired over the course of evolution and reincarnation. Each person is a part of whole universe but remains as an individual spirit. The soul looks steadily forwards, creating a world before her, leaving world behind her. She has no dates, nor rites, nor persons, nor specialties, nor men. The soul knows only the soul; the web of events is the flowing robe in which she is clothed.

Man and Nature:

Believing in the communion of man and sublimity is by finding the truth of Almighty and the knowledge of Almighty. This approach takes man in the lap of nature by believing in the supremacy of God. We can understand the relationship between man and God with the spirit of having truth and knowledge where the feeling of superiority exists. The connection between man and nature can be understood with theories of determinism and possibilism. He mentions that nature is in centre and controls the activity of man while defining the concept of determinism. In the concept of possibilism, man is in centre and forwards according to the law of nature. Man is in centre but never crosses the boundaries of nature, just follows all the ways of nature anyway. Apart of these two concepts, third concept is Neo-determinism which is blending of determinism and possibilism. Through the concept of neo-determinism, the connection between man and nature can be existed. Neo-determinism is that state providing mystic and ascetic nexus between man and nature. God sojourns in the each and every part of nature while nature exists in the lap of God. It can be deemed with the concept of pantheism that seeks to impart how nature plays an important and dominant role in making connection between man and God. Nature is an evolution of God whereas God is existed in all organs of nature that makes a cycle of rejuvenation and reincarnation. Nature only puts on the color of spirit. Transcendentalism is a quintessential option to assimilate the nature profoundly. Emerson identifies nature and spirit as components of the universe, when retreating oneself in nature. An individual can experience them as a parallel creation of the same omnipresent spirit. The visionary man may immerse himself in the universe, losing his ‘I-consciousness’ idea. He may become a receptive transparent eyeball through which the Universal Being transmits itself into his consciousness and makes him sense his oneness with God. Transcendental approach may be a replica of rejuvenation having sacraments and

generations as it would be process of arousing, sustaining and regulating activity. Through the transcendental approach, the spiritual path is to find that God is one entity or the over-soul is a unification of souls which paves the way of permanent relationship between man and nature.

“We live in succession, in division, in parts, in particles. Meantime within man is the soul of the whole; the wise silence; the universal beauty, to which every part and particle is equally related, the eternal one” (Emerson).

Hence, the communion of man and nature can be established with the truth and morality, believing in the supremacy of God, following the concept of transcendental momentum.

Limitation and Future Orientation:

Emerson saw the external limitations imposed by civilization, society, institutions, and materialism as greater stagnation to individual self realization than the differences of gifts among men. Transcendental approach attempts to go beyond the limitations of the senses and everyday experiences. Emerson’s exaltation of an individual was based upon his view of the integral connection between God, man and nature. Man is capable of much imagination, insight, morality and more but all of his aptitudes derive from his intimate relationship with a larger, higher entity than himself. Believing in the supremacy of God is an evolution of survival of the fittest for the upcoming generations.

“We know the truth when we see it...as we know when we are awake that we are awake” (Emerson).

Conclusion:

Transcendental movement exerted a great influence on the American intellectual world of the contemporary time and brought the unprecedented prosperity to it. Emerson’s influence on American literature led American romanticism to a new phase of New England transcendentalism, the summit of American romanticism. His thought and style of writing inspired a whole generation of authors. Transcendentalism as the bridge between eastern and western culture, it had played an important role in cultural communication and there are many keys to be further explored in a deep sense. Through transcendental approach, a path of spirituality would be attained in the form of perfection after conquering the concept of self that’s real state of soul. This soul sojourns in the over-soul that’s why the over-soul is a parcel of the soul and the soul is a parcel of the over-soul. This approach can be perceived with the state of humanism and mysticism. Believing in Supreme power is the practice of mysticism. This mysticism can be attained by the way of believing in asceticism. A way of spiritualism can be perceived with the paradigm of naturalism, humanism, mysticism, asceticism and romanticism. The Elements of this approach are also liable to generate the major concern of

reliance that's regime of self reliance. It emphasizes subjective intuition over objective empiricism. It concentrates on personal attachment with one (God).It focuses on the state of intuition that's real state of believing in self. That self stimulates the quality of love and devotion that can be attained through the concept of morality and truth because this truth and knowledge of morality brings an existence of soul. Inculcating persuasion in the soul is the peculiar way of attaining the spirit of the over-soul. Attention paves the way of assimilation; Assimilation paves the way of reproduction; Reproduction paves the way of perseverance of motivation and interest and this motivation and interest festoon the path of spiritualism through the persuasion of transcendental approach.

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