

What is Man's Purpose and Role in the Universal Scheme?

Start with Meditation

The last meeting discussed 'What is the purpose of School?' And the meeting happened to be charged with inspirational and sattvic energy. And one of the more powerful ideas to engender and carry this energy was one member's formulation: '**Remembering** is School. We are in 'School' when we remember'.

This is an inspirational and practical thought to bear in mind, a constant reminder of what we are about. **Remembering**.

The Shankaracharya said:

Present is always lit, because it is the presence of the Absolute, and the light of the Absolute falls on the present.

Remembering also affects the role each individual man or woman plays in the Universal Scheme, as well as in School.

Here are two answers sent in on Man's purpose and role:

One The evolution of consciousness or rather the evolution of self into universal consciousness. To relinquish the fear of separation, which seems to allow negative energies to divide humanity. To be in the stream of positive energies in which one can share with others. Maybe to love and be loved seems the central message of spiritual knowledge and thus the purpose, while pursuing our extra-ordinary creative and intellectual potential as human beings.

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Two To offer love and devotion to our Creator

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Let us listen first to what the Shankaracharya had to say in answer to the question:

Q: Does Man have a special part to play in existence?

HH: *In the whole of creation there is nothing like Man. He has got a special role to play. There is a great significance attached to manhood. He is better than the gods, the devas, in the sense that devas, the gods are kept for enjoyment. They are meant to get the benefit of their previous doings and they get all sorts of enjoyment. But they are inferior to man in this sense. Man has got power to get to liberation also (moksha), which they do not have, so manhood has a speciality about it, even better than godhood.*

Q: What is the speciality?

HH: *He is able to use his wisdom, his power of discrimination, which the gods lack. They do not have that power of discrimination. The man has got power of discrimination, and can obtain moksha through his wisdom by discriminating between good and bad. He can obtain moksha, salvation.*

Q: And this attainment of salvation is the most important thing a man can have or do?

HH: *There is nothing better than this.*

(Record 1979 p3 - 4)

Pause

Here are two further thoughts from the Group on Man's purpose and role:

Three To be a conduit for sattvic energy from Param Atman to descend the lateral octave to mankind and for sattvic energy refined by Man by effort to return to Param Atman

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Four Without understanding fully either the cosmology or the psychology of it, I still feel Man's place is at the growing point of the biosphere (nature) – realising himself, he emphasises the positive, the sattvic side.

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Let us recall the gist of what our Western System had to say on this subject. It speaks of two important octaves in the Universal Scheme. In the main octave, the Ray of Creation, the highest energy originates at the Apex with the Creator Himself. As it descends, the energy and vibrations pass through All Galaxies, to our branch the Milky Way, to our Sun, the Planets, Earth and Moon, becoming heavier or denser at each stage. There is also an interval as this Ray of Energy descends that has to be filled in order to sustain our planet, **Earth**. This interval is filled by what was referred to as the lateral octave, the octave of Organic Life.

The make up of Organic Life (nature) is metaphorically akin to all the different cells in the body of the human being. The most *intelligent* of these is the germ cell. The System told us that man is the growing point of organic life. He is the regent of the Biosphere. Hence we can surmise the importance of Man's role in the Universal Scheme. Obviously, the closer a man is to realisation the higher or finer the universal energy is which resonates within his being, and can be fed into organic life essential to our planet.

Pause

The next contribution from a member of the Group puts our feet back firmly on 'terra firma'

Five I'm sure that man has a role in the biological function of the Earth together with the whole of nature, but if you refer to some more esoteric role about transforming the consciousness of the planet, then I have no idea but I suspect that full Self realisation will reveal the fact that there is no purpose, as we normally view it, but simply being Awake totally and fully is it. This is the purpose.

This observation came from the same person who said '**Remembering is School**'

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Here the Shankaracharya helps us out again:

HH: *The whole thing is that we never remember ourselves. All our troubles come from not remembering ourselves, only we can't talk about this at the beginning because it is never understood. You have to reach realisation before you can understand it.* (Record 1961 p12 - spoken at the first meeting between the Shankaracharya and Dr Roles)

Over the years of meetings between Dr Roles and the Shankaracharya, the Doctor's understanding increased. Later Doctor Roles had this to say:

*The realisation of your individual Self, the Atman, is done through the heart. You can't reach it through the head. You realise more of the nature of this Self, who is always there – but that's only half the thing. The Atman has then to realise that it is one with the Creator or the Self of the Universe, and that is done through the head. So you study the Universe and see everything as an example of the laws governing the Universe, and the mind and the consciousness behind the laws. So the way **in** is through the heart, and the way **out** is through the mind.*

Does this describe first the path to Self Realisation, and then the path to Full Realisation? Or in the Western Tradition the path to Self Consciousness and then onwards to Objective or Cosmic Consciousness?

Pause

The heartfelt way to Realisation is strong in the Turning. And Man's role is manifested in the posture of the Turner when right hand is raised to receive energy from the Creator which then passes through the lowered left hand to below; symbolising 'as above, so below'. All is One. Man is seen here as the great transmitter. As this energy passes through in its purity, the heart and mind of the turner is steeped in stillness and the heart is warmed by gratitude to God, Mevlana and the Sheikh who brought us the Turning.

Doctor Roles described our role in a simple and practical manner:

Our job as a society is to transmit to all who approach us something of this eternal source of spiritual happiness. (VoD p45-46)