

Knowledge Based Perception of Soul

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Karl Popper, the noted contemporary German philosopher of science, has developed a theory of perception, in which all perception, is knowledge based. Till then, it was usually held by philosophers and even scientists, that one's perceptions were primary, on which one had to build one's world view, scientific theories. However, Popper showed, that the very structure of sense organs, such as eyes, and processing of the information conveyed onto brain by nerves from the senses, required a certain fundamental knowledge, inbuilt into the organism's structure. Thus, the Popper argued, one's perceptions were actually based on this inbuilt knowledge, within the brain and sense organ's structure. This knowledge, he hypothesizes came about via natural selection, in the course of evolution. His argument is strong and cogent enough to convince, noble prize winning neuro-biologist Sir John C. Eccles, who initially subscribed to the view, that sense data was primary. Turn around of Eccles's stance is depicted in "Self and its Brain", a book jointly authored by Eccles and Popper, in records of their oral conversations.

Another interesting view-point is that of linguist Noam Chomsky of Massachusetts Institute of technology. Chomsky has shown that, linguistic development is possible in a child, only if there is an in-built kernel of linguistic knowledge, within the new born infant. He speculates, that the 6000 odd dialects and languages current in the world today, are but different material realizations of this inbuilt kernel of linguistic knowledge. Hunting for a material basis for lingual capability of new born infant, Chomsky turns to genes, natural selection and evolution - just like Popper. However, geneticists find his ideas inconceivable, for they find no mechanism of storage of such an information on genes. Thus the possibility exists, that the kernel of linguistic knowledge resides within the non-material soul, which is latter copied onto the brain and neurons, as the child learns to speak.

Our third view-point is the emerging trends in artificial intelligence - notably the expert systems and neural networks. In expert systems, one gathers the thumb rules evolved by an expert over a life time, to solve a class of specialized problems, and programs them onto a computer. Such an artificially intelligent expert system is then able to guide novices to solutions of problems in that field, which they would not have been able to solve otherwise. Such systems are called Knowledge based systems (KBS), as they are based on knowledge of a human expert, in that field. Neural networks are an attempt to mimic working of biological brains. They consist of a large number of interconnected, units, and are designed such that, given a particular input, the network responds with the required output. This is achieved by iteratively adjusting the strength of inter-connections, (by a programmer, or a program written by a programmer) till the desired output is achieved.

Thus, in the above mentioned three fields of perception, lingual comprehension, and artificial intelligence - there exists need for inbuilt knowledge, for the desired process to occur. Without the required knowledge, development of the required capability is not possible in the human or machine system. Knowledge thus becomes primary, and sense data secondary. With these, points, we are ready to face, the materialists, who are unwilling to face fact of existence of soul, which cannot be seen by untrained eye. Neither, do they accept existence of a soul world, where the souls reside before taking their first material birth on earth, within the time cycle. And the same argument is put forth for existence of subtle body as well as the subtle worlds. Our reply to the materialists, is that perception is knowledge based. Perception of soul, soul world, subtle body, subtle world, time cycle, the three worlds, or even utopia (golden age of perfection), is knowledge based. This is the concept put forth in scriptures, as the third eye of knowledge, without which even perception, lingual comprehension or intelligent functioning will not be possible. The third eye is not an eye with cornea, iris, lens and retina, and acquired in a physical operation, but is the eye of true spiritual knowledge. Then, with this knowledge, perception changes - and one is able to see the non-material soul - the spark of divine light, residing at centre of forehead of living humans, and acting, comprehending, feeling through the physical body. One is also able to see the soul world and God father Shiv Baba in soul world. This is knowledge based perception of soul and supreme soul.