

## Cosmic Identity

### **<sup>1</sup>RICHA SHARMA**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Science and Humanities  
Ganeshi Lal Bajaj Institute of Technology and Management, Greater Noida

### **<sup>2</sup>SAURABH RAJ**

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Science and Humanities  
Ganeshi Lal Bajaj Institute of Technology and Management, Greater Noida

#### **ABSTRACT**

The identity is the most important element of the creation. The absence/ignorance/duality of identity creates a problem same way if we are entangled at a lower level of identity. The authors here explore the tools for eliminating this identity crisis. Spirituality, technological innovations and inventions, creativity, learning etc. can be few potential tools which have been mentioned and discussed here. Identity or ahankara (not ego), as per the Yogic philosophy is a vital part of our mental body Which if not understood properly can create serious problems (passions) like jealousy, anger, greed, illusion, sensation, intoxication, attachment (bandha or bondage as per Jain philosophy). This may lead to even more severe problem like war, terrorism etc. Further authors predict technological inventions and innovations like interplanetary / intergalactic travels, alien threats, celestial calamities etc. playing a greater role leading to cosmic identity the ultimate destination.

**Keywords:** Identity, Spirituality, Mental body, Bandha, Bondage, Passions, Interplanetary travels, Intergalactic travels, Alien threats, Celestial calamities, Duality, Ahankara, Yogic philosophy, Jain philosophy, Jealousy, Anger, Greed, Illusion, Sensation, Intoxication, Attachment.

#### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

##### **Taoist peace prayer**

If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours, there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.

**Lao Tzu (570–490 BCE)**

The wise words above became the base of globalisation, which roughly started 200 years back and witnessed the rapid growth and expansion in the late nineties. People today often have a misconception

about identity and normally get entangled at a lower level identity. This tendency creates a plethora of problems.

The words of Lao Tzu mentioned above informs us about of his foresightedness. These words need to be appended to make it fit for the modern times.

*If there is to be peace in the cosmos, there must be peace in the galaxies.*

*If there is to be peace in the galaxies, there must be peace in the galactic bodies.*

These words carry a very deeper sense. To understand the hidden message one has to understand the concept of identity or *ahankara*.

Let us start with the globalization. If we explore the history we find that process of globalization started somewhere 200 years back, though the pace was very slow. It gained speed and rapidity after about 100 years of initiation which turned into a cyclone till the late last century. The process of globalization can be political, social, ecological, cultural, economic, geographical etc. The major symptoms of globalization are easy cross border trade in terms of services, dominant service trade, more innovations and research etc.

Now we are witnessing all these across the nations on this planet. Just imagine to extend the concept across the planets, which may become possible technically in few years from now. If we talk of extending the same concept across the galaxies (in the cosmos). Can we call it planetization, galaxization anyway?

### 1.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

*Ahankaara* or ego as per Vedic scriptures refers to identity. Human being has been said as the co-existence of physical body and self or 'I'. (Sadhguru,2019) The body is again divided into two parts namely Physical body and mental body. The physical body comprises of brain or *mastishk*, the primary instrument and karmendriyas or action organs and *gyanendriyas* or sensory organs called together as secondary instrument. Mental body has got four parts namely intellect or *buddhi*, *ahankara* or identity (not ego), *manas* or memory or mind and *chitt* or mind stuff or pure intelligence. . (Sadhguru,2019) This can be made more clear after seeing the sketch below:

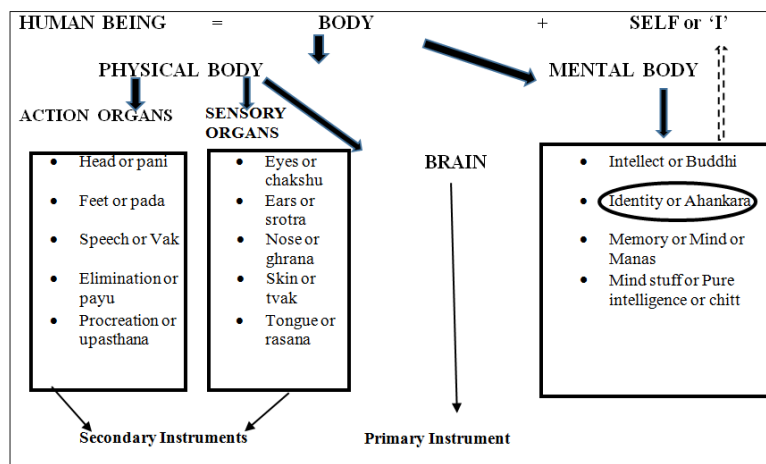


Figure 1: Human Being Explored

The sketch above clearly indicates the narration in above paragraph.

(Amin, Sharma et al.,2015)

Today we are engulfed with conflicts, struggle all around. The human goals and endeavours (both acceptable and naturally acceptable) are not in a rhythm.

**Table 1: Human Goals, Efforts & Outcomes.**

<b>Human Goals</b>	<b>Naturally Acceptable Efforts</b>	<b>Naturally Acceptable Outcome</b>	<b>Acceptable Efforts</b>	<b>Acceptable Outcome</b>
Harmony in every individual	Right understanding through right education sanskaar	Happiness in self	Domain oriented education	Accumulation
Prosperity in every family	Self- regulation, health, work, production, exchange, storage	Samriddhi	Work at the cost of exploitation Exchange storage with profit obsession	Accumulation
Trust & Fearlessness in the society	Justice, exchange storage	Abhay	Dominate, exploit, fear	Conflict & struggle, fear, trust deficit
Co-exist with nature & existence	Symbiotic processes	Sah astitva	Exploitation & irreversible processes	Resource depletion, pollution
	<b>DESIRABLE STATE</b>		<b>ACTUAL STATE</b>	

The last column in the above table (Deshpande, 2015) shows what actually we are cultivating, problems, problems and only problems. (FDP AICTE,2021). We will find prima facie only one root cause to the problem and that is education *sanskaar*. But on deep penetration, logical reasoning and focussed analysis some more causes will surface.

## 1.2 CAUSES FOR THE ISSUES BEING CONFRONTED TODAY

The major causes as we see which are responsible for these conditions of struggle, exploitation, obsession etc. can be broadly categorize into three parts. Formal education, informal education and identity. Formal education we all know what we are imparting in the schools, colleges, universities in form of Moral Value, Human Value etc. Much has been written on this and lot of literature is existing. Informal education in form of external expression, (treatment, behaviour etc. with other units of all natural orders) in family / society/nature/existence. Third cause, which we are going to focus here is the *ahankaara* or identity.

Let us revisit the figure 1. How and where the things go wrong depends on the mental body which comprises of the intellect, the identity, the mind or memory and the mind stuff or the pure intelligence or the intelligence without memory.

34<sup>th</sup>. Shloka of Shrimad Bhagwadgeeta (Chapter 6: Dhyan Yog) says

**चञ्चलं हि मनः कृष्ण प्रमाथि बलवद्दृढम् ।**

**तस्याहं निग्रहं मन्ये वायोरिव सुदुष्करम् ॥**

**cañcalaṁ hi manaḥ kṛṣṇa pramāthi balavaddṛḍham.**

**tasyāhaṁ nigrahaṁ manye vāyōriva suduṣkaram । 16.34 । ।**

This means that the mind / mental body is so robust, strong and crazy that it becomes very difficult to control it like stopping the air flow. (Bhaktivedanta,2014)

It has been well said in commentary on the *Katha Upanishad* in the section 3 titled *Sadhana*:

**ātmānaṁ rathinaṁ viddhi, śarīraṁ rathameva tu:**

**buddhiṁ tu sārādhiṁ viddhi, manaḥ pragrahaṁ eva ca. (3)**

Which means that soul within the chariot is the rider; the body is the chariot. The charioteer is the intellect or reason. The mind is like reigns with which the horses are connected to the chariot.

Further next shloka says

**indriyāṇi hayān āhur viṣayāṁs teṣu gocarān,**

**ātmendriya-mano-yuktam bhoktety āhur manīṣiṇaḥ. (4)**

Which means that senses are the horses, the objects are the roads along which the chariot is driven; the self, associated with the body, the senses and the mind—the wise say—is the enjoyer. (Bhaktivedanta,2014), Swami Krishnananda (2017)

Thus the root causes can be four as mentioned below:

- The way we use our intellect or *buddhi*. If the intellect is governed by the *satvik* imagination body will do the noble things else the things can differ.
- The way we understand our identity or *ahankaara*. *Satvik* identity, *rajsik* identity and *tamsik* identity can give us different outcomes.
- The way / type of memory creates rippling impact (*vritis*) in our mind stuff.
- The form our mind stuff takes as a result of rippling(*vritis*).

Here we are going to focus on identity. Identity or *ahankaara* can be *satvik*, *rajsik* and *tamsik* as per *Sankhya darshan*. (Amin, Sharma et al.,2015)

## Cosmic Identity

Further we recognise a multilevel identity starting from name (lower most) and going to highest level the cosmos. But before that let us look at the following points carefully.

- Nations have started competing for the resources on Moon and Mars. (Greshman 2019, Meyer & McKay 1989)
- Crisis between Israel and Palestine few months back. (BBC, 2021)
- Gurudwara Har Rai Sahib killings in Afghanistan in 2020.

(Debanish ,2020)

- Three killed in knife attack in France in 2020. (Schofield,2020)
- Communal riots in New Delhi in 2020. (The Hindu , 2021)
- Christchurch Mosque killings in New Zealand in 2019. (BBC, 2021)
- Manchester United and Liverpool supporters clash over the game.

(PI ALFA,2016)

- Consumerism and planned obsolescence. (The story of Stuff, 2009)
- Conflicts at workplace, in community, in society.
- Struggle in a family.
- Political ideology struggle and killings in West Bengal polls. (TNN ,2021)
- Contradiction within.

In all the situations mentioned above whatever be the explicit causes but implicit cause is identity and only identity.

Starting from bottom contradiction is always within as due to ignorance most of us identify as a physical body and name given to it. This includes the name, relations etc. Outcome is reflected in our external wellbeing. When I am not happy within how can I make others happy? (Tripathy, 2021)

Next we identify as per the demography (caste, culture, religion, ethnicity, nationality etc.). Struggles on the demographic basis are old & very common. The hatred is up to the extent of killing you, if you do not endorse their ideology.

At the next level we identify on the basis of our philosophy. This what we call differentiation of society, community ( age, gender, post, wealth, ism, sects etc.). (Gaur et al. 2010 , Tripathy 2021)

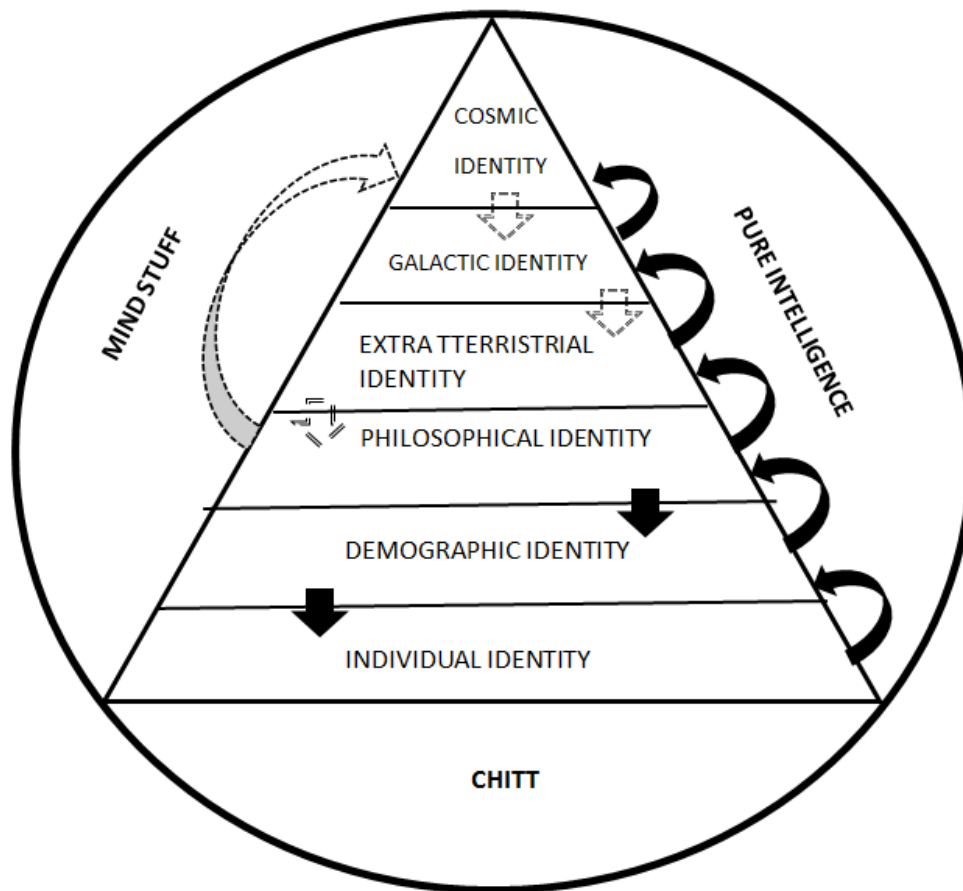
Creativity and imagination permits us to go beyond that i.e. planet, galaxies and the cosmos. But technology and innovation may restrict us on that account. We are caught in a trap, called 'lower identity trap'.

We are making immense efforts in getting out of this trap. Social, cultural, technological, spiritual awakening will help us to get rid of this. This will lead to the formation of a borderless world

(cosmos/planets/galaxies) and hence Undivided society. The day we will identify ourselves as a part of cosmic energy all the clashes resulting due to lower level identity will diffuse. This is the concept of cosmic identity. Very few have been able to follow this understanding till date and the results are in front of us. (Pandey, 2020) We observe clashes at some or other level due to some or other explicit reason. Abraham Maslow in his pyramid based approach too identifies it as the highest level or Self actualisation. One who attains this stage experiences bliss or joy or anand. (Gaur et al.,2020) Most of us are trapped at a lower level of the pyramid (physiological, safety, social, self-esteem) we call it identity. (Deshpande, 2016) (Blum & Naylor, 1968)

### 1.3 PYRAMID OF HIERARCHY OF IDENTITY

Depending on the discussion done in the previous section we propose a pyramid of hierarchy of identity.



The pyramid is engulfed in a circle named *chitt* or mind stuff or pure intelligence due to their property of taking any identity form as a result of ripples or *vritis* arising out of memory, imagination, dreams etc. Now as we get enhanced realization in form of right understanding as a result of right education *sanskaar*, right understanding leading to rise in the competence level, we keep on stepping the next level of identity. As we strive to move up the pyramid there are the forces which try to obstruct our upward movement. These anti forces can be preconditioning, assumptions, sensations, acceptance, ignorance (all internal), wrong education *sanskaar*, lower competence, technology (external) etc. One

interesting thing to be noticed that we bypass extra-terrestrial identity and galactic identity and reach the highest level of cosmic identity. It happens perhaps due to ignorance about these two. Present technology prohibits us / rather slow our pace of inquisitiveness for these two. The current trend is however not encouraging. As we are growing in numbers the anti-forces, as we feel, are getting more powerful. So, if it continues, and more we explore the cosmos, we may face more resistance in our journey to get aware of our cosmic identity. Bypassing these two (extra-terrestrial identity & galactic identity) can never be a solution, and it cannot happen as long as human order is present. Inquisitiveness is the basic nature of our intellect. Nobody knows that what they (extra-terrestrial identity & galactic identity) have in store. Thus we firmly believe

*This earth is His, to Him belong those vast and boundless skies;*

*Both seas within Him rest, and yet in that small pool He lies.*

Abdul Kalam 2016 (cited in Atharvaveda, Book 4, Hymn 16)

### 1.4 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE OF WORK

The above discussion reveals that as long as we are trapped in a lower level identity the conflict, obsession, fear in society, holistic exploitation etc. will persist. To get rid of all these one has to break this trap and realize the cosmic identity. Already the processes have been initiated in different domains for the same but still much is needed to be done to restore undivided society and build the universal human order.

In future we can explore the ways to break the identity trap, tools and process to do it. Further we can explore how technology, creativity and innovations can help us do the same.

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