

Topic: Contemporary  
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Q. Discuss the Nature of Man from the Vivekananda's point of view.

Ans: — Man is not what he ordinarily appears to be. According to Vivekananda, the real nature of man is a sort of 'Concentration of spiritual energy'. Man is a spirit and <sup>the word</sup> 'spirit' has two aspects — positive and negative. The negative aspect is usually given more prominence. Vivekananda asserts that man is spiritual in positive terms also because he represents some aspirations and urges which only he is capable of having. Vivekananda has given so much emphasis on spirituality that even the bodily aspect of man gets spiritualized.

Though he maintained that the real nature of man is spiritual, but he did not neglect the physical aspect.

Vivekananda never undermines the importance of the physical nature of man. The physical nature of man includes the bodily, the biological and the psychological aspects of man's nature. In fact, the body itself represents the physical nature of man.

Man's real nature according to Vivekananda, consists in the his capacity of going<sup>2</sup> beyond his physical nature. He describes the true



nature of man as Soul Force or Atman. This Soul Force or Atman is of divine nature. It has neither shape, nor colour. It is formless, timeless and beyond causation & hence it is infinite. Brahman or ultimate Reality is already admitted to be infinite. Vivekananda brings out the equation between Soul and ultimate reality, Atman and Brahman and thereby sketches the nature of man as, "The Real Man, therefore, is one and infinite, the omnipresent spirit." All the human beings who are institutions of that great spirit, are called Apparent Man by Vivekananda.