

# Basic Principles of Ethics in *Javanese-Saivism*

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**Abstract --- Ethics is inseparable part of any philosophical enquiry. *Javanese-saivism* is not devoid from it as reflected from its sources. Despite of the fact that this tradition was prevalent in ancient time in Java, it is not yet known as a system of philosophy; rather it is much known as a religion along with its arts and culture. This paper attempts to prove its ethical system through finding out some cardinal or essential ethical values/principles as reflected in its literature written in Sanskrit-Old Javanese and *Kawi-Balinese* in the form of palm-leaf manuscripts. Data found in them are identified, collected, grouped, and analyzed to answer the objectives of the research. Ethical principles are pointed out and elucidated to see its nature, position, relation with others, and its significance in the spiritual pursuit of seeker. Conclusion was formulated as a result of data analysis obtained from those sources. The analysis shows that this system of philosophy is supported with a system of ethics in which metaphysics, ethics, and rituals are inseparable parts; each of them is connected to form holistic system of philosophy. Whatsoever ethical virtues found in them, *dharma* behaves as the very foundation of all ethical principles and the pursuit by observing ethics terminate in freedom or emancipation of self from body--known as *moksa*, as the highest goal of life. Some other values found in them are *catur-purusa-artha*, *catur-asrama*, *purity*, *tri-kaya*, *karmapatha*, *asubha-subha-karma*, *yama-niyama*, *yoga*, and *moksa*. They are essential and each of them is connected in some ways, and each of them aims at self-transformation. All kinds of desires that are to be satisfied should be attempted based on *dharma* (righteousness).**

**Keywords:** *ethics, Javanese-Saivism, metaphysics, dharma, ritual*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Each and every religious or spiritual tradition has principles of morality, which are used to govern life of the followers. Some principles of ethics are perhaps accepted in one community but rejected in the other, and hence ethical relativism exists; a view that moral concepts, vary fundamentally with culture, history, or the individual person and that a universal or absolute ethics is impossible [1]. The truth of ethics is under shadow of uncertainty; and it is not good means for maintaining peace and harmony of society. Nevertheless, there are some commonalities or universalism in ethics as it is evolved from the very nature of human being like the goodness or truthfulness as a virtue of life. In the course of time, various theories of morality have appeared into the stage of philosophical enquiry both in West and East. Some was solely based the theories of logical reasoning, some others they are connected with religious life. Most of Indian theories of

ethics have some elements of religious life, and hence ethics become integral part of *sadhana* (discipline spiritual) in the frame of self-transformation. This proves that the problems of ethics are fundamental in life as virtuous life is considered as gate way to have happiness and consequently vice life should be avoided. The subject for the first time had been dealt philosophically during the period of ancient Greek philosophy in the west, and in texts talk about *darsana* (philosophy) in Indian tradition; and it continues till present times. Amongst the philosophers, who dealt the problem of morality was Aristotle in his works *Nicomachean Ethics* and the *Politics* in which he talks about virtuous and vice life. He reminds us “not in order to know what virtue is, but in order to become good” [2]. In Indian tradition problem of ethics is fundamental and each tradition pays serious attention to this field.

*Javanese-Saivism* as a philosophical religious tradition in ancient Java (10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> cen.) in the present-day Indonesia is not an exception in this regards [3]. *Javanese-Saivism* is a unique form/sect of Saiva tradition, which grew and developed in the island of Java (*Java-dwipa*) having characteristics of *Saivism* in general. However, it is expressed and concretized in indigenous form of culture of Java. The original seed of *Saivism* came from India, which is enabling to prove its connection with the other forms of it [4]. It continues to exist as a living tradition in the post Majapahit period in adjacent Bali having acculturation with local culture. In this land, old Javanese traditions like language, religion, philosophy, and culture are preserved and developed for quite long time giving strength or spirit to Balinese literature in following years. This becomes the main core of Balinese religion nowadays despite the fact some changes happen. Owing to this fact, there are some texts written in Balinese or *Kawi-Balinese*, which elucidate ethical principles even pervading subtly oral traditions. The advancement of this kind of *Saivism* in Java and continued in Bali was due to the fact that this can adapt various current thoughts prevalent at that times including local culture in addition to a preference of openness of Javanese and Balinese in the encounter with foreign influences. The imprints of it can be seen in both textual and religious traditions up to present times.

This tradition is well-known from ritual and cultural dimensions as tangible things. This form of Saiva tradition has a long ritual tradition practiced by its followers living not only in Bali but in other provinces. Bali-Hinduism as a religious and spiritual tradition exists in Bali may be given various names in the course of time, like “*Agama Tirtha*”, “*Siva-Buddha*”, “*Agama Hindu Bali*”, “*Hindu Dharma*”, and so on is basically further development of *Javanese-Saivism*, when it is looked at

from its internal core, viz. metaphysics [5]; and [6] calls it as *Balinese Saivism*. The grandeur of this tradition can be seen from physical objects in the forms of temple, palace, cave, bathing place, manuscripts, inscriptions, statues, *linga*, *yonis*, arts, food, cloth, and culture, etc. spreading over vast areas in Java and Bali; and some other parts of the archipelago. However, ethical principles which are supposed to underline ritual performance have received less even no attention from researcher. Some perhaps regards that ritual can be performed without following ethics as prescribed in textual tradition; rather they interpret it based on modern way of thinking. Modern way of life subtly pervades religious domain, so that many problems happened in terms of modernity versus tradition, the solution offered is through modern approach, which is not always correct. As serious degradation happened of spirituality in massive achievements in materiality of technological society, things like cultural and environmental awareness, loose in relationship amongst member of family or community due to changing in looking at virtues of life; the followers of it use the sources as their guidelines in performing religious or secular actions. There are some indigenous ethical principles, which can be used to lead life and as ethical judgment. Every nation now looks at its ancient tradition and wisdom to face the fast changing of global world. Therefore, study on the principles of ethics as revealed in the literature is worth to be undertaken under the circumstances that any ethical values have emerged from its metaphysics of *Javanese-saivism*.

This paper attempts to formulate some basic principles of ethics in *Javanese-Saivism* as revealed in its textual and religious traditions. These principles will be discussed in some lengths and see the connection of each of them in the overall system of ethics. These form a frame work of the system of ethics in this tradition. These principles are considered important as some other ethical principles are perhaps derived from these basic principles.

#### A. *Javanese-Saivism*

In the field of philosophy, *Javanese-Saivism* is hardly known in the world despite the fact *Saivism* along with other religious Indian traditions were prevalent in ancient Java. It flourished approximately in 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century in Java; and it is well preserved in Bali in the post Majapahit kingdom of East-Java up to present times. Its existence is testified by textual and living traditions taking different forms and expressions encapsulated in local languages and culture. Of this fact, it is a unique school of *Saivism* differs from others prevalent in India despite of the fact some commonalities exist amongst schools of *Saivism*. One example of such commonalities is acceptance of *linga* and *yonis* images as manifestation of the Lord Siva along with his divine consort Parvati. There were a lot *linga* and *yonis* found in Java and Bali. Suamba (2016) have done a pioneering research in this field and investigated its philosophical system based on textual tradition, which differs from other schools of *Saivism* prevalent in India. It is ... a form of *Saivism* as it glorifies and worships Lord Siva as the highest principle and other gods emanated from Him as aspects of Him

in its system [7]. The characteristics of it, is an amalgamation of various spiritual and religious traditions of Indian origin and indigenous culture. Nonetheless, *Siva-Tattva* becomes the leading philosophical principle, which brings others working together in one system of religion. The metaphysics (*tattva*) of this religion is *Siva-Tattva*, its ethics also uses *Siva-Sasana* and other *sasana* texts of saivite in nature [8]. It is further mentioned that in this tradition metaphysics (*tattva*), ethics (*sila/sasana*), and ritual (*upacara*) [9] interwoven into one system in which rituals are outer expressions of faith. People commonly know the religion professed from its outer layers, i.e. ritual in its kinds and complexities; whereas subtle aspect of religion, i.e. metaphysics gets very less attention. For common people ritual is religion; however religion is not always with rituals especially viewed from modern interpretation of religion [10]. As ritual has received more attentions from the masses, ethics becomes very fundamental since ethics gives principles or ideas how a ritual or action should be established with reference to time, place, instruments used, priest, etc. Ethics concerns with good or bad, pure or impure, virtue or vice, etc.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses qualitative approach in design as well as data collection and analysis. The data collected based on library research with specific focus given on ethical values or principles as contained in manuscripts called *Sasana* texts available in Balinese tradition as the prime sources and supported by living tradition in which those ethical principles are practiced. Since ethical values/principles also inserted in some places in other genres of texts, like poetry (*kakawin*), like *Arjuna-wiwaha*, *Siwaratri-kalpa*, metaphysics (*tattva/tutur*) like *Wrehaspati-tattva*, *Tattva-jnana*, *Jnana-siddhanta*, prose (*parwa*), etc., the focus lies on the *sasana* only to limit the scope of works. There are many texts of ethics known as *Sasana* written in Sanskrit-Old Javanese and *Kawi-Balinese* languages available in Bali. To mention some of them are *Siwa-sasana*, *Silakrama-ning-aguron-guron*, *Wreti-sasana*, *Brati-sasana*, *Rsi-sasana*, *Rajapati-gondala*, *Sarasamucchaya*, *Slokantara*, *Stri-sasana*, *Putra-sasana*, etc. The main subject of those texts can be found in a report of a study of ethical values of Old Javanese literature [11]. Some of them have been translated into English and *bahasa* Indonesia. These texts are preserved in some public libraries in Bali and abroad, and also as private collection in Bali and Lombok islands. The significant number of *sasana* texts available comparing to *tattva*, shows the significant position of ethics have in the overall spiritual pursuit of Javanese. Data were collected from those texts, grouping was done and analysing each of them in connection to importance and significance was attempted.

On reading those texts, the data found are identified, collected, grouped, and analysed in a philosophical way to answer the objectives of the research. Some ethical principles are pointed out and elucidated to see its nature, position, relation with others, and its significance in the spiritual pursuit of seeker. Conclusion was made based on the analysis of the data obtained from those sources.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Position of ethics

As mentioned above, ethics (*sasana/sila/niti-sastra*) is a part and parcel of its philosophical and religious systems; it is inseparable and integral part to form a system. It gives up to be called a system of *Javanese-Saivism* when ethics is absent from its existence. It gives principles of basic ethical values that can be used to evaluate any action either secular or spiritual in nature in the lights of ethical teachings. It is also a guiding principle on how followers should or should not act; which action is injunction and prohibition. Ethics and ritual brings the principles elucidated in metaphysics closer to the world of phenomenon as followers can act or perform the subtle truth of metaphysics through practicing ethics; and express one's religiosity through rituals in everyday life. In other words, the truth contains in metaphysics cannot be implemented without action; and for that ethics is required since it deals with virtues or vice actions; moral action is to be followed or non-moral action to be avoided. Actually it is the truth of metaphysics, which is very subtle and abstract, in action performed by the followers. In this regards we can tentatively say that ethics behaves as a connecting principle which plays its important role between bridging the metaphysics and the world of reality in which action --- be it religious or secular ---is performed. With ethics the follower practice or exercises their faith or belief.

With observing ethics purity of mind and body or microcosm and macrocosm may be secured, and hence ritual/sacrifice may be performed accordingly. Of the three elements, metaphysics, ethics, and ritual or action, the first is the very essence of it, it is subtle and the spirit of all; ethics concerns with goodness or badness, virtue or vice in the domain of action, whereas ritual or action is outer part of the system in which everyone may see, touch since it takes in three dimensions. Materials, means or instruments used in ritual attract people's interest to take part in it. Every one may participate in ritual as a form of faith in the tradition.

Ethics since it concerns with do and don't principles, it is very fundamental in the journey of self in this world. We cannot imagine when no ethics govern human life either spiritual or secular. Or, society will fall to peril or chaos when ethics or morality does not work due to some reasons. No progress happens in spirituality of religion when society is in chaos or damaged psychologically.

The very nature of self is conscious, purity, and happy but in the course of life these states can be hampered by impurities which are the cause of misery or suffers. To discard it, there should be ways, i.e. moral action that may be undertaken by a seeker. It has a must-do principle when one wishes to have spiritual progress in life. Of its position *Sarasamucchaya* text (*slokas* 2-4) mentions that amongst creatures born in this world, it is only as a human being who can act good or bad action. It is fortunate to be born as a human being as through performing ethics, one may help himself to lead moral life. Owing to this fact whatever life one has experienced it should not be regretted even though our life is unfortunate, because it

is difficult to be born as a human being. To be a human being is excellent because he can help himself from sufferings through performing ethical actions. Ethics, therefore, positions human life as a precious thing; and glorifies its dignity as a pure and happy existence in the world. Sciences have developed very well in this modern time; however they cannot lead human beings to be virtues life.

The diagram below shows tight relationship amongst metaphysics, ethics, and ritual in the system of religion and philosophy of *Javanese-Saivism* [12]. Reading from outer layer, ritual is another forms of principles believed in metaphysics, it is the most gross element a seeker can see or touch since in its practices involving materials, instruments, images, fire, etc. Next is ethics which is foundation of performing any ritual/action. It teaches to be good and virtuous person because such condition is a prerequisite condition to approach the divinity. Next, metaphysics is the most subtle and abstract that only smart or intellectual person may grasp the ideas/principles. Masses usually perform ritual and follow the ethics; they are not interested in metaphysics.

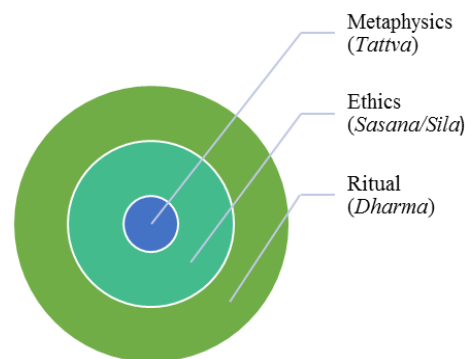


Fig 1: The relation of metaphysics, ethics, and ritual

#### B. Literature

Sources of *Javanese-Saivism* have a wide range of literature on ethics expressed in various modes. Ethical messages may be found in poem literature of various forms (like *Siwararikalpa*) or in prose forms (like *Siwa-sasana*). As this tradition is a confluence of various traditions of Indian origin and local culture, its ethics is also received some elements from other traditions like *Brahmanism* or *Vedism*, *Buddhism*, *Tantrism*, *Samkhya*, *Yoga*, etc. These all behave as sources of written and oral traditions like fables, or folklores, or music/songs, arts living in society expressed in local languages. However, we have not yet had a comprehensive list of *sasana* texts in its developments or cultural map of their spreading. In short we may state that ethics pervades almost all literatures --- be it philosophical in nature as contained in *tattva* texts, ethics (*sasana*), or ritual (*yajna*). All of these are traditionally called *sastra* as the spiritual sources of the religion.

A group of literature on ethics known as *sasana, sila* or *niti-sastra* mainly talks about ethical values or principles of do and don't despite the fact principle of ethics may be found in *tattva/tutur* and *kavya* (poetry) texts. Exposition of *yoga*, e.g. is



mainly found in *tattva* texts like in *Wrehapati-tattva*, *Tattva-jnana*, *Ganapati-tattva*, etc. To mention just some of *sasana* texts are *Siwa-sasana*, *Silakrama-ning-aguron-guron*, *Wrti-Sasana*, *Brati-Sasana*, *Rsi-Sasana*, *Rajapati-Gondala*, *Sarasamucchaya*, *Slokantara*, *Rsi-Sasana*, *Stri-Sasana*, *Putra-sasana*, etc. [13]. *Siva-Sasana* consists of the pre-conditions that are to be observed by those who are joining the priesthood life. *Vrati-Sasana* is for an ascetic. *Rsi-Sasana* is for hermitage. *Sila-Krama* is for *guru* (spiritual-master) and *sisya* (spiritual disciple). *Stri-Sasana* is for house wives. *Putra-Sasana* is for children. *Raja Dharma/Rajapati-Gundala* is for king, etc. The first three are for the *Dwijati*, whereas the rests are for common people [14].

These literatures are written in Sanskrit-Old Javanese and Old Javanese (*Kawi*) language in the form of palm-leaf manuscripts. Some of them perhaps written in Java and the ones belong to *Kawi-Balinese* literature were written in Bali in post Majapahit period in 15th century AD. Process of transmission or rewritten in new palm-leaf manuscripts still continues in Bali even in modern times. They have been preserved in Bali and Lombok; and for that roles of brahmins and kings cannot be excluded. Some public libraries in Indonesia and abroad keep them as their collections in addition to private or home libraries in Bali and Lombok islands. Some of them have been rewritten in paper form, translated into Hindi, English, and *bahasa* Indonesia in modern times. These texts are in used by the *saiva* followers especially a person belongs to twice-born (*dwijati*) in practicing religious belief.

### C. Two broad classifications

*Sasana* texts address the problems of human sufferings due to wrong or unjust actions (*asubha-karma*). The literatures can be utilized in helping human being to live morally either as an individual or personal or as a community with its complexities. No other science can lead humans to perform virtues life unless one observes ethical teachings. Advanced society in science and technology is not a guarantee its people observe ethical or virtuous life; rather so many human and environmental problems happen due to violation of ethics, moral, or rules either in developed or undeveloped society. After all, they need guide line or ethical frame work to act meaningfully in society. When unjust, wicked action happens sometimes one is in problem to give justification whether it is right or wrong; or one may not have enough courage to maintain the truth even though one knows the right from the wrong action. Ultimately, non-moral action will bring suffering or hell; on the other hand, moral action will bring happiness.

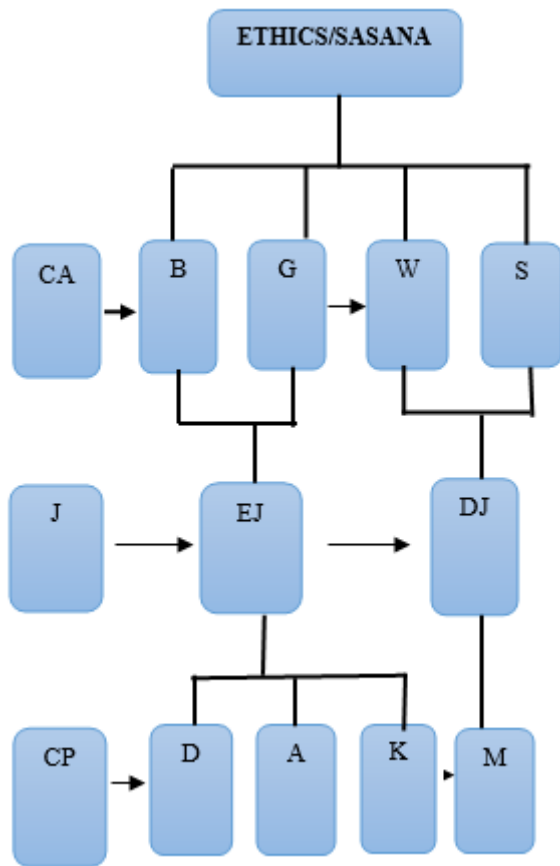
This problem is caused by inability to control mind (*manas*) and senses (*indriyas*) in the pursuit of happiness. Or, they may have wrong ideas on the conception of freedom of happiness that uncontrolled sensual fulfilment can bring real happiness. Fulfilments of sensual enjoyment are not always right ethically. Of this fact, the texts reveal principles of ethics for a particular type person and/or social status of person in the frame of *Catur-asrama* (four levels/stages of life) and *Catur-purusartha* (four goals of life) --- be it holy person, teacher, students,

king, husband, wife, children, etc. Some ethical principles may not be matched with one disposition or social status, and hence it requires specific ethics with reference to duty (*swadharna*) without neglecting common duty (*sadharana-dharma*). Specific ethics is usually rigorous in nature and only a particular type of person may be able to practice it.

Owing to this varieties, ethical teachings prescribed in the literature may be divided into two broad divisions, viz. ethical values/principles for twice born person (*dwijati*, *sadhaka*, *wiku*, etc.), and ethical values/principles for lay person/commoner in the frame of *Catur-asramas* (four stages of life). Some texts like *Siwa-sasana*, *Wrti-sasana*, *Brati-sasana*, *Silakrama-ning-aguron-guron*, *Rsi-sasana*, etc. belong to the *sadhaka* division; whereas texts like *Sarasamucchaya*, *Slokantara*, *Rajapati-gondala*, etc. for lay person [15]. In another place Suamba (2014) mentions some ethical teachings like A. *Tri-kaya parisuddha* [three types of purity, viz. mind (*manas*), words (*vak*), and action (*kaya*)]; B. *Subha-asubha-karma* (good/right and bad/wrong action); C. *Yama* and *Niyama* (called *Dasa-sila* – ten ethical principles); D. *Sadanga-yoga* (six limbs of *yoga*, viz. (1) *Pratyahara* (withdrawal of senses from their objects), (2) *Dhyana* (meditation), (3) *Pranayama* (breath control), (4) *Dharana* (breath holding), (5) *Tarka* (reflection), and (6) *Samadhi* (concentration), E. *Vrata* (vow/fasting), F. *Dana* (donation), G. *Purusartha* (goals of life); H. *Yajna* (sacrifice/ritual), etc. [16]. He further states that the very core of ethical teachings is to obtain purity of mind and body; not only body (microcosm) but also universe (macrocosm) since by nature they are essentially composed of the same elements called five gross elements (*bhutas*), viz. earth (*prthivi*), water/liquid (*apah*), heat/light (*tejas*), wind (*vayu*), and ether (*akasa*). These all have their quality of five subtle elements (*tan matra*), viz. (1) sound (*sabda*), (2) touch (*sparsa*), (3) form (*rupa*), (4) taste (*rasa*), and (5) odour (*gandha*). Human body consists of three layers/elements, viz. gross body (*sthula-sarira*), subtle body (*sukma-sarira*) and self/soul (*antah-karana*). For the first two layers/elements are composed of five gross elements (*Panca-maha-bhutas*) originated from *Prakrti* (matter principle). They underwent permutation in multifarious ways [17].

As there are some teachings of ethics with respect to stages of life, ethics for lay person is to be practiced first before practicing ethics for *sadhaka*; it is considered as the base for entering the world of priesthood which is considered tougher. General or common ethical virtues like purity, truthfulness, non-violence, etc. are applicable not only for lay person but also for *sadhaka* or holy person. It is recommended that ethics of general/common person should be practiced first prior to ethics for priesthood. Since ethics for priest (*sadhaka*) is tough and details, lay person is not obliged to follow them. A *sadhaka* will be able to follow the priesthood ethics when he/she is accustomed with general ethical values.

There are a lot of ethical values/principles available in the literature of this tradition which requires further research. The following are some of cardinal ethical values which supposed to be the back bone of ethical system of *Javanese-Saivism*.



Notes:

CA: Catur Asrama; B: Brahmacharya; G: Grhastha; W: Wanaprastha; S: Sannyasa; J: Jati; EK: Eka Jati; DW: Dwi Jati; CP: Catur Purusartha; D: Dharma; A: Artha, K: Kama; M: Moksa.

Fig 2: Ethics, Catur-Asrama, and Catur-Purusartha

D. Catur-purusa-artha (four goals of human life)

The entire human life is viewed as a long spiritual journey in which everyone proceeds from lower to higher level of consciousness till reaching the ultimate goal of life in which union of self and the Supreme Self happens; or the progress happens from demonic character (*asuri-sampada*) to godly character (*daiwi-sampada*) [18]. And, the quality in terms of spirituality is justified based on this condition. Meaningful progress should be attempted, or in other words, meaningless one should be avoided, and for that reason, one should plan life carefully, perform it with awareness and responsibility with the inner attitude of devotion and surrender till union can be achieved with the highest reality as the final or ultimate goal of life---*parama-purusa-artha* (*moksa*). In this regards the role of spiritual master (*guru*) in guiding or supervising a seeker; and environments are important since a *guru* knows well how to deal the problem. Any action performed in life should be able to bring about some changes for betterment of life which includes physical, intellectual, and spiritual domains. To accomplish in the right direction is not an easy task unless one

holds ethics having its base on metaphysics of the system of thought. In each progress one moves from one state/stage to another stage passing various hurdles and opportunities till one achieve his final goal. Of this frame work, there are a lot of desires or goals to be achieved in life either short-term or long-term ones. Some goals are genuine and the others are superficial. Human is sometimes confused to search the superficial rather than the genuine one.

When the fulfilment of desire, lust or senses is to be attempted, there are so many goal of life if every desire is taken into account. Desires are endless while life is limited by place and time. Amongst those unlimited goals, they can be broadly divided into four divisions, viz. righteousness (*dharma*), wealth/security (*artha*), desires (*kama*), and freedom/emancipation (*moksa*). The attempts require progressive movement from *dharma* till *moksa*, since *dharma* is the foundation for the achievement of the other three goals. These goals are attempted progressively in stages of life known as four stages of life (*Catur-Asrama*), viz. *Brahmacharya*, *Grhastha*, *Wanaprastha*, and *Sanyasa*. *Dharma* is the pursuit in the period of *Brahmacharya*, *Artha* and *Kama* are pursuits in the period of *Grhastha*, and *Moksa* is the pursuit in the period of *Wanaprastha* and *Sanyasa*. Irrespective of their significance, *dharma* is put at the very beginning of pursuit and at the same times pervades the others. The concept of *dharma* must be understood well, otherwise, life will terminate in perils. When one holds *dharma* in faith and devotion, the *dharma* itself protects and saves (*dharma raksati raksita*) him as stated in *Dharma-sastra*.

*Dharma* in Indian tradition has been interpreted in various ways in various traditions—be it in Brahmanic or Sramanic tradition. Accordingly, there are various meanings of *dharma-dhamma* available laboured by thinkers, philosophers, or religious leaders as depicted in various literatures. Not only in the Indian sub-continent, *dharma-dhamma* becomes the most important cardinal values on which oriental culture has been developed to its best [20]. As underlying and substratum principles of the world, *Dharma* may be used in metaphysics, ethics, and ritual. However, none can define *dharma* in a comprehensive way since *dharma* behaves as the very nature, foundation, and existence of the humanity and the world. *Javanese* literature especially of ethics understands it as ethics, moral, norm, rules, regulation, or law that governs human life. It is cosmic law which governs all existence in the world. *Dharma* along with its opposite *adharma* is often used to express the truth or ethical virtues or vice. This implies that one has an option in life whether to lead life in moral action or otherwise; and the literature gives the result of any action performed. *Dharma* has been given serious attention in the frame of *Catur-purusa-artha*. It is so unless the foundation should be built, the entire system will be collapse. *Dharma* is positioned as the very first and basic to be acquired prior to other fulfilments. Thus, *dharma* is the first goal that should be achieved irrespective its vast coverage.

*Sarasamucchaya* (*sloka* 12) mentions that any fulfilments of possession/wealth (*artha*) and desires/lust (*kama*) will be futile unless it is acquired based on *dharma*, on the contrary,

when one is done based on *adharma*, the result for the long run will be suffer or hell. This text compares *dharma* with way to heaven; it is like boat as a means for a merchant to cross the ocean (*sloka* 14). Like movement of the Sun which can discard darkness of the world, similarly one who has performed *dharma*, he/she can vanish all kinds of sin (*dosa*) (*sloka* 16). It further states that the excellence of *dharma* is as source of happiness (*sukha*) for those who have performed it. *Dharma* behaves as protector/shade for knowledge person; it is only *dharma* can defuse sins of the three world (*tri-lokas*) (*sloka* 18) [21]. Even though its significance is elucidated in beautiful way, to perform *dharma* sincerely is not always easy; it requires a burning spirit to hold the *dharma* in every place and condition. A weak person will be easily change his mind and divert his attention to *adharma*, because he thinks that apparently *dharma* give suffering whereas *adharma* gives enjoyment. Uncheck fulfilment of senses give enjoyments.

*Dharma* is interpreted as ethical virtues that are worth to observe. Text of *Writi-sasana* (*sloka* 22) mentions ten ethical virtues (*Dasa-dharma*), viz. *dhreti* (purity of mind), viz. *ksama* (patience), *dama* (remembering cleanness of mind), *steya* (non-stealing), *soca* (cleaning self with ash---*bhasma*), *indriyani graha* (controlling desires/lust), *hrih* (embarrassed), *widya* (studying knowledge), *satya* (truthfulness), and *akrodha* (not angry) that can purify oneself [22]. With this fact *dharma* is not only used to refer to metaphysical principles, *rta*, law, norms, or regulation but also ethics which deals with action. Thus, *dharma* pervades and penetrates all existences.

#### *E. Purity (nirmala) vs impurity (mala) and the role of mind (manas)*

The motif of the followers to observe ethical teachings is securing purity (*purity*) of mind (*citta*), words/utterance (*wak*), and actions (*kaya*)---known as *Tri-kaya* [23]. for higher state of humanity. Purity is the pre-condition for attainment of *Samadhi* [24]. As soul entangled with impurity, purity is not given by any agencies but it should be attempted sincerely through virtuous life. Ethical teachings whatever simple they are should be attempted with sincerity and humble. Spiritual knowledge (*jnana*) can only be grasped after purity of *Tri-kaya* is obtained. Under the supervision of a spiritual master (*guru*), one is supposed to have some progresses in the path of spirituality. Gradual development of purity of one's disposition is possible to be achieved by habitual action for which hindrances on this path is sometimes unavoidable. It implies that in using ethical principles one tries to control over mind, words, and actions. Accordingly, one will try to avoid or discard from state of impurity (*mala*) either of the *Tri-kaya* or environments. Ethically there are some ethical ways suggested to be attempted in daily life, e.g. purity (*sauca*) as ethical virtue should be attempted perhaps gradually in conducive environment. Impurity hampers path of righteousness.

By nature everyone born is pure. As one grows up on which environment starts influencing him, mind starts creating ethical problems. Due to the operation of mind as the chief of senses (*indriyas*), one may be attached by impurity of mind, words, and action. It is mentioned in *Sarasamucchaya* (*sloka*

80) that the reason it is called mind (*manah*) is because it is the source of lust; it causes to act good and bad actions as well. Therefore, mind should be soon controlled [25], otherwise will endanger the mind itself. To purify them is attempted through conducting action taught in the ethical teachings. In *Sila-krama* text it is mentioned that body is purified by water, mind is purified by truthfulness, self is purified by knowledge and penance (*tapa*), and intellect is purified by wisdom. Truthfulness cannot only purify mind but also words and actions. From this fact, it can be seen that purifying by using physical object/instrument is only for physical body; for subtle bodies or self (*atma*) is through controlling *Tri-kaya*. It is obvious here that purifying subtle bodies is more difficult than corporal body. And further it requires strategies to cope with the problems.

Purity become more important based on the opinion that the highest principle, which is in the state of purity, can only be approached by devotees through purity. As Patanjali proposed in his *Yoga-sutra* that the ultimate objective for practicing *Astanga-yoga* is to secure pure and controlled mind since it is in the state of equipoise stable pure, mind can reflect the reality as it is like the ground of pond can be clearly seen when the water is pure, clean, and stable. The source by which one is attached by impurity is mind (*manah*) since it is only faculty of cognition but also of conation. In here is the place of discriminative knowledge (*viveka-jnana*) obtained after process of acquiring knowledge is completed. There is always a process of forming some knowledge based on the stimuli or information given by each senses. Since the involvement of I-ness/ego, knowledge becomes subjective; and considered it has higher position. *Manah* is a place of battle place where *tri-guna*, viz. *satvam*, *rajas*, and *tamas*; and ego (*ahamkara*) fighting each other, each wants to be dominant over the others.

Life is often viewed as a long spiritual journey with definite terminal point. Everyone is expected to proceed to higher state of manhood; but many of them are going back to state of impurity due to unable to protect or maintain it. Selfish fulfilment of senses will lead one to impurity because it is done devoid of lights of *dharma*. Self-transformation can only be experienced when one performs ethics; and for this necessity, the role of a spiritual master (*guru*) is significant. Since every one tends to be lazy in performing ethics as senses always needs fulfilments, awareness of the importance of good or virtues, habitual action (*abhyasa*) is much demanded. It is basically the foundation of discipline spiritual (*sadhana*) for higher spiritual state.

This shows that this tradition considers ethics is fundamental in spiritual ascendance no matter for priest or lay person. Quality of being a spiritual is based on his purity (*sauca*) of body and mind. Of this fact, *yoga* has its foundation on purity as ethical virtues amongst ten cardinal ethical values - *--Dasa-silas* that should be attempted by those who are in spiritual life. Purity of body and mind should be secured first through observation of ethics. In here lays strategic position of fasting (*vrata*) as a means to discipline or culture mind and body.



#### F. *Karmapatha: controlling indriyas*

As a form of evolute (*tattva*) in *Saivism*, senses (*indriyas*) are closed to external world since with the fulfilment, the self has an access to external world and at the same time get attached with impurity of it provided that the fulfilment is unchecked or imbalance. By nature all senses need to be satisfied with respective objects of enjoyments, and hence they pull the self to external world on which peaceful or standstill mind is difficult to achieve. *Indriya* a subtle principle in oneself has a corresponding place or point (called *golaka*) through which a respective sense may be satisfied. There are ten in number and hence they called ten senses (*Dasendriyas*), and accordingly there are ten *Golakas*. For *Chaksu-indriya* its location is on eyes, *Srotendriya* is on ears, *Jihwendriya* is on tongue, *Granendriya* is on nose, *Twakindriya* on skin, etc. Under the command of mind (*Manas*) all senses can perform each function in a respective way in human life. Being conscious and pure, the faith of self (*atma*) depends of the senses under the leadership of mind (*manas*). The problem for mind is that it should control itself an entity in the state of flux of *Tri-guna* and *Ahamkara*.

Fulfilling senses (*indriyas*) is the problems of controlling the senses. It lies in between fulfilment of senses and self-mortification. It is a moderate position in which the role of mind as a controller becomes very important. Senses are parts and parcels of human nature. None can live normally without the presence of senses and their fulfilments. In spiritual journey, it should not be oppressed till zero fulfilments even destroy it, rather to fulfil it in a proportional way with reference to age or physical and psychological circumstances. The operation of *indriyas* indicates progress of life. The problem comes when fulfilment of senses just for the senses themselves rather for their operation bases on higher goal of life. Senses operate in the domains of *artha* and *kama*--in the frame of *Catur-purusa-artha*, viz. *Dharma*, *Artha*, *Kama*, and *Moksa*.

Text of *Sarasamucchaya* introduces the concept of *Karmapatha* [26], a way to control body, words, and mind. In *Sarasamucchaya* (*sloka* 74), it mentions that *karmapatha* is basically the way how to control senses (*indriyas*) of ten in numbers that is proper to be followed. The descriptions are like these. Movement of mind consists of three parts; movement of words consists of four parts, and movement of action consists of three parts. Thus, there are ten actions which are originated from body, words, and mind. That is proper to be paid attention to [27]. In *slokas* 75 and 76 the text elucidates each part of them. Movement of mind consists of three parts, viz. not willing and jealous with possession of other, not having rude attitude to other creatures, belief in the teaching of *karma-phala* (cause and effect); movement of words consists of four parts, viz. wicked words (*pratyakenya*), rude words (*aprgas*), words of defamation (*pisuna*), and lie words (*mitya*); and movement of action consists of three parts, viz. killing (*syamatimati*), stealing (*mangahalahal*), and illegal sexual act (*si paradara*). Because one is well-known is due to his action, mind, and words. That is interesting for man to know the personality of one. Therefore, the good thing should be habituated in action, words, and mind (*ngabyasan ring kaya, wak, manah*) [28]. This means that the final achievement is not

achieved by accidental or chance but by gradual progress from lower to higher state of purity or consciousness.

#### G. *Prohibition and injunction*

With reference to the intention of the messages, ethical teachings can be broadly divided into two divisions, viz. (1) prohibition, i.e., action to be avoided, and (2) injunction, i.e., action obliged to be performed. Some actions are prohibited because, if they are performed, will cause sufferings or hell (*naraka*). On the contrary, some actions are suggested or advised to be done because they can lead one to happiness or heaven (*swarga*). These teachings happen in plenty number in our *sasana* texts. Having a position of the highest reality, the teachings imparted are words of the highest reality and it is obliged to be done by the seeker. Of these two big divisions, the tradition is rich and elucidated in various forms of expressions. *Yama*, e.g. belongs to prohibition; whereas *Niyama* belongs to injunction [29]. Something prohibited will terminate in goodness, on the other hand, when ethical teaching is broken or acted out, one will terminate in badness. Since it is not easy to be habitual with goodness, one should find conducive environment where goodness may develop to its best state. Since goodness and badness are present in some degrees in human life, one should be able to manage these and can transcend them to higher level of consciousness.

Human beings are between these two poles of actions. Sometimes they are not sure either one action done belong to injunction or prohibition; moreover one does not have discriminative knowledge. It is very hard to avoid the something bad happened. This becomes pertinent in the materialistic pursuit which causes one going away from purity of spirituality. Owing to this fact, one is supposed to have a pertinent principle of ethics which can be used to lead life morally since by nature everyone is morally born. When it is clear in mind, one can decide which action is to be performed or avoided.

#### H. *Subha vs. Asubha karma [moral vs. non-moral action]*

In general actions can be divided into two broad divisions, viz. moral vs. non-moral action [*Subha- vs. Asubha-karma*]. By nature every human born wishes to be a good person, but due to some reasons, one may turn to be a bad person. The tradition seems to accept that the ethical values/principles is based on ideas underlining action not on result. Even though the consequence or effect resulted from an action is good, but it cannot be accepted when the ideas or procedures undertaken is *adharmic*. Intention or ideas is the determiner of an action whether good or bad action. In the teachings of *Tri-kaya*, viz. *manacika*, *wacika*, and *kayika* the seed lays on the mind (*manah*). It is the controller of all desires or senses. Result as a consequence of intention cannot be used to justify an action which is morally right. The things which make them different are the motifs which underline the actions. When an action is performed based on *adharmic*, it belongs to *Asubha-karma*, and the result/effect/fruit as the consequence of action performed is finally sufferings or hells (*naraka*). On the other hand, if the action is performed based on *dharma* (righteousness), the result

will be happiness or heaven (*swarga*). It looks like the conception of ethical virtues of Aristotle of ancient Greek.

The literatures of *Javanese-Saivism* give a lot of explanations or examples of these two cardinal values, right vs. wrong in various ways or modes of expression. Almost all art forms created contain message of ethical values. In epic literatures these values are exemplified by actors of a play so audience can see clearly the principles underlying the action performed.

#### I. *Dasa-Sila (ten cardinal ethical principles)*

One of important ethical virtues is *Dasa-sila* (ten cardinal ethical principles), which consists of five *Yama (Panca-Yama-Brata)* and five *Niyama (Panca-Niyama-Brata)*. *Yama* is considered as the foundation for the performance of *Niyama*. This regards the performance of these are forms of penance (*vrata*) that are directed for the attainment of purity of mind and body in the path of self-transformation. It is so since to have purity, one should try to practise and feel the truth. These ethical values are *silas* (foundation) for *yoga* in line with *Yoga-sutra* of Patanjali. Text of *Wrti-sasana (sloka 2)* states that due to performing *Yama* and *Niyama*, one will achieve pure intellect (*apan yang karaksa yama niyama brata, tan cala buddhi*) [30]. *Yama* consists of *ahimsa, brahmacharya, satya, avyavaharika*, and *asteya*. (1) *Ahimsa* means not killing. (2) *Brahmacharyya* means celibacy and keen on learning *mantra* of *brahmancari*-hood. (3) *Satya* means saying truthfulness. (4) *Awyawaharika* means is not attached with worldly affairs; and (5) *Astenya* means not to have possession of other, non-stealing [31]. The *slokas* elucidates each part of *Yama-Brata*. In these series, *ahimsa* is taken as the corner stone for observing virtues life.

*Niyama-Brata* consists of five elements, viz. *akrodha, guru susrusa, soca, aharalaghava*, and *apramada*. (1) *Akrodha* means is not controlled by angriness, (2) *guru susrusa* means always close to a spiritual master (*guru*) to follow his instructions and respect him, (3) *soca* means always cleans his body and spirit, and begging purification from the Lord, (4) *aharalaghawa* means taking food carelessly; and (5) *apramada* means not doubtful to perform duty of priesthood [32].

In the texts of *Wretti-Sasana* and *Sarasamucchaya (slokas: 268-270)*, each *Niyama* and *Yama* are developed it into ten of each *Yama* and *Niyama* respectively, so that twenty in totality. Ten *Yama*: (1) *Ansesangsia* means does not expects respect from society, (2) *Ksama* means putting priority on patience, (3) *Satya* means not deceitful, (4) *Ahingsa* means not killing, (5) *Dama* means not arrogant, (6) *Sarjjawa* means having noble personality, (7) *Dhyana* means always concentrating on the form of god, (8) *Prasada* means loves people, (9) *Madhurya* means ability in uttering words and shows nice personality, and (10) *Mredhuta* means tenderness. These are all called *Yama* [33]; whereas ten *Niyamas* are as follows (1) *Sauca* means always keep body and mind clean, pure, (2) *Ijya* means always praising, (3) *Tapa* means controlling body and senses, (4) *Dana* means to donate, (5) *Swadhyaya* means retelling what has been achieved from learning, (6) *Upasthanigraha* means lessening desire of eating, (7) *Brata*

means not eating meat and the like, (8) *Upawasa* means fasting, (9) *Mauna* (speechless), and (10) *Snana* (always cleaning body with water [34].

With this fact, we have not only ten *Dasa-silas*, but we also have *Dwadasa-sila*, which consist of ten *Yamas* and *Niyamas*. This was perhaps due to the importance of ethical teachings everyone thinks of it in self-transformation.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

*Javanese-Saivism* as a system of philosophy and religion has ethical values/principles as contained in its literature in addition to rituals; it is a part of its system of philosophy. Metaphysics, ethics, and rituals---called *Tri-Dharma* are inseparable elements and each of them connected to the other having the core on metaphysics as the store house of principles; manifested in ethics and rituals by the followers. The absence of any of them will cause defect as a system of philosophy and religion. It has centrality in the belief on the highest reality whose nature is consciousness, purity, and happiness. Those goals as formulated in *Catur-Purusartha* can only be achieved when one performs ethical teachings sincerely. It is a religion in which philosophy is put in action either in ethics or rituals. Through ethics a seeker is directed to a right path of action. Ethics is manifested based on the principles believed in metaphysics, and further rituals are outer expression of seeker showing his faith or religiosity. Ethics and rituals performed to achieve these states, and hence ethics is very fundamental in the journey of self.

With reference to social status of the followers, broadly speaking its ethics are two kinds, viz. one is addressed for twice-born (*dwijati*) group; and the other one is for lay persons (*eka-jati*), which are again classified into some kinds of person according to one's social status, disposition or duty (*swadharma*). These are reflected in the textual traditions. However, common ethics is regarded as the base on which ethics of *dwijati* may be performed after one is converted his social status from *eka-jati* to *dwijati* through a series of rituals. There are texts which discusses ethical principles known as *Sasana/Niti-sastra* despite the fact ethical values pervade almost all literatures. This shows that Javanese stalwarts in ancient Java were very keen in spiritual pursuit. The literatures recorded their dynamic as a form of spiritual quests. Anyway, ethics was given a serious attention reflected in plenty number of texts.

There a lot of ethical values, principles available in this system as reflected in its literature. Amongst them are the concepts of *dharma, catur purusa artha, catur asrama*, purity, *tri-kaya, karmapatha, asubha-subha-karma, yama-niyama, yoga*, and *moksa*. They are essential features of its ethical system. Each of them is connected in some ways, and the performance of each of them aiming at self-transformation; and regarding life as a spiritual journey to within. All kinds of



desires that are to be satisfied should be attempted based on *dharma* (righteousness).

Ethics plays very important role in life either secular or spiritual since if it is performed sincerely, it leads one to progress in a positive way. Success in spiritual life is not given by any agency or god, but it should be attempted under the supervision of spiritual master (*guru*) and supported by a positive environment. Ethics in the course of life should be habituated with a burning spirit that betterment in any plane of life can only be achieved when people observe moral life, not *vice versa*.

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