



IS IMMORTALITY A GREAT THREAT TO HUMANKIND? A REVIEW BASED ON TAMIL LITERATURE, MOVIES AND FACTS

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Abstract- "CHANGE is the only constant thing in life". In day today life, the word change itself has become a basic need to live a sophisticated and luxurious life. The CHANGES in the growth and development of technology creates a great impact on everyone's life. The word change gives meaning in two different aspects. One is positive and the other is negative. In the positive note, the change can happen to fulfill one's basic need or to reduce the burden of mankind. And in the negative note in today's life, people invent changes with the help of the latest technology in order to fulfill their lust and greedy attitude. This attitude paves the way to generate or increase research in finding an immortal life that kills death. "Immortality means a state of living or existing forever – Oxford Dictionary". Interestingly few Tamil movies like 'Mayavan' and 'Bogan' throw some light into this area and the same is reviewed. This article discusses some facts about the ongoing research in the fields of immortality; it also tries to trace back the evidences of such immortality research in Tamil literature.

Keywords: Change, Immortality, Humankind, Threat, Facts

I. INTRODUCTION

Immortality is the most interesting aspect because cheating death and living forever is an attractive element for everyone to visualize and experience more generations along with transformations in traditions, culture, society, technology, science, etc. though Immortality is the scientific word it has more implications in the past too. Astral projection is the method used by ancestors particularly in the Hindu religion. Astral Projection means an out-of-body experience that is soul or consciousness can separate itself from the body and move anywhere in the universe. Also, they have the capacity to enter in any dead body and make that body to live again with their soul.

Tamil Literature is the richest literature that has a long tradition for more than two thousand years in the Tamil language. It is evident that in Tamil literature, one who rules the kingdom must master the Sixty-Four arts of life. Astral Projection is numbered fifty-second among the important arts. Next, is about siddhi which is a Sanskrit word meaning success, accomplishment, attainment, perfection. In Hinduism, there are eight classical siddhis such as anima which decrease the size of the body to atom, Mahima which enlarge one's body to unlimited large size, Laghima becoming weightless, prapti which exercise power to be anywhere of one's own wish, prakamya in which one can understand anyone's wish, Isitva in which Astral projection i.e. exhibiting supreme power over nature, vasitva in which one can controls nature and natural forces, Garima in which one can gain the power to become very heavyweight are attained through the sincere meditation, attaining extreme power through yoga and the spiritual maturity over the extraordinary power of the soul. These unbelievable elements can only be achieved by great saints and yogis as follows

Thirumoolar:

One of such yogis is the close disciple of Lord Shiva, known as Thirumoolar Tamil Shaivite and writer. He was one among the sixty-three nayanmars and one among eighteen popular siddhars in Tamil literature. His famous book is thirumanthiram. Such a great siddhar is the one who had practiced the sixth siddhi, astral projection among eight, during the ancient period. Patanjali was a great sage in India lived in 2nd century BCE who also quote about the astral projection in his yoga formulas verse number 3.38 in which he told that one who leaves the familial bond, attain the eternal bliss of god and learn to control the five elements of nature such as earth, water, air, sky and fire through the meditation and yogasanas can separate the soul from the body and control it to their wish to live the eternal life. Mind integrity is a significant aspect that helps the siddhars to attain this kind of supreme power.

Agathiyar:

Another great legend to speak about is Agathiyar. He is known as the father of Tamil literature. There are 18 great siddhars in Tamil literature who acquire immense knowledge and experience by practicing spirituality and yogasanas. They possess great knowledge in many fields such as Siddha medicine, meditation yogic exercises, Astrology, Alchemy and occult practices. Agathiyar is regarded as the first great sage in Tamil literature. He is the direct disciple of Lord Shiva who possesses immense knowledge in Language, medicine, Alchemy, spirituality and astrology. The details about Agathiyar maharishi is given in all the four Vedas such as Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharvana parallelly eight anthologies of Tamil Sangam literature such as Akananuru, Purananuru, Ettuthogai and so on also speak about Agathiyar. This becomes more controversy because eight anthologies of Sangam literature and four Vedas belong to different centuries with the difference of many years. It is believed that Agathiyar with his spiritual power, lived and living till day. It is also believed that he does not have a physical body but a living soul.

Bogar:

Bogar or Boganathar disciple of Agathiyar lived between 550 and 300 BC. He is a great expert in the field of Pharmacognosy which means the study of herbs, plants and natural resources which have many medicinal uses. He is the one who taught immortality through kayakalpa yogasanas. Statue of Lord Muruga in Palani Temple is made by Bogar with the Nine auspicious Poisonous herbs into medicine which cures any disease. He also practiced Astral Projection. It is believed that he attained immortality by merging his soul with the universe and god through mind integration.

But day to day life, in the fast living world, no one has free time and passion because of their busy schedule with their duties. Everyone become multitasker and so there is no possible way to exercise mind integrity in any work. Thus, it becomes very difficult to believe the activities of the siddhars. Every one trusts science for any facts and rely on it. Time changes everything. Once in an ancient period, immortality is practiced but it is impossible now. Currently, in science, Research in neuroscience is in the process to find out the formula for immortality. Meanwhile, there is a story known as Samudhra Manthan in Tamil Literature which narrates the experience of Rishis in finding out the Amrita, The Elixir from god which helps to be immortal.

Samudhra Manthan: (Churning the ocean of milk)

Samudhra Mandhan is also known as Amrit Manthan. The word Samudhra means Ocean, Manthan means Churning. The pieces of evidence about Samudhra Mandhan is narrated in an epic such as Bhagavat Geetha, Vishnu Purana and Mahabharata.

Lord Indra is the king of heaven, the more powerful god who can control thunder, storm, lightning, rain, war, etc. he is highly respected for his immense knowledge in Vedas i.e. contains the protocols to be good in character as well as life. Once lord Indira takes a ride in his elephant Airavata and comes across the great sage Dhurvasa. Sage dhurvasa presented him a garland which is very auspicious and brings fortune to life. Lord Indira politely received the garland and kept in the horns of Airavata. Unexpectedly Airavata threw the garland away. By seeing this, sage dhurvasa got angry about the pride of lord Indira, cursed him and other gods to lose their powers, energy, strength and fortunes. Knowing these asuras (Demons) start to fight against gods and successfully acquire the whole world in their control.

To solve all the issue Lord Indra and other gods seek help from Lord Vishnu. He told about the Ocean of milk which has more treasures and fortunes which has the capability to replace the lost power also it gives immortality. But it is impossible for the gods alone to churn the ocean. So, Lord Vishnu gives the idea to include the power of demons to churn by convincing them that all the treasures can be divided. Though demons (destructive power) should not be more powerful. Mount Mandara is used as the Churning rod and Snake god Vasuki is used as the churning rope. Vasuki is a snake so it emits poison while churning which is very harmful. So, Lord Vishnu advised Lord Indira to trick the demons by holding the tail part of the snake god to churn. Thus, making demons to face the poison which leads to death. After the great struggle, the divine Physician Dhanvantri appeared from the ocean of milk with the pot of Nectar which is the Nectar of Immortality also it replaces the power of all the gods.

In Hinduism, it is believed that once the great saints, Gurus (Teachers) are the ancestors who achieved the stage of immortality through their divine power of meditation, mental integrity, and spiritual energy. But in today's life mind integration becomes impossible. Everything is passed on to the next generation only through the texts. There is no hint or evidence in any books or scriptures about the

formula, way or method to attain immortality. Everything is buried as secret. Because there is more possibility to misuse the power of immortality or hurt or destroy the fellow human or the whole of mankind. This must be the only reason behind the hidden secret. The divine saints and rishis must have realized the dangers behind the immortality.

Similarly, to the incidents narrated in tamil literature, there are some recent tamil movies such as 'Mayavan' and 'Bogan' which showcase two different perspective of Immortality.

An Analysis of Mayavan (Simulation of a person):

Mayavan is a science fiction crime thriller, Tamil movie released on December 01, 2017, directed by C.V Kumar. This movie is about the investigation of the series of murders in the same pattern. In every murder, the suspects are different with no relativity but all their attitudes are the same. Also, they leave a lot of evidence about them in the crime spot. It becomes very easy for the cops to track the murderers but it is understood from the statement of prime suspect's family members that before fifteen days from the date of the murder, their activities, behavior, attitude, personality, approach, look everything is changed almost like a different person. i.e. they changed their originality. If the murderers get caught by the police, they voluntarily commit suicide and die. Next within the few days murder happen and the same process continues. But this time police, trap the person and enforce a polygraph test on him to find out the truth. The person reveals the truth that he was a great scientist in neuroscience, Dr. Pramodh, and his research is to kill death and find out the formula for immortality, the project "Mayavan". But the government banned his research, as his research idea directly affects the humankind. Though his research has been officially banned, with the help of his knowledge and power, he built the laboratory on his own and continued his research very secretly. Finally, he achieved and successfully found a way to live an eternal life. First, he injects the gel containing nano transmitters into his own brain and copied all his memories in the hard disk which will automatically get updated. Later he tries to inject the gel containing nano transmitters to another person. With this, if they die, the nano transmitters attached to the neurons in the other person's brain will automatically delete their memories and activate the memories of the dead person. By this, the person who is dead can start his new life in the new body. In this way, one can live any number of years eternally. Thus, immortality is achieved. Finally, in the climax of the movie Dr. Pramodh enforce the gel into the brain of the police officer's girlfriend. so,if the person dies, again he will get life in the girls' body. Unable to kill the girlfriend, he safeguards the particular person i.e. the army officer, whose body in which Dr. Pramodh lives currently.

From this movie, it can be inferred that the greedy and lustful attitude of humankind supersedes the commonsense, knowledge, and humanity towards the fellow human being. To fulfill the lust, people are ready to take an extreme step which even affects their own family members, friends irrespective of anybody. Money, knowledge, and power are the three elements that give them the authority to act on their own will. This kind of cruel intention affects the whole humankind. This is acting against nature. The prologue of the movie shows that these incidents are happening in 2037 which is the very near future and not much far. If this becomes true what will happen? Safety is the first question. Trust between one another i.e. fellow human beings will be completely broken because of their unknown intentions. Anybody can be trapped for example one can use the prime minister or president's body and acquire power, billionaire or millionaire's body to enjoy their money. In this way, one can acquire any kind of power in his own hands and can even change the fate of the world upside down. This is a very dangerous aspect of the invention which brings great loss to the human values and the existence of human being itself. This movie is a precautionary, eyeopener and gives an insight into the humankind about the impact of the future evolutions. Taking this as a preventive measure, researchers must restrict themselves after certain achievements.

An Analysis of Bogan:

The Title of the movie is Bogan, the metaphorical name of Bogar. Bogan is a Tamil action thriller movie released in February 2017 directed by Lakshman. The hero of the movie is Vikram, Police officer and the Antagonist is Adithya who finds out the secret of astral projection from the old scriptures and practice it in order to escape the bank robberies. But the intelligent police officer Vikram finds him out and tries to arrest. When he attempts Adithya uses the power and transforms his soul into Vikram's body. Now Vikram is in Adithya's body. Vikram in Adithya's body tries to figure out the secret power and find out that the complete power of transmission lies in Adithya's body and tries to destroy it. Adithya in Vikram's body get scared and comes back to his own body in order to save his soul. After the long struggle, Adithya is arrested.

This movie is a fine example that how greedy and lustful mankind will misuse the superpower and try to harm fellow humans, at last, the Whole humankind for their own selfish attitude. This might be the main reason behind the siddhars unrevealing the secret of attaining immortality.

Based on the novel,at present Scientists initiated the Research objectives on immortality and experimenting it in order to attain it in the near future. Some of the details as follows

Facts:

Dmitry Itskov is a Russian entrepreneur, billionaire and the founder of new media stars, a web-based media company, who born in September 1980 initiated the project “Immortality 2045” in 2011. The main objective of this project is to createa hologram of the human and succeed immortality.

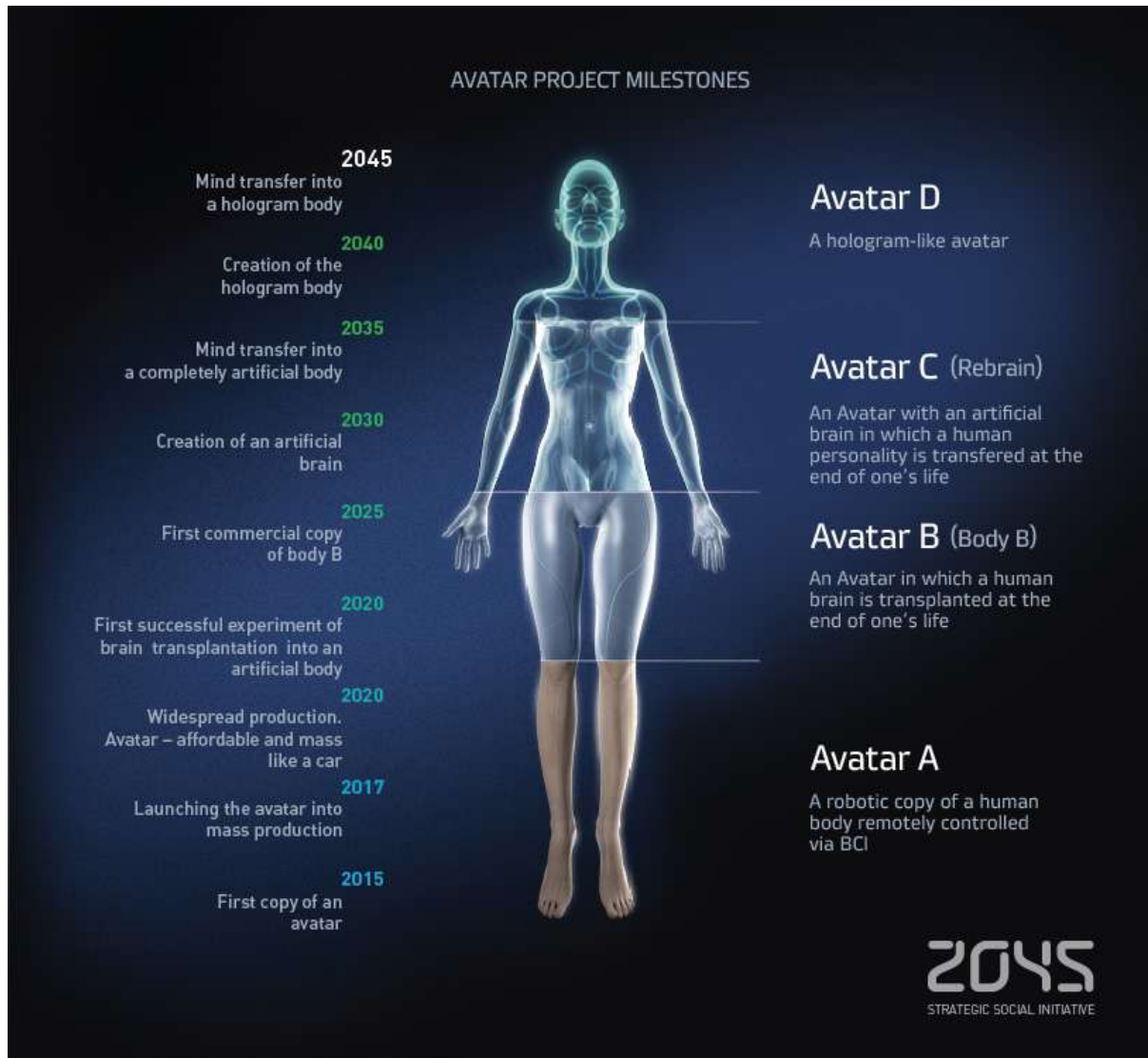


Figure 1: Milestones of Avatar 2045 Project. Ref: 2045.com/images/plan/28695.html

The ultimate aim of this project is to transfer the consciousness of the human mind from the human brain to the machine with all the personality and memories. The expected milestones are detailed below:

(2015-2020)

To control the robotic human replica through a brain-machine interface (BMI) technology which already exists. For instance: The Humanoid Robot Sophia developed by Hanson Robotics in 2016. Sophia can behave like human particularly she can respond for the questions with the preloaded answer.

(2020-2025)

To transform the human brain to the machine at the end of one's life i.e. death.

(2025-2030)

The new generation of an avatar provides the complete transmission of sensations from all the five sensory robot organs to the operator

(2030-2035)

Re brain- Brain Reverse Engineering is implemented. It becomes possible to understand the consciousness of the human brain.

(2035-2040)

The first successful attempt to transfer one's personality to an alternative career. i.e. the cybernetic immortality begins.

(2040-2045)

The body is made of nanorobots that can transfer itself to any shape which initiates the origin of hologram bodies.

(2045-2050)

Drastic changes in Social structure, scientific and technological development. According to the pre-request space, expansion is established for the power of a man of the future. These elements are unacceptable but the biology of this feature is self-improvement. The new era begins i.e. the Era of new Humanity.

Investors:

1. CEO of Oracle invested 2500 Crores from Lawrence Ellison Foundation
2. CEO of Google invested 3000 crores in project 2045

What if Project 2045 is a success: an analysis of Advantages and Disadvantages of project 2045

The advantages are people can live eternally i.e. will get the opportunity to live their life with many future generations. They can explore many new technological advancements and inventions in the full axis. In an immortal life, there is no problem with time and death. With immense knowledge, people can tame their younger generation very well. They can explore the whole world through travel and tourism. They have free will to fulfill all their wishes. They can easily reach self-actualization by experiencing or fulfilling all their passion.

About Disadvantages, people can live forever if no one dies, need more space on the earth to live. Immortality triggers people to do more crime. Only rich people can afford to use this technology whereas the poor cannot. This makes a distinction of class in society. Few are immortal in the society whereas others are mortal will create more chaos in the society which again takes the life of mortal beings. This gives rise to the inequality in social structure, living environment, the lifestyle which always becomes a dream for the poor. There will be no control in handling the power of the government or corporations. Everything will turn upside down and get trapped in the hands of immortal beings. Thus, they become a supreme power.

Analyzing the advantages give more comfort, luxury, and a lot of happiness to people. Considering disadvantages, it worsens the life of people who are unable to afford to or access the technology of immortality. It spreads more negativity rather than giving positive hopes to the people as well as society.

II. CONCLUSION

According to the above Review, if immortality is achieved it will spoil the peace of life of many people even though it gives pleasure to some people. The technology or any advancements which should reach people of all the level from richest to the poorest. There is much probability of misusing the

technology of immortality and its power by rich people towards the poor. Thus, safety becomes a great question mark. Hence, immortality is a great threat to humankind.

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