

Preface

The history of human marriage is complex and complicated. If we take an overview of human marriage from antiquity to modern, we find innumerable transition and transformation of marriage. Marriage is a biological and cultural necessity and accordingly, to avoid marriage is to avoid the biological necessity and cultural necessity. The predilection of marriage is something mental and inner. Thus as a social being, it is natural to engage in marriage. Primitive men behaved like animals. The assumption that primitive men lived in tribes or hordes had promiscuous intercourse with all the women, where no individual marriage existed. The children were the common property of the tribe. Without adducing any satisfactory reason for his opinion, Dr. Post considers it probable that “monogamous marriage originally emerged everywhere from pure communism in women, through the intermediate stages of limited communism in women, polyandry, polygamy” Morgan in his ‘System of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family’ has suggested no fewer than fifteen normal stages in the evolution of marriage. In Indian *shastras*, eight different types of marriages were mentioned of which some are comparatively better than the others. However, the concepts of polygamy, polyandry, monogamy in some sense of other was prevailing everywhere in the world. Even the marriage between the brother and sister was prevailing in some tribal communities. The main contention of the research proposal is not to discuss the history of marriage, rather explicate the ethical and philosophical significance of the concept of marriage. Keeping this view in mind the thesis has been developed into five sequels besides selective bibliography. To know about the philosophical implications of marriage, we think that the historical development of the concept of marriage is a prerequisite. Accordingly, in the **First Chapter**, entitled General Introduction, we propose to analyze the historical development of marriage. As the thesis is designed as a comparative study between West and East about marriage, in the **Second Chapter** of the thesis the essence of Hindu marriage: past and present is proposed to exemplify. In the **Third Chapter** of the thesis, the essence of Western marriage is proposed to explicate and it is entitled as *The Essence of Western Marriage*. After examining the concept of marriage both from the West and East, a comparative study is proposed in **Chapter Four** and it is entitled as *A Comparative Study between East and West*. In the **Fifth Chapter** of the thesis, some underlying philosophical conclusions have been drawn from my rationale and it is titled *Concluding Remarks*. The thesis ends with a selective bibliography.