Aristotle’s Concept of Mind

A Transcendental Thesis
Soul

– Principle of Life

– Soul as the essence of life

– Soul is an actualization
Knowledge of the particulars

- **Substance**
- **Matter** and **form** are not distinct phenomena
- Matter is in *itself* not *this*
- *Through Form it is identified as --- ‘this’*

- *The substance is composite of matter and form*
Substance

– Matter is potentiality
– Form is actualization

– Human being is *knower* in the potential sense
Two levels of actuality

– Actuality refers to grammatical knowledge (agreement between subject and verb)

– Actual awareness of using this knowledge in correcting the sentence.
Natural substances

– Nature in physics: things that exist in nature
– Animals, plants and simple elements

– Things that exist by other causes
– E.g. clock
Natural Bodies

- Living
- Self nutrition, growth and decay
- Non-living

- Every natural body which shares life is a substance
- Body and soul stand to each other as matter and form
Regarding the relation

– “For the body is a subject and matter, and is not an attribute of a subject. Hence, soul is not an attribute of the body. Rather soul is the substance in the sense of the form of natural body which potentially partakes of life.” (Miller 1999: 312)
In the first level of actualization

– Knowledge as actual state
– Being awake corresponds to the exercise of such knowledge

– Soul is the first level actualization of a natural body which potentially partakes in life. (Miller 1999: 312)
Four different levels of soul

- Intellect
- Perception
- Locomotion and rest
- Nutritive movement, growth and decay
Against Plato and Pythagoras

- Power and the interlocking relationship
- No explanation is given regarding the cause and condition of the body

- Each body has peculiar form
- Soul must use its body
Nature of the soul

– Soul is basically material
– The body stands to soul as the matter stands to form
– Soul is everlasting and imperishable
– Intellect is a different kind of power
– Power of contemplation is associated with soul
Soul as agent

– Four type of causal arguments
  • Material
  • Efficient
  • Formal
  • Final
Aristotle’s Materialism

– Soul is the most material component of the body

– Soul consists of some condition, disposition, and alternation of the material components of the body