

Kamani Jayasekera, **2010, The Nature of Religion in Pre Greek Society. Collective Needs or Individual Salvation?** Gunasekera Sampoojana. S.Godage, Colombo,Sri Lanka. P.568-581

The paper consists of a critical examination on the origin of religious thought. The thoughts that come under review are the thoughts that existed before the Olympian religion came to exist. The Olympian religion had been the religion of a conquering race that was courageous, loved out doors and quite open about many social matters. Hence their religion consisted of many social events that were done in the view of winning the favor of their Gods. But what were the religions of the primitive man before the invaders marched in? How ancient man did come to conceive religion? Was it due to a private need for self-salvation? Or was it in answer to collective social need? The paper examines the possibilities critically in view of the literary evidence available as well as the findings of the archeologists.