HEART: MYTH, REALITY, MYSTERY AND MIRACLE

SISIR K. MAJUMDAR*

The heart is the fulcrum of our physical existence. He is widely understood in popular perception, rightly or wrongly, where life begins and ends. It has always featured as a potent symbol in our culture, literature, religions, myths and rituals. Macedonian philosopher Aristotle (384-322B.C), teacher of Alexander the Great (356-323B.C.) and the celebrated student of Plato (427-347B.C) at the academy at Athens, Greece, thought, though wrongly, that heart is seat of the soul. But his teacher Plato thought rightly of course, that brain is the seat of soul. Nevertheless popular notion remains-deeply rooted in our everyday colloquium, language and imagery-that the heart is the home of our emotions and of our true character, courage and valour.