



LITERATURE: THE AMMO OF TRANSFORMATION

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Literature is an art for embellishing beautiful words to a mosaic of peoples' delight; that accomplishes wonders if seasoned with civility and placidity. However, it turns pungent in the absence of modesty and reverence and return with violence the same words ugly and nasty. Literature carves the social orders in the wombs of the societies, of the kinds of occurrences impregnated therein.

Before I embark upon the topic I want to make it clear that Literature in all its comprehensiveness is a powerful instrument that has the capacity to transform any socio-political, economical or religio-cultural order for good or for bad. This paper intends transformation for the betterment of our society. It is believed that the literati of our society do possess a powerful gun (Pen) in their hands and they have the freedom to choose whom to shoot; to kill the innocent or save them by shooting the wicked; your words are as powerful as a real bullet jettisoning out of the barrel and blasting the actual target you aim. Therefore, shoot accurately for the good of the people. All that happens in the society descends as a literary substance carried for generations like software; it may be oral or written. Culture becomes the reflection of the overwhelming influence of its Literature upon the people; whatever the culture depicts literature reciprocates it back and forth into the society. Therefore, every literature is a blossoming outcome of its own society or otherwise. The person learns from the society and returns it back to the society with the seasonings of his talents received from God. In this paper the word literature is used in a wider perspective of complete academics and people's lives in a broader-spectrum, not merely limited to the likeness of English literature or any other written literature or poetry rather it is representing synonymously to all educational written or unwritten substance used in a particular society that controls and molds the ethos of the society at large which purposely includes religions and beliefs as well. Though literature in its common parlance pitches a greater impact on specific aspects of the society but in general it influences each and every aspect of every human being. What people read or learn will be the people; as mentioned before that literature is the mold of the society that assembles the social order and what I read or watch in a movie or whatever influences me in the streets of my home town the society turns and twists my mind and thoughts and makes me a person that I am; this is what shapes the blue print or the world view of my brain that finally forms the essence of my complete personality. That is why it is said that: If I shift from Mumbai and settle in Kolkata. It will take several years for me to be called a Bengali; because **I might have come out of Mumbai but Mumbai does not come out of me easily.** The society impregnates in my mind and personality and carves me a citizen in the likeness of that particular society. Therefore, literature in its completeness becomes the societal plinth upon which the walls of the entire society stand. Consequently, it becomes the most important subject of human beings that takes its substance from human forms, their norms and principles their social orders and defines their way of life. It is mostly nurtured and watered by the largest religion practiced therein. Therefore, religion becomes the matrix of the society that gives us the ways of our lives, our norms, attitudes, discipline, honesty, sincerity, knowledge and wisdom which are the ultimate power of any social order. Otherwise in the absence of the aforesaid it becomes the biggest heap of living garbage or a human society that lives in a modern city by jungle laws. Finally, from where do we get this religion? Every human being has some questions in his or her mind to be answered by someone; who am I, who God is, where do I come from, where do I go after my death; what is the *raison d'être* of my life on this earth etc. etc.? Since religion is the basic molder of man; religion takes the responsibility to answer these important questions to humanity. But the overpowering question here is; where does the religion come from?

It is obvious that every religion is the outcome of the kind of God that we worship, who gives us his tenets, doctrines, beliefs, ethical norms, attitudes, ways of life, and also assures us a life hereafter; all above is recorded in its scriptures that molds the personalities of its individuals; It does not matter if you are a religious man or a secular person, you are a part of the larger society that practices its norms therefore you will be under its influence. Every individual is automatically marinated and stained in the religio-cultural order e.g. we literally marinate a person with turmeric (Haldi ceremony) before his marriage and this is a Hindu practice; but now every religious group practices it; since it has become a cultural norm of the larger religion in our society.

Culture is like a hard shell of coconut that contains the norms, principles, and all that is in the society therefore it is extremely

difficult for anyone to make a dent in the social crust unless or until the entire society feels the brunt of it; when certain norms or conventions badly hurt the people the process of re-fabricating a healthy and a clean society begins. Remember all the religious establishments of the society begin from the kind of God that we chose to worship; we have to be careful in this selection that his ethical norms are universally accepted. However do we have the right to choose or create our God? Unfortunately, we cannot create our God because it is God who creates us. Nevertheless, we have created our own gods according to our own conveniences; gods who permit us all our rights and wrongs and our ethics is molded as per our own specifications approved by our handmade gods to justify our conscience, no matter how wicked our acts may be. On the other hand, if we have created our own gods by our own hands then they are too small of a god who will certainly fail us when the actual need arises; therefore, such gods should worship us because we have created them. Our parents gave birth to us and brought us up so we touch their feet in love and reverence in our Indian culture; we would never allow our parents to touch our feet. On the other hand, there are treacherous hawks waiting for the opportunity to take all possible advantages of peoples' ignorance and to misguide them in the Bazaars of religions. Despite the facts that people are disoriented due to the serious obscurities of life; there are self-authorized agents or god men presenting the best gods and instant remedies for all the problems of life that people are suffering. Therefore, we desperately need a God who is willing to give us a peaceful and healthy life. In this context people accumulate a lot of money by extremely wrong means and their conscience is justified by their handmade gods; and they think that everything will be alright and we will be comfortable but I request you to grope deep down in your hearts and minds you will find a profound vacuum and crisis of peace, happiness, joy, health and security; however pleasure and fun are exceptionally momentary so let us not compare life with it.

This is where the literature can play a vital role in the society; and the better the literature the greater the society. On the other hand, every socio-political, economical, religio-cultural and other phenomenal context are like a flowing river that are never the same, like the law of mutation that changes everything every moment; similarly, the moods and expressions of the literati are no exception to the ever-altering phenomena of this globe. Remember every author is born and brought up in his cultural milieu that molds and remolds the worldview of his mental hard disk that contains the raw material of literature. Hence the author becomes the product of his age and returns the same to his people with additions of his God given talents. Literature leaves a circumferential impact upon the minds of the people and it carries all learning systems that make it as spacious as the horizons of the heavens. Therefore:

The system of education that rides the rails of literature in all its endeavors must carry the cargo of knowledge and wisdom in any subjective manner that should positively deliver the ultimate aspiration of man to be civilized an overwhelming merit of written literature.

Here the usage of the word civilized is depicting towards individuals; and its spectrum focuses aptly upon them. Therefore, the outcome of a civilized individual must mean in the context of his goodness, gentleness, humility, love for his people, internal joy and peace, self-confidence, faith, hope, honesty, sincerity and patience, absolute justice along with his educational background that must contain manners, etiquette and decency and methodologies that reduce the toiling of man in his life. If these characteristics as a whole are missing, he or she is doubtful to be a civilized person; rather a pseudo, a hypocrite and pretentious man working to overtake that does not belong to him. Karl Gustav Jung writes something similar to this situation (the word 'modern' used by Jung could be put in juxtaposition to the word civilized):

As a matter of fact, a great horde of worthless people give themselves the air of being modern by overleaping the various stages of development and the tasks of life they represent. They appear suddenly by the side of the truly modern man as uprooted human beings, bloodsucking ghosts, whose emptiness is taken for the unbelievable loneliness of the modern man and casts discredit upon him. He and his kind, few in numbers as they are, are hidden from the undiscerning eyes of mass-men by those clouds of ghosts, the pseudo moderns. It cannot be helped; the modern man is questionable and suspect, and has always been so, even in the past.¹

Jung had identified these bogus and pseudo smarts long back who are actually blood sucking ghosts destroying the human society by their wickedness and not letting the truly modern man do the right thing by overshadowing them; These bogus moderns project an extremely gentle face; but they raise their hoods like a cobra sooner the situation is depressive before them. Similarly, **Acharya Rajnish Osho** described for this pseudo civilized man in his Tantra Vision:

I am against pretensions. I am against hypocrisies. Man, only shows that he is civilized. Scratch him slightly and you will find an uncivilized man. Scratch him a little and all that is good is just superficial, and all that is bad is deep rooted. It is a skin-deep civilization. Everything goes well, and somebody just throws a word at you, an insult, and you are mad, and you are a maniac and you want to kill, your murderous possibilities have surfaced. What kind of civilization is this?²

¹ Karl Gustav Jung, Modern man in search of his soul.

² Acharya Rajneesh, Osho, Tantra Vision, published in Sunday Magazine The Pioneer, (Lucknow addition) October 06, 2013, p3.

The above passage shows the reality of ostensibly civilized men as they have trained themselves to be hypocrites, and mastered the dual personality act and as long as they can safely play the Dr. Jackyl and Hyde they play it accurately but when it comes to depressions their real self comes out which is as murderous as an assassin in action at the real crime scene. Almost every day we read in the newspapers, people are killed for trivial matters. Where does our civility go? And who is responsible for these double standards in human life; an unjust and distorted Culture, deceptive Religiosity, Society, Politics or Economy? Or all of them are responsible as a network around the human habitat out of which it is difficult for man to extricate himself.

Recently a very learned and honorable Justice of Supreme Court of India Justice Markande Katju was addressing the audience of the Law College of Dehradun, he strongly mentioned that all their education is superficial, (exactly the way Acharya Rajnish mentioned). He was so vocal and disappointed with this education system that he called the highly educated people: (I translate what he said in his speech):

Your heads are full of cow dung (gobar) and you have yet not attained wisdom despite of your degrees of Law or Ph.D.'s etc. As you are still not able to tolerate your daughters getting married to a low caste person, such a situation could infuriate you for a murder, or for an honor killing.³

However, there is possibility of changing the human behavior like the ever-altering social phenomena; which directly impacts the literature according to the time and context. On the other hand, it seems that man has lost his real self under the garbage of a so-called sophistication covered with electronic and digital modernization, a bastard's undue weight on mother earth. Therefore, the focus of all literary endeavors or all academic systems have to be wholesome or else **dogs will have a better say than man**. And though education is an important aspect of human life yet the orientation of it has to be steered in the right direction lest disasters can be the consequence of undirected education. Here is a letter that will elucidate the consequences of misguided education; this letter was found after the World War II in one of the concentration camps addressed to the teachers:

Dear Teachers:

I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes have seen what no man should witness: Gas chambers built by learned engineers, Children poisoned by educated physicians, infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot and burnt by High School and College Graduates. So, I am suspicious about education. My request is: Help your students become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, and educated illiterates. Reading, writing, arithmetic are important only if they serve towards making our children more humane.⁴

On the other hand, gruesome violence and the glorification of gory scenes are being projected with tremendous enthusiasm by Hollywood and Bollywood producers on televisions and movies and receive vast admirations of the viewers. Children are growing watching graphic scenes that are going deep down their hearts and minds therefore such scenes have become normal to human lives and they are no more objected by the parents since they have no time to bother about their kids for such abject realities. Therefore, the consequences to such realities are violence and bloodshed becoming prominent in the society by the same children when they grow big because this is what they have learned from their childhood.

So where was the knowledge of the well-educated and the intellectuals and the well erudite that could have shown some sense to the humanity when millions of innocent people and infants were slaughtered? We have to muster courage to speak the truth and for what is right; Crime has to be imperatively exposed and we have to fearlessly act like the little child who spoke the truth to the naked emperor; and also oppose the foolish ideologies of selfish and greedy rascals who usurp power in craftiness from the common man and crush them cruelly.

In this regard, despite the relentless efforts of a large humanity all around the world to bring man to a peaceful state, man is becoming selfish, dishonest and violent in this age; the projection of violence is more interesting and vivid yet grotesque in its reality than a non-violent act. The youth is turning aggressive and brutal instead of learning the lesson of affability. Then who is responsible for this changing phenomenon? Is there some discrepancy in our literature or in our educational system; and though we may learn the subject and become a good medical doctor, engineer or an architect yet we are not learning the civilized attitude, probably the purpose of our learning has to be revisited; because it is becoming so callous and therefore a failure of all the literary pursuit. Therefore, our literature needs scrutiny that is producing perverted and erroneous worldview and selfish interest in the minds of the people no matter how glorified the literature may be? There are literatures that mislead the humanity to ultimate crime and destruction in a very subtle manner that simple people do not understand.

On the other hand, education cannot be restricted to a few questions and answers or even a degree or two for job-oriented objectives that returns money in place of degrees? The film "Three idiots" is made with great purpose; it conveys the message of actual learning against our ignorance. We hardly take serious note of educative simulations and forget them easily. Therefore, the

³ Justice Markande Katju. **Reality of India**. At Law College, Dehradun Uttarakhand, February 2, 2019.

⁴ A letter found in one of the Concentration camps after the WW II.

academic ambiance of the universities is changing into the arena of violence and bloodshed, gladiator like personalities or mafias and god fathers are being praised and glorified; they are bent upon destroying each other's rivals especially in Northern part of our country. The handsome lads who could have become the generals and commanders, and scientists of our country a golden youth, ironically the police are hunting many of them around to encounter and shoot them as criminals, murderers and sharp shooters. Students prefer to be busy with their own agendas rather than being in their class rooms and laboratories. Research & Development is not our cup of tea it belongs to the western world. Everything could be purchased from the west. Let us look into the scientific and technological formulas, principles, theories taught in our class rooms, where do they come from? Who invented them? Look into the markets and see, what are the things that we have actually invented, or discovered, or even manufactured in its originality? Where is our patriotism and seriousness for the development of our country? Shallow and bogus slogans and fallacious rhetoric full of deception for political gains don't change anything; but a constant hard work with honesty, sincerity, perseverance and intelligence does have the power to change anything in the world.

Further, National and International societies can be identified where either literature is erroneous or academics is not an important part of their culture, resultantly violence and bloodshed becomes a way of their life; even though they have huge universities and colleges in their countries just made for the sake of it; education is not appropriately oriented in the right direction for the people; and instead leads them to dangerous consequences due to defective reasons in literature that groom the society defectively. Again, I quote Acharya Rajneesh Osho in this regard:

This civilization is nothing but a maddening affair. Can't you see the whole earth has become a big mad house? People have lost their souls.... they have lost all. They are just pretenders. They have masks; (Rajneesh is not talking about the Corona mask you are wearing nowadays) they have lost their original faces. I am all for civilization but this is not civilization. That's why I am against it.... knowing only violence. But they are followers, so they pretend to be non-violent, they force non-violence upon themselves, they create a character. That character is just around them. It is an armor. Deep down they are boiling like volcanoes. And on the surface, they smile the false smile, the plastic smile.⁵

I appreciate Acharya Rajnish for his blatant honesty. It is true that a truly literate man or a civilized person does not depend upon any kind of violence may it be mental or physical rather he depends upon wisdom, humility and gentleness is his armor and way of life, he becomes a harmless person but his stature remains tall in the society. Just opposite to this some parts of our society depend more on arms and muscles rather than decency. Violence is the only way? This is a rustic character of a beastly society which is largely dependent upon ignorance where there is **minimum usage of acumen and maximum application of force**. Our minds are trained for murder and destruction. I am reminded of the first speech of the Ex-American President Mr. Barack Obama at his installation ceremony when he said:

The world will remember you by what you build and not by what you destroy.⁶

To build, you need long years of relentless training, sincere perseverance, hard work, unlimited time, money and energy etc. all is invested to achieve a single goal that finally offers comfort to millions of people. For example, a bridge engineers invest long time of their lives to learn the construction methodology; and after their education is completed they construct bridges that comfort millions of people to commute on it as a means of convenience. However, to destroy the same bridge you just need a perverted and a subversive mind and one bomb that can devastate the labor, money, time and efforts of thousands of people in seconds extending inconvenience and sufferings to millions of people. Hence it all depends on what kind of written or unwritten literature is influencing your mental hard disc through various important institutions e.g. a disguised ideology that glorifies crime and sins, and begets culture that picks up all dirt from its mother board the religious literature that serves the purpose of some selfish rogues based upon highly unethical and unjust ideologies and systems. In this way literature becomes a corridor of influence and a channel that regulates the generations to a specific direction may it be for good or for bad; it can make you a broadminded man capable to handle all crises that comes before you; and contrary to this it can make you a wicked man ready to kill or get killed; such a man is bereft of all ethics and reasons due to the indoctrinated poison in his mind from his childhood. Good literature begets true education and if education is not meant for ulterior motives it gives back to humanity; or else it snatches away everything from them that leads to poverty and suffering due to ignorance and enormous mishandling of justice by few.

Another romantic example would show the trends in the society: When the weather is beautiful and cloudy and the peacock spreads his lovely wings and dances around his peahen; it is neither his routine nor his predisposition but the ever-altering romantic state of affairs that prompts him to spread his wings and dance. In the same way the stimulation of the situation and the provision of romance make the person envision and write something that denotes literature. Literature becomes the construct of man's blueprint of life that makes him either cheerful or poignant. His personal knowledge and experiences mold the fabric of his writings and literature becomes alive.

However, the contemporary literary authors have become victims of their own romantic milieu who cannot cross the periphery of their circumstantial thoughts. It is the various contexts that are liable to different writings that actually paint the canvas of the history and literature. And due to electronic age, time and contexts are fleeting

⁵ Osho, Ibid. p3.

⁶ Mr. Barack Hussain Obama: In his maiden speech of his first election as President of USA.

unpredictably in high pace and changing into kaleidoscopic situations; therefore, people are desperately trying to adjust accordingly into rapidly altering directions; this metamorphosis is giving great discomfiture to the new generations; consequently, the excitement of time and the romance of the situation is turning pungent and twisting the mental equilibrium even of the well erudite. Man is no more the master of his own destiny or sweet will rather he has become a slave of his circumstances and greed; he is doing what he does not want to do, and is unable to do what he wants to do. This split situation in his circumstances is forcing him to take a lot of unwanted actions and thereby he becomes a victim of his unwanted doings that often leads him to a whirlpool of vicious consequences even after a major success in his professional life he remains a failure in his personal life. Many suicides and unexpected crimes by well-placed persons are the examples of this situation. The authors are also propelling their thoughts not as the ethical situation demands for the amelioration of the society but as it is likened by the jilted mind set. Presently the human society is running at a much higher pace towards a hanging carrot on the neck of the horse that no one knows how to get it. This is a grave situation of the society that is bringing more unrest among people. Human psyche is no more the matrix of *raison d'être* rather it has turned into a hungry hound of Baskerville contaminated with the deadly virus of its own covetousness which is a swirling exercise of the entire society that spins the humanity into the vortex of confusion.

In conclusion I would say that, let not the pen of the authors be apprehended by the undue state of affairs that surround the m; or by the wrecked ethos of the society that has approved the core of corruption into a recognized norm where bribery is acknowledged as Savidha Shulk (Convenience fee) and many more wrongs have been justified as right.

And though dictators attempt to control literature and wealthy businessmen want to buy it, kings and powerful men try to pet it in their favor by exerting their power and position, it could be hijacked by the greed of man, that has presently besieged the society and our principal priorities have changed in principle from goodness to goldness.

Notwithstanding above, doing literature must remain an independent exercise; someone has to blow the whistle regarding the reversal of truth and wisdom in man. Literature has the power to impact this phenomenon. Must not the literature come out of the heart of the common man, from his pure conscience and sagacity instead of his hypocrisy? It has to be an accurate diagnosis of the phenomena with just and fearless exhortations, admonishments and guidance to the society; thereby becoming a balm on the wounds of the wounded, bleeding and beating back humanity.

The pen of the author must have the cleanest ink of honesty and sincerity based upon universally accepted ethical principles and rationality, and not the ethics and reason that is acceptable only to a particular society or a community to the detriment of others; the present mandate of the literati should neither be the false euphoria of the jilted mind nor a production of a libretto that is conducive to the defaulted euphoria of the so-called modern mind. Instead the author has to change this ripped apart generation into wholesome peoples by firm efforts to impact upon their minds and once again change the canvas of history and literature into the freshness of a blooming flower early in the morning or like a new born fawn that leaps in the lush green grassland with his mother around; where a child feels secured, where the women feel no fear and the common man has confidence on the principles of goodness; such has to be the outcome of literature in principles and emphatically in praxis as well. It was out of literature the process of education commenced without which education was not possible as physics was handicapped along with chemistry and biology; not to mention history and geography and all other subjects. Literature was born when man learned his first A B C D that constitutes the network of the unfathomable w.w.w.w.w. World Wide Web of wisdom, worldliness and wickedness.

Literature has the power to transform an ape into a man of letters. And it is better to be aping someone than to be a real ape. Indeed, literature is a dynamic tool in the hands of the literati.

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