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LITERATURE: A TRUE COMPANION OF MAN

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ABSTRACT

Literature has been an indispensable element of human life ever since the humans attained the reading, writing and listening sensibilities. It's been accompanying man in various forms and modes. It has come a long way since its inception when one had it oral form in the very outset.

Literature is everywhere; it's in the movies one watches, in the newspaper one reads, in classes student attends, in meetings colleagues hold and where not? However the definition of literature has gradually been strictly limited to the great works of art (written or oral) exhibiting a great deal of imagination, diction, figures of speech, subject-matter etc. Whatever be the case, it never ceased to walk along the man. It has always had something precious to offer the society. It serves the society based on people's tastes moods, and requirements/expectations. A scholar having a quest for knowledge on a specific subject will be provided and satisfied by the unfathomable sea of literature available in various libraries and websites.

KEY WORDS: Literature, Society, Forms, Subject-matter.

Literature accompanies man not only in leisure times, but it educates man teaches as well as preaches. Poetry beautiful genre has the caliber to please man with its flow of rhythm and music that falls like elixir on the human ears. Wordsworth's poetry, rooted in humanity, touches the heart at once. It lays accent upon the basic human sensibilities sensitivities, simplicity and love for nature and humility. Who can forget Wordsworth's beautiful poem, *Daffodils*?

I wandered lonely as a cloud
that floats high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake beneath the tress (Wordsworth, 1807).

A common man is always at ease connecting to and enjoying the romantic poetry. It relieves and solaces the tired human soul juggling with the routine and mundane hardships of life. It takes the reader along onto the journey through the serene peaceful and sublime nature. Man forgets all his woes amidst nature and sings along with birds. Coleridge's *Ode to Nightingale* is one such specimen of Romantic poetry that allows a pathway to utter heaven.

It's not the Romantic poetry only but also Metaphysical poetry too that sometimes showcases that nature has to shower on humans. One such poem remains *The Garden* by Andrew Marvell. The poem with its perfected form celebrates Mother Nature in one of her forms-garden. The garden represents the permanence, originality and purity of the nature in contrast to the grim, superficial and fake society with all its, difficult and tepid life:

How vainly men themselves amaze
To win the palm, the oak or bays
And their incessant labours see
Crown'd from some single herb or tree(Marvell,1681).

These poems with all their aesthetics gift the reader a perfect mental, physical and spiritual repose. Poems like "Dejection : An Ode" uplifts human spirit and motivates in the otherwise vexed situations. It inspires the reader to harbor new ventures new dreams and aspirations. Kipling's "If", Maya Angelou's "Still I rise", "Phenomenal Woman", Frost's "The Road Not Taken" are such jewel in the crown.

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are closing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
But make allowance for their doubting too (Kipling,1910).

This above poem is one of the perfect explanation on how to go through life. It imparts the wisdom on how to live in both triumphs and disasters and how to bring balance into one's life. It deploys the characters of a father and son wherein the father defines for his son the qualities a good man possesses. He sets the parameters for his son and gives him goals to achieve through all the challenges of life.

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies (Angelou,1995).

Maya Angelou's poem emphasizes on the importance of being beautiful person from inside. The idea that the woman who may not be beautiful on outside in accordance with the societal standards, but the inner beauty is the force behind her strength and confidence. If she's beautiful from inside she is beautiful altogether.

Poems like "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" is an articulation of poet's grief upon his loved one in particular and a meditation on death in general. It is a reminder that death is inevitable. No one can escape death, be it a poor or a rich. It indeed is a reflection on nature's cycle and death.

Besides, the prose plays its own pivotal role in entertaining, guiding, and correcting the society. *Gulliver's Travels* reflects the societal follies while entertaining the readers simultaneously.

Charles Dickens' fictions represent the society and issues of his era. His creative corpus were indeed a penetrating critique on the predicaments of the working class, orphans, women, Industrialization etc. The writer seeks to draw the attention of the government to these issues while the reader of the successive age feels gratified with the reading of it.

His *Hard Times* is a satire on the Utilitarianism the education system, the working conditions etc. His *Oliver Twist* reflects on the poor condition of the orphans poverty and crimes caused by poverty in his age.

Shakespeare needs no introduction. His plays and Sonnets are equally adorable to the reader of every age ever since these works reached its readers. Their literary value and charm are beyond the temporal bounds. They remain even today one of the best retreats for the readers worldwide.

Thus, literature with all its sublimity goes along the society ever delighting and enlightening its readers.

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