



OF SUPERFICIALITY

DIBAKAR PAL

Executive Magistrate in India
(INDIA)

ABSTRACT

Creative writing does not inform rather reveals. So it bears no reference. The present article is an outcome of creative writing meant for lay readers. As such free style is the methodology adopted so that pleasure of reading can be enjoyed by the common mass. As you know well that Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the immortal essayist, wrote many essays namely Of Love, Of Friendship, Of Ambition, Of Studies, etc. The myriad-minded genius rightly pointed out that all the words of the dictionary can be the themes of essays one can write. But little has been done, in this regard since his death, in order to finish his unfinished monumental works. In fact Bacon's way of presentation i.e., his unique individual style kindled the imagination already in me and encouraged me as well to write essays, in the light of creative writing, thus to get relief through Catharsis.

Superficial concerns with the obvious or surface aspects of a thing. In a derogatory sense superficial means lack of thoroughness, profoundness, significance, etc. It means shallowness which implies a lack of depth of character, intellect, meaning etc. Quick and cursory which may or may not be derogatory, suggests a hasty consideration of something without pausing to note details. Prima facie is akin to superficiality. Less time or inattentiveness gives birth to superficial knowledge.

Creative people think. Philosophers think deeply. Cogent thinking is almost akin to physical pain. Very few people can bear it and that answers why we have such a small number of creative people around us rather mass of common mass instead. As such superficiality reigns the world. Lay man strives with superficial knowledge. Because, mere existence needs little sense. But common sense is most uncommon among the common people. In fact extraordinary knowledge converts such a lay man into an expert.

Now the question arises: who is an expert? They say an expert is one who complicates simple things. Another school of thought opines: an expert is one who simplifies complex things. The former may be called as a complex expert and the later one may be laurelled as a simple expert. Among the two, the complex expert is a threat as well as detrimental for any establishment. But the simple expert is an optimist and blessings as well. In fact the complex



expert enjoys sadistic pleasure causing tension to others. Then who is a novice? A novice is one who neither can complicate nor can he simplify any matter due to his superficial knowledge.

Superficiality is not always bad. Superficial burn saves a man from long sufferings. Rough estimate or budget is done with superficial thinking. Every preliminary observation happens through apparent knowledge. Solution for difficult problem claims expert knowledge. With superficial or scattered knowledge a man can learn only a little.

And a little learning is a dangerous thing. So superficial knowledge is a threat to the civilization. But everywhere expert knowledge is not required. For casual communication superficial knowledge is enough.

Love at first sight is the outcome of superficiality. It is quiet apparent. Here in depth observation is absent. Clarity of thought is the hindrance for getting involved in love-affairs. Irrationality provokes a man to love. Here emotion is the base material. But emotion vanishes when rationality moves towards it and the love leaves simultaneously.

Blessings of expertise can only be achieved trying untiringly. Similarly, in depth studies of superficiality reveals that everything is superficial with respect to vast knowledge. Because, the fountain of knowledge is not closed. A man who keeps updated knowledge is a master. But in true sense he bears superficial knowledge. Because, today's master becomes merely a novice tomorrow having superficial knowledge due to exhaustive research and thereby fast advancement of knowledge and technology as well. Thus today's knowledge becomes obsolete tomorrow.

Knowledge is infinite. Infinite knowledge offers perfection. But acquiring infinite wisdom is impossible. As such perfection is always unattainable.

The merit of superficial knowledge is that it gives birth to too many hypotheses.

Ignorance is the blessings here. Because thinking of a master follows the path and pattern directed by his predecessors. But due to lack of knowledge a man having superficial knowledge cannot follow the footprint of the wise i.e., his predecessors. As such he moves alone. He has no base and no brake as well. Thus he has no binding or restriction imposed upon his thinking and in many cases the scholars discover many materials from the observation of such half genius.



Most of the relations are superficial. Very few relations last long. A superficial relation becomes intimate when interest plays. But, intimacy vanishes when interest also vanishes. As a result a sentimental soul is hurt easily. Platonic love is free from such reciprocation and vulgarity as well. So it seems to be temporary due to its mild approach.

Thus Platonic love, though seems to be superficial, is immortal due to its classical essence. In physical relation body dominates mind. Close physical relation, in true sense, is superficial in nature since it does not last long. The thirst of mind is infinite. So its demand can never be fulfilled. But the demand of empty stomach, similarly, crave of sexual hunger have limitation. When physical attraction becomes weak psychological relation begins to work. Here, psyche dominates body.

Platonic love pleads for the involvement of mind alone never body. In early stage of life man can't think of it. In absence of physical relation, if a relation continues further, there exists Platonic love. It is very rare and uncommon due to its divine nature. In fact, Platonic love is superficial in body but emotional in nature. Here, physique is zero but psyche dominates as hero.

Superficial relation can be converted into deep relation. Common people can do it with their common sense. Conversely deep relation may be changed into superficial again. But the second conversion is very difficult and claims sophisticated expertise which the common mass lack in and do not possess. This dual conversion mechanism has to acquire. In fact it is an art. Very few people can acquire both especially the second one.

This answers why we notice little number of artists around us. Two artists are not equal.

They differ in their style. Thus style builds personality which is liable for the individual difference. Some genius artists possess rare individual style. And they are remembered throughout the ages as exception.

Intimate relation becomes superficial due to lack of communication. That means out of sight, out of mind. But when a deep relation is rendered superficial intentionally then the opposite party may not respond to be intimate again. He may raise question against malafide intention. This avoidance creates distance as well as disturbance and can't be covered easily. As such an intellectual person is introvert. He is a reserve personality. He keeps safe distance from all and his locusstandi cannot be ascertained. He neither comes near nor goes he far. In fact he is neither leftist nor a rightist but a Middle East i.e., an opportunist.

If two persons are sly the relation, whether superficial or intimate, is basically commercial. Classical is one that claims no return. In this light a superficial relation is a classical one. But



modern age is the age of superficiality due to its jet speed. Modern philosophy is based on use and throw policy. Powerful man can play with superficiality and use it as a weapon as per his will or whims.

In politics all is superficial. There is no permanency or in-depth relation. The politician believes in 'temporary likely to be permanent' policy or 'permanent likely to be temporary' policy or both simultaneously. As such their activities are beyond the knowledge of common people, only God can recognize them. However, politics believe on permanent interest and lies on it. Politicians live and earn with superficial knowledge.

But they are confident. They pretend that they know everything. As such a politician is heard to speak on Quantum Mechanics in the morning and on Quality Control in the evening of the same day. Really they are genius and belong to rare species and can only be preserved in museum.

Superficiality stands for selfishness. Man is social animal. So for a social man it is difficult to be superficial. Only a careerist is selfish and superficial as well. He uses and misuses superficiality simultaneously. For, he is an opportunist.

A superficial resemblance either guides or misguides. Only judicious mind can distinguish the right or wrong and recognizes the right path. A murderer murders the wrong person being misguided. Here he cannot recognize the target.

Twins confuse all except their mother. Mother has the capacity to identify the son even they be exact and almost identical. Her mother identifies the right son in the light of affectionate eyes.

Superficial knowledge may not offer justice for want of careful consideration of all aspects. A less experienced judge should not pass verdict with superficial knowledge of any case. Then a superficial judgment is harmful more than no judgment at all. But an experienced judge can take right decision very quickly even with superficial observation.

Note :- The article is an example of Creative writing an outcome, so I am not included, works cited, bibliography or references.

- **Dibakar Pal (Executive Magistrate in India)**