
Philosophy Can Be the Genuine Source of Literature but Not Superior to Literature: A Study

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Abstract: *After reading Sir Philip Sidney's "An Apology for Poetry", I must say philosophy can be the format of writing literature but not superior to literature. In other words philosophy is theory, literature is practical. After World War –II, many great philosophers emerged with the high philosophical approach like Existentialism, Absurdist, Surrealism, etc. But all these thoughts got more vitality in the form of literature.*

Keywords: *Philosophy, Literature, Virtue, Natural Education, Individualism etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The philosopher is likely to say that it is he who teaches human beings what virtue is. The historian will say that philosopher teaches theoretical virtue while historian teaches practical virtue. Philosophers teaches virtue by specific abstract consideration while historians teaches virtue by depicting humankind's experiences through the ages. A poet teaches virtue by both perception and examples. The poets are the prophets of society , they imitates nature according to the directions of God(Prophetic Nature of Poets) . The perceptions of virtue set by the poets are more applicable. Philosophers introduces virtue as an abstract concept, while poets makes it quite natural. Poets observes virtue in the meanest object of nature, philosophers makes it bookish(e.g. Wordsworth's concept of morality in Lucy Poems).

Philosophy as a Source of Literature.

Both Wordsworth and Rousseau advocated the same philosophy that is Education with Natural tendency. The most important characteristic of Rousseau's philosophy of Natural Education id that from the view of human nature , people should always the principles of Nature, so that children's body and mind can be developed freely in education.



Rousseau's philosophy is the genuine source of Wordsworth's poetic career. Rousseau always emphasized on free thinking child, a child should not be imposed by the so called system of society. In the company of nature a child can fully develop their potential both physically and mentally. Nature can support us on the fullest growth. The real aim of education is to help the child to lead an enjoyable, useful and natural life.

Wordsworth was genuinely influenced by Rousseau's theory of natural education while he was writing his major poems like 'Lucy Poems' 'The Education of nature' 'Ode to Immortality' etc.

Wordsworth tells about influence of nature on making of an innocent girl Lucy to a perfect woman. In other words Lucy was true child of nature, nature was her master who teaches her humanity at highest level. At the end of the poem Lucy is a perfect girl who can manage the balance between human law and natural law. Every aspects of nature can reflect the intellectual maturity of Lucy. Her attainment of moral maturity also becomes evident as we find her discovering grace in the movement of violent and fearful storm.

Why Literature is Superior to Philosophy? My Personal Observation.

Wordsworth is a poet with higher teaching capacity. He is a philosopher poet, he made philosophy as the source of entertainment, he wrote philosophy in verse, which was very common to understand. Wordsworth wrote philosophy for laymen as well as for professors. Common reader like us find more solace in Wordsworth's poetry with Rousseau's philosophical touch than Rousseau's "Emile, On Treaties On Education".

The principles of natural education' got a remarkable place in the contemporary era by Rousseau's writing, but I must say that the concept of natural education became popular in laymen's society after reading Wordsworth's poetry. Sometimes philosophy is not for a layman but poetry is. Wordsworth was the philosopher for laymen.

2. CONCLUSION

Philosophy is the theoretical document of art of living but literature is an experimental one. In a drama or in a novel every character has its own philosophy. Nietzsche's Godot' is the experimental form of Nietzsche. In 21st century many theories emerges, alongside these theories also found its live in the piece of literature.

Sometimes literature give birth to philosophy. Our old classical master Shakespeare wrote great dramas like 'Hamlet' 'Othello' 'King Lear' 'Tempest' etc. Now a days modern researchers introduces new theories after reading Shakespeare, e.g. Queer Shakespeare, Race Study in Shakespeare, Culture in Shakespeare's writings etc.

3. REFERENCES

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