



Formless Painting and Wordless Poem: *through prism of Upanishads*

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Abstract

Thinking human has been expressing itself aesthetically and rationally from thousands of years, aesthetically it expresses itself through creative work of art. Poetry and Painting has really been quite intrinsically inspired mediums of aesthetic and artistic expression. To put it in other words would be 'Verbal art' and 'Visual art' or 'Formless Painting' and 'Wordless Poem'.

Keywords:- Aesthetics, Formless, Wordless, Art

Expression:-

Through words a poet paints on the canvas of life and through colors and brush an artist writes poetry. The root of these very artistic expressions is our consciousness, which in the words of Vedanta philosophy is that the root of entire existence is pure consciousness which pervades in all beings, and in expression which pervades in the artistic one. In my opinion a painting or poetry is only an authentic one if it has its narrative capability within itself.

Khalil Gibran with his poetry and painting has equaled the mystic consciousness of Kabir, his paintings quite beautifully are muse on cosmic unconsciousness and consciousness. The following paintings of Gibran are an epitome. Art and poetry for Gibran were never an intellectual exercise, rather, they were a spiritual one, a means of elevating an individual to a knowledge of the divine or the realization of the supreme self, the cosmic consciousness. In Gibran, artistic-poetic inspiration becomes a revelation, an epiphany of the Absolute or Brahman:

“Art is a step from nature towards the Infinite,” it is a bridge between matter and spirit or a bridge between known and unknown or manifested and unmanifested. Let’s have a look to the painting here:



(Khalil Gibran's Painting/ brooklynrail.com)



Khalil Gibran/ wired.com

For Plato “poets and painters are both imitators and their work a third-generation removed from the truth”; he might have been talking about the truth not the Truth, the worldly or pragmatic truth not the existential one, because the existential one is inexpressible yet it gets manifested or expressed in a deeper level of consciousness from where Art gets expressed, Plato is really true that “...their work a third-generation removed from truth” I would say rather a whole- history- of-humanity removed from truth because the worldly truth doesn’t need any poetry or painting at all; it can simply be spoken through politics within. Plato says that “all art is mimetic by nature”, verily but Art can’t be mimetic and it is beyond nature yet within and through nature according to Vedanta.

Defining the primacy of art Leonardo remarks, “If you call painting dumb poetry the painter may call poetry blind painting.”



The Last Supper by Leonardo-Da-Vinci/ wikimediacommons.com)

Within the prosperous tradition of Japanese ink painting the painted image and written word have always been interrelated. The artistic guidance incorporated both writing beautiful calligraphic characters, as well as painting a range of themes and subjects with minimal strokes. Painted ink poems have evolved as a unique and unparalleled artistic expression that is refers to call as *haiga*.



(Haiga/ thalialehavi.com)

Richard Lanham, a rhetoric scholar has remarkably argued that ‘If a language is going to support a highly literate culture, then the language itself must be made of simple parts’. That is, the characters that are the building blocks of language must be easy to figure out and the calligraphy modest. This is because a reader must be able to internalize an alphabet and efficiently look through the characters to their absolute significance. This particular emphasis on the choice to look through language mirrors the meaning or connotation of the form of language that the poet may possibly use to put his thoughts into words. It seems appropriate to quote the following remark, “I have in the last, oh fifteen years, as you know, done a great deal of graphic work, and it happens that very often my writing with pen is interrupted by my writing in brush, but I think of both as writing. In other words, I don’t consider myself as a painter. I think of myself as someone who has used the medium of painting in an attempt to extend. It gives an extra dimension to the medium of words.

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