INTUITION VERSUS REASON IN THE POEMS OF SHIV K.KUMAR

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Abstract

In today’s world man is selfish and care for his own needs and comforts. This rational thinking makes him forget about others as intuitiveness is far from his mind. Shiv. K. Kumar in his poems gives more priority to the supremacy as intuition and debunks all manifestations of reason and intellect.

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Shiv K.Kumar special contribution lies in the field of poetry which bears the stamp of his learning and scholarship. The distinguishable literary creation of Kumar, especially in poetry is the dichotomy between intuition over reason. Intuition is the ability to know something by using one’s feelings rather than considering the facts. Intuition and reason is necessary to understand the ultimate truth or to explore the mystery of life. In the poems, Kumar has tried to establish the supremacy of intuition and debunks all manifestations of reason and intellect. Kumar writes, “There is one reality at least which we all seize from within by intuition and not by simple analysis” (SIEP 216). He believes that one has to depend upon intuition, the intuition of the inner self to understand life in the right perspective.

The poem ‘Lear to Cordelia’, Kumar presents a good difference between intuition and reason wherein King Lear asks his daughter Cordelia as to know much she loves him for which she reasons logically and replies mathematically that only half of her love can be given and the other half to her husband. Lear did not expect a logical reply from his dear Cordelia and so further explains:

“Come, my dearest, feign
Some movement of the soul
Beyond the empiric point” (JSAL 56)

Love can never be confined to the empiric point and it does not see any boundaries, limits or territories for it is intuitive.

The poem “Indian Women” portrays the innocent womenfolk waiting for their husbands to arrive till late evening inspite of having neglected their household chores. Women of the west are logical and consider waiting to be a time waste of sitting down on a hot day unlike the Indian Women who are intuitive can wait any longer duration for their beloved husbands to return. Taking care of husbands and housework becomes the first priority for the Indian woman more than her food, sleep and rest.

“Patiently they sit
like empty pitchers” (TTCIP 54)

According to Kumar an artist must never be artificial, insincere and dishonest but must be authentic committed to integrity. One must be intuitive from the heart like Mother Teresa who has always been a good samaritan to help the broken.
hearted lepers and homeless babes with love from her heart. There wasn’t a second thought or hesitation for a moment and for her intuitive love, God has made her an instrument of peace.

Love towards one’s kith and kin, neighbours and to fellowmen in our society must be spontaneous and true. Intuition indicates our truthfulness and sincerity. Genuineness in one’s thoughts and action is liked by all and not pausing for a while to be calculative and selfish for one’s own self. Similarly, love and sex by the partners must be intuitive and reason must not be a barrier for sex as sex is a natural affair leading to strong bonds of love and understanding. Logical reasoning and logical thinking does not give any pleasures in sex and thereby love between the couple appears false and pretentious. Life without love is full of boredom, bewilderment, and distortion results in man and woman as they have lost faith in each other because they are not in love and due to logical disparities, they have become the victims of ugly human experiences. The phrase ‘Soiled Underwear’, personifies the broken love in the poem and the title of the poem ‘Married Too Long’ is apt as true human emotions and passions do not exist when love is being measured. The couple’s marriage appears boring and monotonous as each of them appear rational with bitter memories thus widening the gap.

“We wear each other
Like soiled underwear
I see you hung
On every wall
like an obituary” (JSAL 63)

Kumar enfolds the intuitive play of sex by the statue stones personifying the man woman relationship in the poem ‘The Sun Temple at Konark’, wherein the statues do have wings and make love under the moonlight. But when the sun rises, the gods and goddesses freeze into sheer sculpture. In Kumar’s poetry, darkness and night symbolize intuition and sun signifies light of reason

“These stones have wings
And darkness here flaps
Into phosphorescence”. (SIEP 219)

In the poem ‘A Letter from New York’, Kumar brings into focus the material civilization of the West. In the letter the poet states that America is a civilization marked by frequent divorces and disintegrated families as no love and understanding exists amongst the couples. Though the city looks well planned and organized, the country is conspicuous for emptiness and barrenness of human love and compassion.

In the given lines the poet states that one can find peace in East which is intuitive than the West. Kumar states that one can be happier in India as rules don’t abide by the law and one has the right to do as one likes.

“I sometimes stop at Grand Central to piss
Where else can one ease one’s nerves” (TTCIP 56)

The people living in the West stare at wrong doers making one feel embarrassed. Kumar humorously states that one cannot even refresh at one's own will just as the
Indians litter in India but in the west, eyes watch everywhere.

Kumar rightfully states that the older generations of the past were intuitive in their approach but times have changed the minds of the younger generation being transformed as logical and rational thinkers. In the poem ‘Letter to my Son’ the speaker goes down the memory lane and his outlook is that of an innocent lamb reminding his son the sweet times he spent with him:

“Only last night, your mother as she lay
Beside me, mumbled in her dream
Oh, your troubled face.
Sure, your
Diaper needs changing

……………… (WG 73)

Shiv K.Kumar reflects the past and the present wherein the young minds hardly have time and a heart of love like the old. They have now become wise, critical, selfish, cold and logical to compete in the rat race. Selfishness must be eradicated from one’s mind and having an intuitive mind pleases God thereby making the world a better place for mankind. The world in which we live in a selfish and logical one resulting in quarrels, fears, terrors wars, unfriendliness with no peace with in our hearts. In the poem ‘Buddha At Night Club,’ Kumar very vividly reveals that peace can be achieved intuitively within and not through intellectual reasons. Kumar states that a stranger comes to a night club in search of peace among cabaret dancers mixed with music and song. The stranger does not find pleasure but ironically it brings pain though the others find great fun and frolic with sex dolls. The stranger contemplates that this sort of dance and entertainment is nothing but

“Weaving endless cycles of
Desire and pain, satiety and ennui” (SIEP 216)

The vexed stranger suddenly starts smiling beautifully surpassing reasons. He smiles like Lord Buddha who received enlightenment and is illuminated with the intervention of the divine peace in his heart. Intuitiveness comes within the individual’s heart and mind.

Nature plays a vital role in shaping man’s destiny. Kumar highlights the fact that nature plays an intuitive role as it can sense danger as depicted in the poem ‘A Dark Mood’ which shows the perception of the speaker’s mood of thought in contemplation of the dead and nature’s resonance to man. Nature evokes feeling of love and pity portrayed by the sea shells on the shore which reveal a human touch of emotion. The woodpecker pecks the bark of the tree more severely at the sight of the man’s death. The speaker finds himself strange to the act of sex and gives priority to death as nature’s creatures have turned restless on seeing the dead body of man.

“How can we exchange nudities to night
When the shells on the ocean’s bed
are waiting for the dead?” (JSAL 62)

The speaker of the poem gives his first preference to the deceased and sex with his occupies the next place. To live a life is so precious to nature and man’s loveless heart must be evoked and aroused.
by nature teaching him to have love and concern over his fellowmen. The poem teaches one to have a humanistic approach. In the words of Matthew Arnold “Humanism must have man at the centre of the Universe” (CLT, 25).

In the poem ‘Border Guards’ conveys a message of peace and harmony wherein Kumar depicts the bond of humanistic concern established between sentinels of enemy camp across the fence in the IndoPak war. The year 1947 India witnessed the traumatic event of partition and Kumar highly regards the sentinels duty of safeguarding the country from border enemies whose patriotic service for the country is so immense and intuitive inspite of his wife’s illness and son’s death he was concerned of his country’s defence. The irony of the poem in that the two rival border guards have developed friendly relationship wherein the speaker consoles the rival by showing his sympathy and kindness without a slight hesitation of rivalry:

“My figures bleed to think of the fence’s spikes that will not let me caress the anguished face” (JSAL 61)

The lines reveal the sad emotion of the speaker who can feel his pulse of agony but could only bleed through his fingers and not touch as each of them belonged to two different rival nations.

Knowing the facts and going according to the reasoning is good but miracles do happen beyond the boundaries of logical thinking and reasoning when one is intuitive in approach.

REFERENCES