



OF PRIDE AND VANITY

DIBAKAR PAL ¹

¹ RETIRED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE (CIVIL SERVANT) & PHD STUDENT, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA, INDIA.

ABSTRACT:

Pride is the outcome of a feeling of pleasure. An individual is satisfied when his desire is fulfilled. This satisfaction is the cause of pleasure. A hungry man eats food. After having had his meal, when he is full of stomach he enjoys satisfaction that will not allow him to be proud. Food offers strength and vitality but not pride. Rather the satisfied soul with renewed energy will again be engaged at work. So, all satisfaction may not be the cause of pride. But satisfaction provokes a man to be proud. Thus pride is the exposure of purely psychological activity but lunatic in nature. Because, a fool becomes proud and always beats his own drum, but seldom a wise person. Excessive pride is called vanity. In fact, where pride ends, vanity begins. Thus vanity is pregnant with an excessive desire to be admitted by others for one's achievements, appearance, etc.

KEYWORDS:

PRIDE, VANITY, SUPERIORITY COMPLEX, GOOD HUSBAND, GREAT HUSBAND.

INTRODUCTION

Creative writing is based more on manifestation rather than on expression. It does not inform rather reveals, so this style of writing bears no reference. The best creative writing is critical, and the best critical writing is creative. The present article is the 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 may know Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the immortal essayist, wrote many essays and notably, "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 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.

ARTICLE

Pride is the outcome of a feeling of pleasure or satisfaction that one gets from doing something well or from owing or being responsible for something excellent or widely admired. Thus an individual is satisfied when his desire is fulfilled. This satisfaction is the cause of pleasure. A person may be satisfied either through physiologically or psychologically or both simultaneously. Psychological satisfaction paves the way to be proud. Thus all satisfaction may not be the cause of pride always. For, a hungry man eats food. After having had his meal, when he is full of stomach he enjoys satisfaction that will not allow him to be proud.

Food is a substance that people or animals eat or drink, or that plants absorb, to maintain life and growth. Food offers strength and vitality but not pride. Rather the satisfied soul with renewed energy will again be engaged at work. So all satisfaction may not be the cause of pride. But satisfaction provokes a man to be proud since pride is dependent on the satisfaction-pleasure principle. Satisfaction is necessary but not sufficient condition of pleasure that paves the way to be proud. Physiological satisfaction insists a person to work again or to take rest. When psyche is fully satisfied and enjoys the warm feeling of pleasure then it may or may not be the cause of being proud.

Classical pleasure enriches a man and paves his way to be wise. But commercial achievement or revenge compels a person to be proud. Very few people can resist this evil force and thereby be the victim of pride. Thus pride is the exposure of purely psychological activity but lunatic in nature. A fool is a person who acts in a stupid way due to lacking in good sense or judgement. Thus, a fool becomes proud and always beats his own drum, but seldom a wise person.

Pride, in derogatory sense, is a too and unduly high opinion of oneself in appearance or one's achievements. It is nothing but an exaggerated self-esteem. The demerit of pride is haughty behavior. But it teaches to respect oneself properly. Because, sense of one's own dignity or worth saves from inferiority complex. But the paradox is that a proud man suffers from superiority complex. It seems little pride helps to be confident. As such, little pride, which will protect just suffering from inferiority complex, is somehow good but excessive pride is very bad. Because, pride goes before a fall. So, excessive pride is called vanity. In fact, where pride ends, vanity begins. Thus vanity is pregnant

with an excessive desire to be admitted by others for one's achievements, appearance, etc. Vanity has no base as well as no brake at all. As such it faces accidents just like a car when it fails brake. Vanity is so fragile that criticism wounds it easily. Vainglory implies extreme conceit as manifested by boasting, swaggering, arrogance, etc. A conquering person badly suffers from vainglory and thereby is sadly criticized.

Vanity isolates a man from reality. Then the person trots in the land of unreality. As a result his impractical attitude renders his life complex. He faces unprecedented as well as unexpected problems. So, everybody must be cautious lest he be attacked by vanity. The cause of pride or vanity is due either to genetic or socio-cultural factors or both. Some class is proud and keeps safe distance traditionally due to genetic ground and social factors ignite boastness. It is just to draw attention. Such a character suffers from frustration for lack of expected love and care. Now there are two avenues to draw attention. One is to be extravert and be jovial and enjoy with others. The other is a reserve personality i.e., introvert.

Parents take pride in the success of their issue. But the issue many times is the victim of vanity, due to lack of experience and proper guidance, causing ultimate vain in life.

So-called aristocratic or elite society is the storehouse of vanity. But show signifies emptiness. A philosopher opines that this world is merely a vanity fair. Yet it is a fact that aristocracy is an achievement and can never be attained overnight. Rather it grows slowly but rises up steadily on a solid ground. But the downfall of aristocracy can take place quickly just like earthquake. An elite has blue blood but common people exist with red blood corpuscles. The elite look down upon the poor. And the poor cares them with wondered as well as envied eyes. But if a man of low profile comes in contact with high society and gets the chance of intimacy with them then he also begins to hate his poor neighbor. This is the human character. However, vanity paves the way for futility.

Self-esteem implies a high opinion of oneself, often higher than is held by others. Thus self-confidence awakens self-esteem that invites self-importance that teaches self-regard, which enriches one by self-respect that brings honor that again offers courage, which renders a character proud who dares to compare him with the Almighty or thinks more powerful than Him causing ultimate and inevitable downfall as well.

A self-sufficient person becomes proud. A proud man does not approach other. He thinks everybody will approach him. This ego gives birth to pride that converts him to be stiff-neckedness. He becomes touchy. He always remains alert and vigilant regarding his status. On the other hand vanity makes a man arrogant. He becomes haughty. He admires himself. He is over confident. He pretends to be superior. So, he keeps safe distance. Such is his egotistic behavior for seeking attention. In fact vainglory and over ambitiousness isolate him from the mass. Prestige, dignity,

reputation and ultimately style chase him always and he loses peace of mind. Thus, pride and thereby vanity has a warm feeling and a person simply cannot help enjoying it.

Noble birth makes a man proud. He is by birth lord. This feeling provokes self-love.

Such a character is called a narcissistic one. His identity satisfies himself. But a man of vanity always displays himself. Boastfulness warms him. He points out class distinction.

He gives birth to racial hatred. Social discrimination, white supremacy and apartheid are the diseases spread by vanity.

Vanity means vainness. It offers immodesty and over-proudness. Self-congratulation manifests vanity that renders a man smart. An officer enjoys perks, which, generally, are higher than salary. In fact perks stand for status symbol that offers vanity.

Vanity teaches a man to be aggressive. Self-worship is the sign of vanity. Self-centeredness, me-ism converts a man 'blind'. Dogma is the alias of vanity. He does not follow anybody but asks to follow him. Thus for his own safety he keeps safe distance.

He neglects others. His hatred allows other to hate him. These unwanted traits are partly in pride but full in vanity.

A stylist woman uses vanity case. But the brief case used by a man is not called so. As such female class is the sole proprietor of vanity. Vanity stands for mere show only.

Here, instead of utility vanity case or vanity bag symbolizes aristocracy.

Wealth, fame and appearance are the causes of pride. Sycophancy, praise and attention ignite it. Pride and vanity are similar to the illusions, fancies and dreams in which human beings normally indulge and by which they flatter themselves to believe that things are not so bad as they appear but are beautiful and attractive. And what are these illusions but vanities and falsehoods. Life without them would be boring and painful indeed. Instead, truth like the sunlight destroys and removes all vanities and false hopes and puts the facts of life in their naked purity which, human nature being what it is, would make life appear extremely uninteresting to many of us.

A husband seldom be proud for his beautiful wife or exposes her success. But a wife readily propagates more colorfully the achievements of her husband. Good husband adds a feather in the vanity of wife. Great husband has to live with his mad wife. In fact madness of wife renders a man good to great. Thus greatness pushes a man from his bedroom to the outer world. He loses his own family but acquires all families and thereby the whole world instead. And here lies the uniqueness of greatness. Very few people are lucky to achieve it. But common people are afraid of such luckiness.

A successful religious or political leader, having mad wife, acquires greatness and thereby experiences unhappy family life. They sacrifice their lives to make all happy

welcoming unhappy personal life. A couple who are made for each other or mad for each other can never prosper either in religion or politics. A bride prefers good husband rather than a great one. She finds no greatness in achieving so called greatness. As such, a man must exercise his option between home or foreign affair i.e., either family life or religious or political life. However, in a patriarchal society, social whips compel a woman to live with a lunatic husband.

CONCLUSION

Beautiful wife seldom titillates the vanity of a husband. Rather, a husband likes to enjoy alone the richness of beauty of his attractive wife. On the other hand, the flame of beauty of wife attracts so many hunters. A woman wants that everybody should praise her. She enjoys attraction of others. This affair invites unwanted problem that hampers family-peace. Thus a suspicious husband suffers always from anxiety lest his wife be snatched away. This disturbing thought is not quite absurd. Because, it may be easy to marry a beautiful woman but difficult to hold her, just like easy earning money is not always easy to keep in safe custody.

REFERENCES

No reference, since the present article is an outcome of Creative Writing