



## OF CATASTROPHE AND CALAMITY (TWO FACETS OF DISASTER)

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### ABSTRACT

*Catastrophe is a sudden great disaster. It is robust and unexpected in nature. Calamity is an event causing great harm and sudden damage. It is a disaster.*

**Keywords:** Catastrophe, Calamities.

### INTRODUCTION

Creative writing is based more on manifestation rather than on expression. It does not inform rather reveals, so it 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 know well that 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

Disaster is a very bad accident, a crash or a fire that causes great damage or loss of life.

This may either be natural or manmade or both simultaneously. Earth quake is a striking example of natural disaster. But flood caused by deforestation leading to soil erosion that paves for unprecedented deluge is a manmade disaster. Also disaster appears in two other ways namely catastrophe and calamity. The outcome of both is same but sharply differs in degree, dimension and magnitude as well.

Catastrophe is a sudden great disaster. It is robust and unexpected in nature. A sudden, violent disturbance, especially of a part of the earth's surface is catastrophe. Every country, be they hail either from developed or undeveloped region, be the victim of earthquake and cannot escape from cruel clutches of misfortune due to worst sufferings.

A catastrophic failure is one when unprecedented misfortune appears to an unfortunate.

Time is the best healing balm to a bruised heart. Yet the expertise of any government depends how it manages the adverse situation of the ailing humanity in short time.

Calamity is an event causing great harm and sudden damage. It is a disaster. It is a great misfortune, adversity, deep distress. An earthquake sometimes is the worst calamity in the country's history. They say prevention is better than cure. As such it is wise to supply purified water then to send doctors to prevent cholera. There are worse calamities than failing one's driving test.

War is the outcome of imperialism. It is the manifestation of Satan or evil spirit already in an imperialist. It is an avenue to sell deadly weapons to the rival countries. Carpet bombing levels all the heights of man made civilization. It levels all manmade skyscrapers big or small through its deadly democratic capacity. Both war and skyscraper are manmade. Thus the paradox goes one manmade destroys another manmade. The good is defeated by evil. As such protection of both man and manmade is a million dollar question of present day civilization. Now, calamity caused by war manifests deep trouble or misery. It is an extreme misfortune.

Which one is severe more? The damage caused by catastrophe is huge and havoc both in forms and features than calamity. It is violent and severe in nature. It is long lasting.

Sometimes it is ever lasting. An efficient society can manage catastrophe whatever its destructive output may be. To a weak Government even a nominal calamity can puzzle it due to its mismanagement. Here priority is the main factor for its judicious implementations. First, rescue then medical treatment then food then shelter etc. Service to mankind should be its driving force. A pious soul preaches that to love man and to serve man is to love god and to serve god.

Catastrophe culminates into unprecedented and unexpected disastrous end. It is like Himalayan ruin like Himalayan blunders. It is an event producing subversion of the order of things. Catastrophe theory is a branch of mathematics concerned with systems showing abrupt

discontinuous change.

As already stated catastrophe is an event causing great damage or suffering. It is alias and akin to an overthrowing. It is the culminating event of a drama especially of a tragedy by which the plot is resolved. It implies any great and sudden disaster. It is simply a total failure. Then the life of the hero starts from zero again.

Catastrophe is manifested by different forms and features namely, disaster, calamity, cataclysm, holocaust, ruin, ruination, tragedy, adversity, blight, trouble, trial, tribulation, etc. Cataclysm is a sudden violent change or disaster, eg a flood, an earthquake or a war.

Holocaust is an occasion of great destruction, especially by fire, and great loss of human life. Modern society is always in fear a nuclear holocaust. History experienced the mass killing of Jews by the Nazis before and during World War II. Blight is any force that indirectly harms or destroys something. Unemployment is a blight and burning topic of any society. Tribulation implies great trouble or suffering as is experienced by modern life.

Calamity, similarly implies disaster, catastrophe, tragedy, cataclysm, adversity, tribulation, affliction, misfortune, misadventure. Affliction is to cause trouble, pain or distress to somebody or something. The opposite of calamity is godsend.

Catastrophe is a sudden and widespread disaster bewildering human sense and intellect as well. Wood on fire is sufficient enough to challenge the fire fighting system even of a developed country. Man stands still merely like a puzzled and spell-bound observer. Man realizes its limitation and discovers that still now he is a doll in the hand of powerful and violent nature. The catastrophe of war is beggar's description. Carpet bombing causes huge destruction to the opponents. A disastrous finish or conclusion is done by the tyrants. Any misfortune, mishap, or failure is compared either by catastrophe or by calamity.

In a drama the point following the climax and introducing the close or conclusion is called catastrophe. It is denouement. Catastrophe has three facets namely catastasis, epitasis and protasis. Catastasis is the part of a drama, proceeding the catastrophe, in which the action is at its height. Epitasis is the part of an ancient drama, following the protasis, containing the main action. Protasis is the first part of an ancient drama, in which the characters are introduced and the subject is proposed.

Loss of home is calamity but loss of son is catastrophe to an affectionate mother. Similar catastrophic pain is experienced by a lover for the premature demise or untimely desertion of his or her partner.

Calamity is caused by human callousness. Conflagration in big cities is an example of human foolishness. It happens always either in an unplanned and ill-planned city. The flow of river is diverted through dam. Deforestation causes soil erosion. Nuclear test causes enormous heat. Earth is compelled to bear that heat. Nature takes revenge through

flood and global warming. Careless use of chemicals and pesticides in agriculture sector reciprocates many incurable diseases namely diabetes, blood pressure, cancer, arthritis etc.

Catastrophe is heavenly in nature. An atheist preaches it as God's whims. It is divine that is supreme in nature. It warns and alerts the man through its supreme power. Human has no direct control over that supernatural phenomenon. But human being is singularly liable and solely responsible for natural calamities. Calamity is a subset of catastrophe.

Both cause disaster. Thus all catastrophes are calamity but all calamities may not be catastrophe. Big calamity may be called catastrophe. Conversely, small catastrophe may be considered as calamity. Whatever the disaster may be caused by these two events common mass expect quick rescue, relief and kind service to the ailing humanity.

Professional help is of utmost importance to handle post disaster emotional outbreak reflected through acute stress, PTSD, depression and anxiety syndromes. Support services are necessary to provide a healing touch to traumatized individuals. Due to natural disaster like tsunami, earthquake, etc. a person may loss near and dear ones and at that time support from other agency or organizations are immediately required to ameliorate the long term effects of trauma.

Aftermath of any disaster be it natural or manmade is extremely severe. Voluntary support system is the only resource to mitigate and combat such situations. Helping the victims to accept the hard reality we lead to develop positive mental health.

The team from NIMHANS explored at Andamans the early phase of tsumani disaster in January and February 2005. They felt the necessity of disaster team who can effectively communicate with the victims and Government and Non-Government agencies to professionally mitigate the situation.

Fellow feeling or goodness has no substitute. Sufficient relief may not always be available but sincere feeling costs nothing. It is a balm to the bruised heart. It is most unfortunate that the sufferers experience inhuman behavior from the rescuer. It is the greatest manmade disaster of the modern civilized society. A micro level analysis of so-called social bondage, nurtured since time immemorial, reveals that breaking of joint-families into nuclear families gave birth to disaster in personal life of every family members more or less thereby society at large ultimately leading to extreme molestation of moral values. Self-centeredness is the wisest disease and meanest disaster of mankind.

## CONCLUSIONS

Man has chained itself into the cage through its self made Frankenstein. Only conscience and goodness can unchain the man. But moral values are rare in the society and diminishing day by day. It has become a myth. It is merely a fossil. Here emotion has been replaced by motion. In fact

morality has no substitute. It itself is its substitute.

Character without morality is just like a ship without radar. Such a character has neither brake or no base at all. So, this type of fragile character experiences breakage at ease.

They are diverted genius. They are misguided missile. This is the real disaster as is experienced by the modern society.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Pal, Dibakar is a Retired Executive Magistrate (Civil Servant) in India and PhD Student. Though he is a Civil Servant yet he is genuinely interested in diversified academic fields. As such, he holds master degrees in M.Sc(Math), M.A(English), M.A(Bengali), M.B.A(HRD), M.C.A, P.G.D.M.M(Marketing), L.L.B, D.C.E(Creative Writing), M. Phil (Business Management),UGC-NET(Management)-2008. He attended an International Conference at IIT, Mumbai, India and five International Conferences at U.S.A; though he gets invitation to present papers in many International Conferences at home and abroad round the year. He presents papers on Computer Science, Management, English Literature, Linguistic, Philosophy, Philology, Psychology, Sociology, Humanities and Poems. He presented a paper on Computer Science and Chaired in 2007 IEEE Conference at Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A. Also another paper on Fuzzy Logic was accepted by IEEE Conference 2010 at USA. He serves as Session Chair, Presider and Reviewer. He serves as reviewer of American Marketing Association, Journal of Common Ground; Australia, IEEE Transactions, IJEAPS, AJHC, Journal of Supercomputing.

He has more than one hundred fifty (150) publications and among these one is as Monograph in International Journal on Management Science, one Monograph is in Journal of the World Universities Forum, one is in Consumer Behavior, two are in Computer Science, one is in Neuroscience, one is in Linguistic and rest are Creative Writing of English Literature. In Creative Writing two papers have been incorporated in SSRN's Top Ten Download List three times in November, December 2010 and April 2011. In ResearchGate his papers have reached a milestone through more than 8800 reads. Scholars' Press and Lambert Academic Publishing House, Germany have published twelve books between July to December, 2016. Now he is pursuing his PhD thesis in Business Management in University of Calcutta, India. Also he is currently focussed on the Extension Works of Huffman Code i.e., Coding Theory and Pattern Recognition Through Fuzzy Logic (Pattern Recognition, Image Processing, etc) of Computer Science.

His hobby is Creative Writing (Nonfiction). He says:

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### **REFERENCES**

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