

## **The Efforts of Enlightenment: Disaster and Destructive of both Art and of the World**

**K.Chandrakala**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Science & Humanities,  
St. Martin's Engineering College,  
Dhulapally, Secunderabad-500100,  
Telangana, India.

### **ABSTRACT:**

To understand Enlightenment, need to develop some of the key ideas of modernism and modernity. To know more about Enlightenment one need to read classics to contemporary texts, need to dwell into the arguments of different philosophers and writers, then only possible to get clear picture of Enlightenment, i.e. to know about the progress, the religion and the politics of the time of the movement.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Enlightenment is a philosophical movement that started around 18<sup>th</sup> century in Europe and the reason became main cause of the movement. According to Immanuel Kant, "Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed immaturity and immaturity is the inability to use one understanding without guidance from another. We must liberate ourselves from immaturity". Many intellectuals had negative views about Enlightenment which led to modernism. Let's dwell into philosophers of the movement and know about the truths of the world and Enlightenment.

According to Immanuel Kant, one should be able to resolve and use courage to come out of one's immaturity, without another person's direction. He said, have your courage and use your mind that is the motto of Enlightenment, it is difficult for single person to come out of it but Enlightenment is sure because there were independent thinkers and public should enlighten itself. Kant said the progress in education, knowledge and in thinking that is not only good for individual but also for society. Leaders of those societies worried that if people become more educated and more independent than they might not be subjects to Kings and Aristocrats. But Kant said Enlightenment is important to explain, demonstrate and energize the society, he explained to the Elite not to fear from Enlightenment, as it is a powerful

ingredient to energize the whole society and the world. Enlightenment requires freedom, the most harmless and one's reason in the public, but Kant said he heard few people saying do not argue but rather drill. Enlightenment is a project to make the world more of a home for human beings through the use of reason.

According to Kant we need to create boundaries around reason and make room for faith, need to steer a middle course between these two. There are some things we have faith in; we believe it and we do not have knowledge about it, known as noumenal world. He said have faith in noumenal world but knowledge in phenomenal world; don't try to have knowledge about immortality of the soul or dwell into the noumenal world to know more about it and do not try to have knowledge about freedom. Enlightenment is something that can be embraced; Kant said it won't destroy the world and he embraced modernity; he could not know that it would be too fast to destroy the world but Rousseau was against modernity.

According to Rousseau modernity is a tremendous mistake and had to find a cure for modernity and not to encourage modernity. He understands everything about Enlightenment and he rejects it. He participates in Enlightenment and turns against it and became a different person. Rousseau said, the real was the state of nature, some point in the past where human were authentically human. That's the standard for Rousseau to imagine the degradation over time, we build up inequality, build up taste for luxury, build up vanity and envy, all these things led to corruption and loss of humanity. In the view of these things he could not embrace modernity and encourage like Immanuel Kant.

Rousseau was a Radical thinker trying to dig to the bottom and to the extremes; he was sceptical about the progress of Sciences and Art that they would corrupt morals rather than improving them. Arts and Sciences take our original freedom and make us love our slavery, disguise our oppression and promote tyranny and inequality, as they create new forms of dependence. Rousseau's problem with Arts and Sciences was that they were luxurious; they were new forms of dependence, a form of degradation and corruption. Arts and Science and the Enlightenment, making us suffer more from its outcome. Human beings prior to their corruption, in those good old days they were simpler and honest to one another.

Enlightenment according to Karl Marx the more you produce, the more you are impoverished as a worker, that's Marx conflict about the proletariat. The working class for Marx is the vehicle for the resolution of historical contradictions; the rest can see the contradictions

resolved. The Bourgeois furnishes the working class with weapons to fight the government, reduce the tax and change the condition. For Marx beauty hides the truth and the ugly Revolution is the real Revolution, shows the truth of the middle class Revolution. The middle class that exposes truth of the history that's all about the class conflict. The most revolutionary class is the Bourgeois; over the long run revolution would happen because of the economic condition. Enlightenment result in the unexpected changes in the economic condition of the society.

The Enlightenment ideas gradually gave way to Romanticism; Flaubert completely understood Romanticism, thought it leads to stupidity and cliché. Romanticism was a reaction against Enlightenment, Romanticism emphasized the heart and the emotions where as Enlightenment emphasized the intellect and the rationality. Progress making the world more of a home was not only intellect and rationality but the importance of soul and its emotions are also important. Gustav Flaubert was not worried about bringing changes in the society but for Flaubert form becomes more important, one should be able to express things as they were to make people aware of the condition and to enlighten society. In the novel "Madame Bovary", Emma in her early years was a romantic and she was attracted to Romantic novels, was romantic in her imaginations of her future, which lead to great destruction of her life. Flaubert understands its impacts on human mind and he rejected it, if he was alive, he could see his fears coming true in this present world of desires for new things and comforts.

John Stuart Mill drawn a middle way of Utilitarianism and Romanticism, this middle path became more important to Darwin's work, "Origin of Species". The Culture of Enlightenment during Charles Darwin, which was very different from France and Germany, Facade of Nature becomes important to Darwin; he paid attention to surfaces, which was a key for Darwin's Enlightenment, Surfaces were deceptive for many but not for Darwin, need to find truth on the surfaces of things and on the appearance of things and also learn how to read those appearances. To understand this one has to know the experimentation and learning about the past, genealogy. Charles Darwin published his scientific work after years of travel and his work, a great specimen to the modern world which enlightened the modern society.

It was human approach, suffering and requirement that gave birth to modernity. The term modernity, very much near to Enlightenment, it helped to regenerate culture and society, and the classics supported this change, as they thought it, human progress. The Enlightenment

was characterised by advancement of modernity, in matters of religion, politics and aesthetics. Enlightenment can be viewed in the self definition of modernity. During Enlightenment period people started gaining knowledge with the help of Reason and started questioning Authority. They even wanted to know about the world and brought changes in many areas. The thirst for reason and knowledge mounted up like a hill and produced books of Enlightenment, discoveries, inventions, American and French revolutions, etc. that were notable. Many philosophers and great thinkers, who could view its negative factors, took a turn from Enlightenment.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Man's desires are endless and he would be in search of novelty, thinking which would give him great pleasure, ignoring the dark side of Enlightenment. The Present condition of twenty first century proved to be true the fears of these philosophers and great thinkers who had viewed the destruction of the world before two hundred years. The result of the efforts of Enlightenment in the twenty first century paved a path to the destruction of the world, a pneumonia detected in Wuhan and the outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency by the World Health Organization. Corona pandemic, a warning of Nature indicating that people are going against nature which ultimately led to the destruction of the world killing thousands of innocent people. Human beings prior to their corruption, in those good old days they were simpler and honest to one another. As per Rousseau's opinion it's very clear that Arts & Science and the Enlightenment make us suffer more.

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