

I disagree with Plato's viewpoint that poets are of no use in society because of their emotion. Emotion is the most fundamental trait of sentient beings. It is a quality rather than a disqualification, a virtue rather than a vice, and certainly, an advantage rather than a shortcoming. It is essential for human beings. Without it, man is rather robotic, who cannot think or feel. Intelligence can be created artificially, but not emotion. It is an invaluable property of human beings. We are human as we have love, hatred, anger, joy and sorrow.

Poetry is the blessed daughter of emotion. It springs from the deepest feelings of a poet, stimulating the network of neurons, flowing through the stream of blood, ultimately trickling down to expression. One cannot probably write poetry simply with intellect unless he has the impulse to express his feelings, caressed by emotion. He will be meditative and ventilate his emotions in sensuous language to exert an impact on the readers' mind. Poetry transcends realisation by virtue of emotion. Its electric flow elevates poetic articulations to great heights. Poetry is tender but strong, brief but taut. In its soul resides the ray of the sun while its body radiates the beauty of the moon. Reading and writing poetry is a divine experience.

We can ask whether poetry is relevant to the age of technology as we see it today. Is it consistent with the aspiration of life in the twenty first century? Can it bring any wellbeing to the society? I believe poetry still carries much importance. It may play a significant role in various aspects of present day phenomena. With its immaculate sublimity, it can fill the world with bliss and peace, internally and externally. The appeal of poetry is eternal. It was, it is and it will be, as long as human beings are there and as long as they will search for beauty and truth, which are intermingled in poetry, as John Keats observes, "Beauty is truth, truth beauty."

Poetry is aesthetic. It has its association with mind vis-à-vis its intrinsic beauty. Of all literary genres, poetry is unique with its diction and rhythm. Poetry entails unimaginable feat of imagination on part of the poet. The poet creates a new world of reality. He uses words so craftily that they get a new dimension. He as if prepares a nakshi kantha, stitching beauty in language. Poetry makes use of words economically for expressing any profound thought. It exploits metre along with features of rhyme and alliteration to sway the mind of audience. It uses various figures like metaphor, simile, hyperbole, synecdoche, metonymy and personification, to embellish the way of expression. It impresses whoever reads it or hears it. It acts as a great source of joy. Some poetic lines leave so indelible mark on reader's mind that they remember it all through their life. They recall it in leisure for their own pleasure or recite for others' delight.

Poetry holds special significance for the romantic souls. It glorifies the story of heart. People in love must love poetry as only the poets could express their true feelings. Lovers would like to utter love-soaked lines of poems to deepen their infatuation for each other. They will sit under the tree or by the lake, or walk down the park or sidewalk, and whisper the poetical phrases, which sound more soothing than the mantras of holy scriptures. They will look at each other's eyes and be immersed in the depth of ocean. Only poetry is compatible with that transcendental feeling. Love gets, as it were, exciting with poetry and dull without it.