Editorial

Experimentalism with a propensity for welfare and justice has resulted in progressive thoughts in the social groups of some nations but not at a mass level. We have already paid a heavy price for distancing ourselves from universal values that nature too tries to impart to us. We are going away from the origin of the delight. The truth of the interconnectedness of the elements of the universe does not get its prominence in social and academic discourse. Wordsworth tries to remind us: "The world is too much with us; late and soon, / Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers; / Little we see in Nature that is ours" ("The World is Too Much With Us" 1-3).

Materialism has given birth to uncountable evils that keep on changing their forms in the course of time. COVID-19 is a poignant reminder of many things including the rise of illegal and evil practices meant for monetary gain. All kinds of ethics were tested and most of them failed. A kind of hollowness came before us. The words of Hopkins best extend this observation:

> The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
> It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
> It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
> Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
> Generations have trod, have trod, have trod; ("God's Grandeur" 1-5).

Even the terrific lessons of natural and man-made calamities fail to change human's passions for worldly pleasures. This tendency creates but a feeling of emptiness at the end. Thomas Hood convinces us through his poem, "Autumn":

> I saw old Autumn in the misty morn
> Stand shadowless like Silence, listening
> To silence, for no lonely bird would sing
> Into his hollow ear from woods forlorn,
> Nor lowly hedge nor solitary thorn; (1-5).

Literary texts are full of illustrations meant for peace and harmony in society but many times pride obstructs its way. With an example, William Watson writes in his poem, "April":

April, April,
Laugh thy golden laughter,
But, the moment after,
Weep thy golden tears! (9-12)

Tagore is relevant in the context of pride who writes that "pride in every form breeds blindness at the end … that is misleading" (*Nationalism* 1917). He advocates nationalism but with support of truth and spirituality. For him, nationalism lies in making one's motherland a country of expectation not of segregation. Not only powerhouses are able to do it, other countries have also potentials for this achievement. For this, in the words of Tagore, "racial unity," "the moral culture of brotherhood," "man's moral nature" and "moral adjustment" are necessary. Histories teach us that "man's base passions of greed and cruel hatred" result in "ugliness" and destruction. The time has come for us to "discover our soul in the spiritual unity of all living beings" (*Nationalism* 1917).

Those countries that respected the "open and pluralistic conception of nationalism" and religion, they rose to higher level and others remained near the bottom (Tadd Fernée: "'A Sea of Forms': Mahatma Gandhi's Reconstruction of the French Revolutionary Legacy"). Selective approach used since the time immemorial kept on creating some groups of people who think themselves above everything in society.

Instead of the authentic texts, their by-products get social eminence due to misconception and misinterpretation of the soul of society and help in emergence of misleading designs. Such misconceptions do not respect any geographical boundary. Sometimes mythopoeia tries to balance the secretive and unjust writings to open eyes of the few but the practice rooted in the society for ages is not easy to be uprooted. The habit of playing with scriptures for the personal gain continued in playing with the constitutions all with an ever cherished belief to keep the underprivileged groups far away from the mainstream. Literatures sometimes attract a few scholars to work in this field. Indian literature and African literature are seen producing good results.

This 10th volume of *Ars Artium* offers ten articles and a bouquet of poems. I wish you a very happy reading and peaceful and safe New Year 2022!

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