

Saket Shishu Ranjan H.S. School

Class:- 11th

Subject- English

Lesson:-4

LANDSCAPE OF THE SOUL

Q. Contrast the Chinese view of art with the European view with examples.

Ans. The Chinese view of art doesn't choose a single point of view. Chinese art can be viewed from any angle. The onlooker may enter it mentally and physically. The art only helps the viewer to enter the landscape. The beautiful example we find is of the Daozi's painting of a landscape. He entered the cave in his painting. The painting on the wall vanished. The painter wanted the viewer not to appreciate the outer appearance but enter into his mind.

On the other hand, the European art makes a viewer to view art from the viewpoint of the artist only. The writer gives the example of the painting of a fly made by Quinten Metsys. The fly was so real that he was accepted as a disciple by the master painter whose daughter he wanted to marry.

Q. Explain the concept of shanshui.

Ans. The literal meaning of shanshui is 'mountain water which used together stands for landscape. The mountain is yang, reaching vertically towards the heaven. It is stable, warm & dry in the Sun. It is active and masculine. On the other hand, water is Yin. It is horizontal and is resting on the earth. It is fluid, moist and cool. It is feminine. These are the two complementary poles, reflecting the Daoist view of the universe. The middle void is the essential third element where interaction takes place. Man becomes the conduct of communication between the heaven & the Earth. He is the eye of the landscape.

Q. What do you understand by the terms 'outsider art' & art brut, or 'raw art'?

Ans. The term 'art brut' was given by the French painter, Jean Dubuffet during the 1940's which means the art of the untrained visionary of minority vision. This term has given birth of outsider art'. This genre is described as the art of those people who have received no formal training of the art, yet they show talent and artistic insight. Their works are indeed stimulating. Art brut' or 'raw art' stands for arts in its' raw state. It means that art which is under the influence of Culture & art but it has not risen through a mature stage or status.

Q. Who was the "untutored genius" who created a paradise and what is the nature of his contribution to art?

Ans. Nekchand, the creator of the rock garden at Chandigarh, is the untutored genius. He has literally created a paradise in a little patch of jungle. He is crudely hailed as India's biggest contribution to outsider art.. He has used anything and everything from a tin to a sink to a broken down car as the material for a work of art. He has made a single branded contribution to art by using the waste and recycled material for art. He is an artist who has converted his dreams to reality and a little jungle into a world that is the hub of artistic pleasure. His contribution is recognized as by the Swiss Commission for UNESCO by arranging a European exposition of his works.. Many other countries here also honoured him for his contribution to art. A UK based magazine devoted

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to outsider art raw vision has featured Nekchand & his rock garden sculpture, "Women by the waterfall" on the cover of it's anniversary issue. It is a rare honour, indeed, to a person who has had no formal training in art.

Q. "The Emperor may rule over the territory he has conquered but only the artist knows the way within".

Discuss.

Ans. The story of Chinese art reveals that the Emperor may rule over the conquered territory and understand the materialistic world but he cannot understand or reach the inner world of the soul as close as an artist. Only the artist knows the way within. When the painting was ready and hung on the wall, the Emperor came & admired the landscape. For us. High mountains, waterfalls, clouds, men on hilly paths, birds in flight, etc. The painter was not happy. He clapped his hands. The entrance to the cave at the bottom of the painting opened. The painter entered the cave & the entrance closed behind him. After a while, the painting itself vanished. The Emperor was stunned. The story only underlines the facts about the Chinese art: that outer reality is inconsequential. What is important to the Chinese art is the soul of the art.

Q. The landscape is an inner one, a spiritual and conceptual space. Discuss.

Ans. The Chinese Painter gives full freedom to the viewer to look at his painting from any angle. On the other hand, the western painter wants the viewer to use his eyes to look at his landscape.

To the Chinese painter, the outer landscape doesn't matter much. The real landscape is the inner one, covering a spiritual & conceptual space. In it, one can enter from any point and travel in it up and down and then back again in a leisurely manner. It implies that the viewer of a Chinese landscape has to seek the beauty within. He ought to involve himself both physically & mentally in appreciating a real piece of art. The story of we Daozi, the Chinese painter in the 8th century who vanished after entering the cave of his own painting only reveals that the artist wants the viewer to enter his mind, for the landscape is not the outer reality as the western artist believes, but a spiritual & abstract reality.

Q. How is Nekchand's work viewed by the art people the world over?

Ans. Nek Chand who created the rock garden in Chandigarh has got worldwide fame as a genius. The anniversary issue of Raw Vision, a UK- based magazine devoted to the promotion of outsider art' features Nek Chand & his rock garden's sculpture 'Women by the waterfall' on its cover. It highlights the contribution of Nek Chand by telling the world, how he used from a tin to a sink, to a broken down car to create a great work of art.

The Swiss Commission for UNESCO praised his art and decided to honour him. They put up an exhibition of his works. The fifth month interactive Show Realm of Nek Chand' was held at leading Museums in France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium.

What gives Nek Chand great satisfaction and joy is that the common people come to enjoy his creations in large number. He is the people's artist in true sense.

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Lesson:-4 Poetry

THE VOICE OF THE RAIN

Q. There are two voices in the poem. Who do they belong to? Which lines indicate this?

Ans. There are two voices in the poem- Those of the rain and the poet. The lines are:

"And who art thou? Said I to the soft falling shower"

"I am the poem of the Earth, said the voice of the rain".

Q. What does the phrase "strange to tell" mean?

Ans. It means that it is strange that rain gave the poet an answer. It is an example of personification.

Q. There is a parallel drawn between rain and music. Which words indicate this? Explain the similarity between the two?

Ans. The words which indicate this parallel are: "I am the poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain" "Eternal, I rise impalpable: "And make pure and beautify it" etc

Both rain and music have the power of falling softly- one on the parched lands and the other on human souls. They are life- givers. Without rain and music, everything remains or looks dull, dreary and lifeless. They make things & human beings pure and beautiful.

Q. How is the cyclic movement of rain brought out in the poem? Compare it with what you have learned in Science.

Ans. Whitman brings out cyclic movement of rain. First, it rises out of the land and the sea Then, it soars into the sky where it takes the shape of cloud and then descends into the rain to bathe, the droughts and other rains. In Science, we learn how water on the Earth and in the Sea takes the shape of water vapour, then the clouds & finally the shape of rain.

Q. Why are the last two lines put within brackets?

Ans. The last two lines are put in brackets because they serve the purpose of additional information on music which is not the subject matter of the poem. It is parallelism between rain & music. With the simple cyclic movement. & impact on men, matters & vegetation.

Q. Justify the title of the poem.

Ans. The poem is aptly titled 'The voice of the Rain. The poet personalizes rain to underline its numerous blessings on the Earth. It is the rain which gives new life to the Earth. It becomes the poem of the Earth.