

Interesting Texts in the Works of Acharya Rajneesh

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Abstract. Our maturity is measured by the dictions, phrases, clauses, and sentences we use in our daily life. The entire personality of a person whether it is external or internal can be measured with the help of the thought of the person. Even if a person has gone through various grooming programmes, his attitude is not expected to be modified in toto until and unless he goes through a number of interesting, inspirational and motivational texts. The more a person goes through such texts, the more positive attitude he will have. We all must have gone through the philosophies or texts of Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Dayanand, Gautam Buddha, Acharya Rajneesh et al at least once in life. From the fountain of their philosophies, we must have taken a sip which must have left a little bit or more impression on our mind and action. In fact, since childhood, we have been encouraged to recite the lines of the holy books or scriptures like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the BhagvadaGeeta, the Vedas, the various Upanishads, the Garuda Purana, etc. in order to modify our character and thought. In this regard, I have tried to frame the philosophies of Acharya Rajneesh that appeared in the form of interesting texts. Acharya Rajneesh had very different perspectives regarding various issues. His views and opinions were totally different and even eye-opener to the readers and appear before us in the form of interesting texts.

Keywords: Cognizance; development; philosopher; inferior; inspirational texts.

Mother earth is teemed with varieties of different creatures. Out of them human beings are known to be the gifted ones. They possess different senses but something which makes them different is their cognizance. In fact, all human beings have individual differences and hence, they are different in this respect. Their thought differ on the basis of their cognitive development. The more they are cognitively developed, the more they are judgemental and pass their comments, views and thoughts regarding different issues of surroundings. We have many such people about whom we come to know. But the one about whom I am going to discuss here is Acharya Rajneesh.

Acharya Rajneesh is known to be a spiritually incorrect mystic of twentieth century. He is acknowledged as one of the greatest philosophers of not only his age but of all the ages. He has had four hundred books to his credit. All of them centre round different subjects. His views are totally different from others. There was no one who could be parallel to him. In fact, he was such a great scholar that he wanted to have knowledge of all the subjects and disciplines. Making great efforts, he developed his vision which not only proved beneficial for the Indians but for the rest. In his books, magazines, discourses etc., we get many inspirational and interesting texts which can change the perspectives of entire social order. Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth President of America. But his father was a shoemaker.

Consequently, the Americans were surprised that they had to face a shoemaker's presidency. They were unable to tolerate this. So, they wanted to mock at Lincoln. In Senate, when Lincoln had just initiated his first speech, he was interrupted by an egoist. He was rich enough. He showed his shoes and said, "Mr. Lincoln, by accident you have become the President. But never forget that your father was a shoemaker. In fact, in my family, your father used to come to make shoes for everybody. The shoes I am showing you were made by your father." (*Osho Times International*, 11) Hearing this everyone in the Senate laughed to humiliate Lincoln. But Lincoln was not humiliated at all. Rather he said, "I am immensely grateful to you for reminding me of my father. He was a perfect shoemaker, and I know I cannot be that perfect a President. I cannot beat him. But I will try my best to at least reach close to his greatness...He has taught me a little bit of the art of shoemaking too. If your shoes are not working well-if they pinch you, if they are too tight, or too loose- I can always mend them.

"Never feel embarrassed-just inform me...I can come and do my best". (11) That time the senators were speechless. Lincoln had turned their insult into great respect. Here, Acharya Rajneesh tries to stress that it is easy to humiliate arrogant people but difficult to humiliate the humble one. The more humble we are, the less irritated we are and the more sound attitude we have.

Women are considered inferior to men. But in reality, a man is nothing without a woman. Osho says, "Man cannot live without woman because then he loses roots...he belongs nowhere, he becomes a driftwood. Waves just takes him anywhere- unless he gets entangled with a woman somewhere, then the home arises." (10) Acharya Rajneesh

further says, "the woman gives him form, substance; the woman makes him aware of who he is. By her love she creates the man. It is not only that the man is created by his mother in her womb; he is created by each woman whenever he falls in love...the woman gives him shape, colour, polish; she makes him human, otherwise he will be very barbarous, violent, aggressive, arrogant and uncompassionate." (4)

What to talk of man even a woman has no meaning of her life without love of a man. Acharya Rajneesh proves it by analysing the difference between a woman in love and a woman without love. To him, a woman is like earth. She wants to be gardened by a man. She wants to bloom and get her fragrance released by a man. Otherwise, she dies like a flower in very short span of time. To quote the text:

A woman not in love shrinks, closes up; she starts living in a shut-upness. She closes the doors and the windows. There is nobody to wait for why keep the windows open or the doors open? She starts living in a kind of grave; she is no more alive. She starts dying and becomes suicidal. (4)

The next interesting text is based on the flirtatious nature of men. We always wonder why a man runs behind other women even when he is already married. The answer is even correctly unknown to men. In this regard, Acharya Rajneesh says, "Man is interested in life, woman is interested in security. Man is interested in love, woman is interested in safety...That is why the husband goes on looking for other women, and the woman goes on watching the husband. She cannot conceive why he is still interested in other women-'I am here!' But the male principle is interested in something new, in the sensational, the new thrill. And sometimes it happens that his own wife may be a beauty, and he may start fooling around with an ugly woman"(13)

One more thought or I can say interesting text of Acharya Rajneesh must be highlighted regarding death: the ultimate journey of someone or something. People all over the world have been facing COVID 19 and its consequences for several months. The pandemic has not only feared everyone from death but also inculcated feeling of insecurities in meeting someone. People have been taking all ample precautions and immunity boosters. They became that much afraid that they forgot that death is the ultimate truth. In this regard, I would like to quote the interesting text of Acharya Rajneesh:

Everybody is afraid of death; that too is contagious. Your parents are afraid of death, your neighbours are afraid of death. Small children start getting infected by this constant fear all around. Everybody is afraid of death. People don't even want to talk about it. Acharya Rajneesh further adds that everybody is afraid of death for the simple reason that we have not tested of life yet. The man who knows what life is, is never afraid of death, he welcomes death, he embraces it, he welcomes it, he receives death as a guest. To him, death is the ultimate crescendo of life. (Fear: *Understanding and Accepting the Insecurities of Life*, 37)

Like Adam and Eve, we are born naked. We have nothingness but with the growth of time, we meet evolution. We get many sanskaras, we achieve overall development but still there is something which makes us confused. Acharya Rajneesh throws special insight on the most important statement of Shakespeare in Macbeth, "To be and not to be?" He says "That is not a question; that is the only way you can find yourself. But first comes "not to be" and second comes "to be." To achieve the natural process of enlightenment, "one should attend nothingness first, nobodiness first. Then only a person can be called an authentic one". (115)

Life is more or less roller coaster. So many twists and turns, so many ups and downs we face in this coaster. Sometimes we are completely shaken and lose our confidence that we will not enjoy this journey of the coaster. But as soon as, we gain confidence we start to believe in ourselves, we experience a sudden positive change in our attitude and the journey which has made us shivering now becomes adventurous and challenging. It keeps the steppers active and alive. They experience a tremendous change in their ways of thinking. They become aware of their potentiality and also insight. They stay away from fear and anxiety. In fact, Acharya Rajneesh himself suggests people to welcome everything in life. In this regard, I would like to quote the word of Acharya Rajneesh:

One has to become soft, vulnerable, open. One has to become almost like a sponge, so that the sun and the rain and the wind are all allowed, invited, accepted, welcomed, so that existence can penetrate you and one has to allow existence to reach to one's deepest core...One has to learn how not to cling anymore to fear dash how to be in love with

the trees and the mountains and the rivers and the people because love is the key that unlocks your doors.

In our life, we meet several people on daily basis. Some are rich and some are poor, some are haves and some are have-nots, some are privileged and some are unprivileged. Sometime people think that the rich, the haves, and the privileged ones are specially treated by God. That is why they are so. But as a matter of fact, they are completely wrong. Everyone is in the same boat. Life does not discriminate at all. It's the efforts of someone which make her either a queen or a beggar. In this regard, Osho has given his interesting views. To quote:

Life makes no discriminations-presidents or shoemakers, toilet cleaners or prime ministers, it does not matter at all as far as life is concerned...death does not care whether you have money or you are a beggar, you are educated or uneducated ...death makes everyone equal.(15)

The freedom movement began with Sepoy mutiny broke out in 1857 to fetch freedom from the English. It ended with the independence of India but in fact, the movement is still continued within us. People want to encage beautiful birds or women with their hands. They forget that the birds or women are beautiful only when they enjoy freedom. The moment any bird is caged, it loses its charm and remains no longer the same one. Same thing happens with the beautiful women. To quote:

You love a woman because she is a freedom. Then you encage her. Then you go to the court and you get married, and you make a beautiful cage around her, maybe golden, studded with diamonds, but she is no longer the same woman. She may hanker for freedom again. Sooner or later, the woman will start feeling bored, fed up and start looking for somebody else. (30)

The above mentioned texts are a few examples of the interesting thought or philosophies of Acharya Rajneesh. These texts can serve as eye-opener. By going through the inspirational and interesting texts of Acharya Rajneesh, one can find solution to various common but extraordinary issues. His philosophies or interesting texts prove to be beneficial for the beings not only in one age but all the ages.

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