

Those countries, which encouraged the Arts most, had the greatest artists. As if to compensate for their strivings towards beauty, the souls of great artists were drawn into the vortex of births, and made to incarnate there where conditions were ready for them. Thus the old saying: "The Master comes when the pupil is ready" - is ever justified. —

The wheel of life turns and the efflorescence of culture passes on to some new centre to blossom forth, when the time is ripe. This constant flow and ebb, the rhythm of spiritual life ever pulsates throughout all nations and countries. History ever repeats itself, in order to have great artists, we must prepare the way for them, we must constantly educate the masses to understand and love cultural values and the arts, and slowly the way will be prepared for ~~the~~ great souls to make their appearance.

But what about the artists themselves? The artists must realise the responsibility they have towards humanity. Being conscious of the fact that they influence life and the coming generations, the artists must spare no effort in improving themselves and in trying to acquire as broad a view and perception as possible.

We must know life in all its manifestations in order to portray it and to interpret it correctly. We must always keep an open mind. Every man and artists in particular must cultivate the art of conscious and creative thinking. We must learn to think consciously. Every minute of our time we should devote to some achievement. Modern civilised and highly

..... complicated

complicated life, with all its distractions, tends unfortunately to develop a peculiar mode of thinking. While the accumulation of facts is there, the conscious effort of independent organised thought is often lost.

People live and think from impulse to impulse and when outside stimulation is lacking - there is often distress, restlessness and a craving for excitement. Time must be killed, and one must occupy one's mind.

How often we see people unhappy if they cannot go to some place of amusement every night. They positively exhibit signs of mental distress, simply because they are left to their own resources, there is no one to think for them and thus to stimulate their own latent mental effort.

Necessary as is the accumulation of facts and impressions, they must be assimilated consciously, otherwise there is a danger in a constant ever increasing desire or craving to stimulate our own thinking by outside factors and artificial excitements: it is a positive process devoid of the inner creative impulse. I like to stress that in order to develop our own thoughts, we must absorb facts and impressions, and consciously assimilate them by comparing and pondering over them, thus we shall enrich our process of thinking. Only thus we can really create new conceptions and new forms our subconscious mind, stimulated into activity by a conscious creative impulse, will combine and recombine our impressions, and endlessly we can draw on them and thus develop mentally, not merely as thinking machines, but consciously thinking individuals. How often do we meet people loaded with facts and impressions, but the real meaning of which is never grasped; their relative position in life is not properly appreciated, and distortions and misconceptions often follow.

Creative and conscious thought in all the domains of human life is the heritage of every human being. Science has pushed back the limits of our conceptions. What philosophy proclaimed ages ago, science now begins to demonstrate practically. We are standing on the threshold of momentous discoveries, but how many of us realise the full scope of these facts?

We usually make use of these inventions and discoveries mechanically, as a matter of course, we make them serve our needs, but how often do we stop to ponder over the real purport and importance of a discovery in its bearing

... on the

3

on the concept of life in its universal significance?

Let us turn on the radio, let us listen to a broadcast, a lecture, a recital, a football match, the results of some racing - do we often stop to think of the tremendous vistas opened before us by this momentous discovery? Our brain is found to emit waves, and telepathy steps forward from the realm of mere hypothesis.

In this light how paramount it becomes to cultivate constructive thoughts.

By cultivating creative, conscious and independent thinking, pondering over problems and conceptions, we realise our own relative position in life; life assumes a different meaning and the clamour for mechanical stimulation disappears. We learn to consciously select those impressions we wish to receive, we analyse them and assimilate them. They will serve to stimulate future thought and widen our perceptions.

How much unhappiness and misery could be avoided by the spirit of better understanding? But this understanding can really never come unless we try to realise the problems that govern life, and meditate on them consciously, not as automatons, stimulated by the kaleidoscopic rush of mechanical impressions. We must realise that craving after pleasure, as well as any blind gratification of our desires and instincts, cannot lead to any lasting happiness and contentment.

The craving after pleasure and excitements grows with gratification and we must increase the dose. Our mind is so organised that the process of thinking must go on. But whether it becomes a creative thought propelled and guided by a conscious effort of our inner self, or a mere mechanical reaction to outside stimulation, depends on the path we choose to follow.