



## LITERATURE – MAN’S OWN IMAGE!

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Literature reflects man's life. It dictates, guides, inspires, instructs, kindles, teaches, mesmerizes, moralizes, motivates, nurtures and paves the way to a glorious life of an individual. It stands as a measuring tool for man to get motivated and lead a happy life. Literature is time-immemorial. It talks of the past, the present and the future. It enables one to collect pearls of wisdom and knowledge and learn lessons. Man with his intellectual thinking capabilities and varied talents, treads on a righteous and virtuous path, exemplifying and motivating the intelligentsia to follow.*

**Key words:** Literature, measuring tool, time-immemorial, pearls of wisdom and knowledge, rejuvenate, principles of life, noble works of great masterminds.

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Literature mirrors people’s life. It reflects man's life – his aspirations, feelings, emotions, thoughts, life style and the society he is surrounded by. It dictates, guides, inspires, instructs, kindles, teaches, mesmerizes, moralizes, motivates, nurtures and paves the way to a glorious life of an individual; it is up to him to read and enjoy, read and apply or follow the virtues portrayed by the characters of the plays and great works of eminent writers. It stands as a measuring tool for man to get motivated and lead a happy life.

Literature is time-immemorial. It talks of the past, the present and the future. It enables one to

collect pearls of wisdom and knowledge and learn lessons without factually undergoing the turmoil of facing harsh realities of life. Literature is so vast that, the more one is associated with it, the more learned and sophisticated one becomes. It soothes the pain of the mind, cuddles and cajoles subtly, the delicate and intricate musings of man. It deepens and matures the thought processes of his, enabling him to reason out things with clarity and practicality, giving him a peaceful solution to all his problems and worries. It lifts him from the clutches of anxiety and takes him away from the mundane world. It boosts his ego and morale and sweeps him to greener pastures. Man can always take a dip in it and refresh and rejuvenate himself; and begin life with renewed energy and hope. He can tread on an innovative path for others to follow, following the simple, yet thought provoking principles of life depicted in the noble works of great masterminds.

Literature is such that, it appears unique and different, to each individual, looking from a different angle. This is how one takes it or looks at it. It can be interpreted according to one's perspective and nature. It shows a simple way for man to temporarily live in a make - believe world. It enables him to connect or associate himself with the characters of the plays or the poems and take the essence of life, leading to a glorious future.

The great poets and dramatists of English Literature have shown their appreciation of life through their immortal works for man to ruminate and rejoice, to accept or reject, to finally take up something precious, to lead him to a perennial source of an endless journey, tireless and seamless, and to reach his destiny with meaning and dignity. Man, God's best creation, is the luckiest, to draw from life, the very many lessons and morals he picks up, as he walks through his life's journey. Literature, like an ocean, is boundless and limitless. To define the strict boundaries of an ocean, especially on the waterfront, is a most demanding job. In the same way, it is a difficult proposition to confine a part of literature within a sub-division and coin a name for it. India is rightly an enigmatic country with unity and diversity. Its various cultures, customs, languages, social backgrounds with consequent problems, their combination and permutations, all appear quite distinct like the colours of a rainbow. Without dissecting into colours, if the rainbow is considered as a unit, it gives a beautiful, pleasant emotional appeal, a wonderful experience for everyone with an aesthetic sense. In the same way, literature, sprouting and blossoming from the thoughts of people with such diverse customs, cultures, racial and

family backgrounds, human values and relations, has gained a unique place for itself. Capturing and captivating millions of people around with its sublime expression of turbulent emotional problems, narrating divergent social and psychological feelings and converging and upholding moral and ethical values, literature has successfully proved to be a solacing agent for man to recline and rest upon.

Indian value system is a perfect example for such a scenario. Speaking of India and its literature, Swami Vivekananda had said, "If there is one word in the English language to represent the gift of India to the world, if there is one word in the English language to express the effect which the literature of India produces upon mankind, it is this one word, "fascination". It is the opposite of anything that takes you suddenly. It throws on you, as if it were a charm imperceptibly. To many, Indian thought, Indian manners, Indian customs, Indian philosophy, Indian literature are repulsive at the first sight; but let them persevere, let them read, let them become familiar with the great principles underlying these ideas, and it is ninety-nine to one that the charm will come over them, and fascination will be the result. Slow and silent, as the gentle dew that falls in the morning, unseen and unheard yet producing a most tremendous result, has been the work of the calm, patient all suffering spiritual race upon the world of thought". India with its ancient civilization has been the birth-place of great works art in various fields. Its richness in culture is its wealth. Its unique aspiration to gain and spread knowledge has been its motivation to rise above in academics. It could thus imbibe the English language of the West with great ease and poignancy and enable artists in literature to even write in this foreign language and reach the mark of excellence, in its own mystic way from a humble beginning. The connection between literature and life is subtle and natural. Literature is the expression of an individual's experience and social life through language. It deals with many complexities. Basically reflecting human thought and human behaviour, it revolves around human interest.

Literature being multi-dimensional, deals with subjects like sociology, philosophy, psychology or religion applicable to the past, present or future. It may reflect an individual's personal feelings, emotions or the prevailing conditions in the society of that particular era. The changing trends and concepts of life are vividly portrayed through literature, which stands as a testimony to the evolving nature of man – his past, present and future.

Gifted is the man who can discriminate between the right and the wrong and have a principled living; the courage to face bitter situations and turn the negative influences into positive. A man with soul conscience is blessed as his maturity of thought, balance of mind and purpose of life are refined and defined and his intellect paves way for a noble life, rich in morals and values.