



OF SANCTITY

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ABSTRACT

Plagiarism destroys the sanctity of any manuscript. As such, an editor declines to publish such a cut-copy-paste article. Only a genuine author gains admittance to the editor's sanctum.

KEYWORDS: Sanctity, religion, holy, right, legal, sanction, justify, manuscript, document

INTRODUCTION

Creative writing is based more on manifestation rather than on expression. It does not inform, rather it reveals. So it bears no reference. The best creative writing is critical, and the best critical writing is creative. This article is an outcome of thinking about creative writing meant for a general readership. As such, I have adopted a free style methodology so that everyone can enjoy the pleasure of reading. As you might know, Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the immortal essayist, wrote many essays namely 'Of Love', 'Of Friendship', 'Of Ambition', 'Of Studies', and so on. The multiple-minded genius correctly pointed out that all the words of the dictionary can be used as themes for essays. But little has been done since his death to continue or finish his monumental task. Bacon's unique individual style of presentation ignited my imagination and encouraged me to write creative essays as a method of relieving a wide range of emotions through catharsis.

ARTICLE

Sanctity is holiness of life. It is godliness. It implies sacredness. It is the state of being hallowed. It is inviolability. It is the quality of being sacred or holy. It implies purity. It is holy feelings, obligations, or objects. It is saint ship e.g. odour of sanctity. It is right to reverence. It is the state of being holy or sacred e.g. believes in the sanctity of life/marriage.

Sanctified implies made holy. It is consecrated. It is sanctimonious.

Sanctify is to make somebody or something holy e.g. a life sanctified by prayer. It is, especially passive, to make something seem right, legal, etc. It is to justify something e.g. a practice sanctified by time or tradition.

Sanctify, specifically, is to set apart or observe as holy i.e. consecrate or it is to make free from sin i.e. purify. It is to make productive of or conducive to spiritual blessing.

Sanctify is to make, declare, regard as, or show to be sacred or holy. It is to free from sin or evil. It is to invest with a sacred character. It is to make efficient as the means of holiness.

Sanctify is to impart sanctity to, make legitimate or binding or inviolable by religious sanction, give colour or morality or innocence to, justify, sanction e.g. the end sanctifies the means.

Sanctify is holiness of life, saintliness e.g. odour of sanctity. It is sacredness, being hallowed, right to reverence, inviolability. It is sacred obligations, feelings, etc.

Sanctimonious, in derogatory sense, is showing that one feels morally superior to other people e.g. a sanctimonious smile/voice/newspaper editorial. It implies pretending to be very holy or pious. It is making a hypocritical show of piety or righteousness. It is now obsolete and word holy is used instead. It is sacred. It is simulating holiness. It is affecting sanctity.

Sanctimony is affected piety or righteousness. It implies religious hypocrisy. It is obsolete now. It is sacredness. It is holiness. It implies outward, affected, or simulated holiness. It implies sanctimoniousness.

Sanctitude means holiness. It implies saintliness.

Sanctuary is a place recognised as holy. It is church, temple, tabernacle, HOLY place, HOLY of holies. It is the sacrarium. It is a place of refuge, especially for political refugees. It is immunity from arrest. It is the right to offer this. For example: The fleeing rebels found a sanctuary in the cathedral e.g. a sanctuary for political refugees. Also it is such protection e.g. She took sanctuary in the Abbey. It is a private retreat. It is a place in which similar immunity was established by custom or law. It is a place of refuge e.g. London, the sanctuary of political refugees. It is to claim/seek/take/be offered sanctuary in the embassy. It is a nature, animal, or plant reserve. It is a reserved area where birds and wild animals are protected and encouraged to breed and may not be hunted or trapped e.g. a bird sanctuary.

Sanctuary is the inmost recess or holiest part, as a building set aside for worship of the divinity or of one or more deities. Specifically it is (a) Judaism i.e. the Biblical tabernacle or the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. It is the chancel. (b) a Christian church (c) any church or temple (d) a particularly holy place within a church or temple, as the part around the altar, the holy of holies in the Jewish Temple, etc. It is part of chancel between altar rails and east window or screen, containing high altar. As per history it is a sacred place where a fugitive from the law or a debtor was secured by medieval Church law against arrest or violence.

Church, temple, altar, shrine, sanctum are synonyms to sanctuary.

Take sanctuary is a resort to place of refuge. It is a place or time for preservation and protection of birds, wild animals and trees.

Sanctum is a study or private room, office, etc. where somebody can go and not to be disturbed. It is a sacred or holy place. It is an inviolably private place or retreat. Colloquially, it is a person's private room, study, or den. For example: I was allowed once into his inner sanctum. Sanctum sanctorum is a place of utmost privacy and inviolability. It is the Holy of Holies of the Biblical tabernacle and the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. It is sanctum. It is an inner retreat. It is an esoteric doctrine etc. It is any especially reserved retreat or room. It is a person's private room, study, den.

Sanctus is the prayer or hymn (from Isa 6:3) beginning ‘Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus’ or ‘Holy, holy, holy’, forming the conclusion of the Eucharistic preface. It is the music for this.

Sanctus bell is the sacring bell. It is a handbell or the bell in the turret of a church at the junction of the nave and the chancel, rung at the sanctus or at the elevation of the Eucharist. It is a small bell or set of bells rung at certain parts of the Mass as at the Sanctus or after the consecration. It is a bell rung during the celebration of Mass to call attention to the more solemn parts.

Sanctity is the belief of a holy heart. It is a belief. It is a perception. A soul has to be tender to realise it. Hard soul or hardened soul or an atheist can hardly perceive it. It is a means for salvation. Man enjoys divine feeling. Through argument it cannot be achieved. A divine soul gets it by default. Belief paves the way to achieve it. Argument renders it like unattainable ideal. Man experiences sanctity in its various forms and features.

The sanctity of the temple is beyond doubt to a pious soul. The sanctity of the Shastras is immense to the religious scholars. The sanctities of conjugal life should be performed for sake of peace and prosperity of the family as a whole. She radiates sanctity. The priest sanctified the altar by sprinkling the Ganga-water. Jesus sanctified the sinner. A fraud makes a show of sanctity or piety. The black-marketer had a sanctimonious air that befooled many. A sanctimonious letter of protest should be rejected forthwith.

Birds and beasts take shelter at sanctuary to save themselves from hunter. Similarly, man believes in religion for peace. Cleanliness arouses aesthetic essence. It is alias and akin to sanctity i.e., Godliness that offers coveted mental peace. A theist considers god as most powerful. He believes that god is kind-hearted and grants all prayers thereby god fulfils all desires. Also god punishes enemies. As such a theist goes to the sacred prayer hall whenever he falls in danger. He keeps the prayer hall always clean. He feels sanctity thereby presence of god there.

Holy feeling may or may not be achieved by a holy bath. It depends on the mind. A dip into a polluted river may offer sanctity to the mind seldom to body since this bathing is not hygienic at all. A patient or an ill person who cannot bath can perceive holy feeling by the operation of faculty of mind. If his mind bathes then he bathes. Mind is the ultimate controller of all fear and feelings. If mind does not bath then man cannot be holy. This is the essence of sanctity as is believed by one school of thought.

Many priests preach themselves as god’s direct agent. A pious soul believes it. He gives money to the priest and takes god’s blessings. Such a priest sells blessings. They even may sell the deity thereby god. They can do it since ‘good wine needs no bush’.

Some religious gurus sexually harass the devotees in the name of sanctity. Such a guru considers the devotee as the prey. As such whenever a person goes to him for peace or relief the guru declares that the soul of the devotee has become impure. Now, in the excuse of regaining the sanctity of the soul the devotee either has to spend money for rituals or surrender to the guru to serve and satisfy his sexual hunger or both. He who will voice against this malpractice will be murdered. As such sanctity has become valueless, so the rituals, so the so-called self-proclaimed religious gurus. None laughs for them. Everybody laughs at them. If the gurus get political shelter or support of hooligans then they become most powerful. They enjoy huge earning without any toil.

Ritual has banished religion. Thus ritual is omnipresent with its immense power. In some communities there is strict ritual of bathing before entering a prayer hall. Such ritual is so strict that a person has to bath several times and the person becomes seriously ill. Perhaps this practice has been imposed since the weather of that place is hot and there is abundance of water.

People of second community wash hand and feet then enter the prayer hall. This custom was adopted since the weather of that area where this religion was developed was hot and there was scarcity of water. So the devotees could not bath for relief. This practice runs everywhere irrespective of water available or not, just to obey the rituals more rather than sanctity.

The third doctrine was developed in that place where snow fall and hail storm in the winter season are common. People have to sit before the fire place to save from bitter biting of cold wave. As such the devotees enter the prayer hall direct without wash and bath.

Perhaps, it seems, if the first category of religion would develop in hot or cold country i.e., in second or third place the rituals of bathing would not in vogue due to scarcity of water or snow fall respectively. Similarly, if the second or third religion would develop in hot place with abundant water then the devotee would bath or wash before prayer.

Menstruation is a natural periodical phenomenon a woman has to experience every month. In some religions a woman when passes through the menstruation period is not allowed to enter the prayer hall, on the pretext that she has lost her sanctity temporarily for that period.

In some religions, after going to toilet one has to bath. If a person does not go to toilet he is not dirty. It means a person with stool and urine is pure. But after releasing waste products from body he becomes impure. After toilet he gets relief but loses sanctity. He can concentrate more in prayer without any anxiety. But he must have to bath before entering prayer hall. If a devotee, without bath, enters the temple and touches the deity, the deity loses sanctity. This is the explanation of man seldom of deity.

Ritual is not stationary. It varies with time, place and situation as well. But, religion is constant. Though religions are many God is one. God did not divide man-kind. Self-proclaimed care taker of religion divides man. Devotion towards religion or feeling of sanctity is constant and culture free. Here lies the triumph of religion. Here lies its glory. Here, lies the uniqueness of religion and its sanctity, as well.

Cleanliness leads to sanctity. A religious place may not be clean but brings devotion for belief and desires god's blessing. Even a non-religious place due to cleanliness becomes godliness which is alias and akin to sanctity. Any document, if tempered, its sanctity is lost. Virgin woman is valued much in the society. Rape destroys sanctity of woman in patriarchal society. Rape victim or dating girl experiences hate and degradation. Paradox is that sanctity or virginity is meant only for woman. Also, nature is not impartial. Because, woman becomes pregnant though, man enjoys equally. Woman has to bear the liability of child. Man remains free from social dogma.

God is merely a hypothesis. So sanctity is not required, rather intellect to realise it. Priests do business in the name of God. In the poor country and to the poor person guru enjoys much value. Guru cheats much. Religion is opium. The politician polluted it much. Vandalism is

much. Religion is liable for riot. Religion offered less benefit but loss more in the hand of tyrants. So, sanctity is vague term. It is baseless. All is within the mind. All is perception. Rich people obey no rules of sanctity. Religion is for the poor only.

Sanctity offers psychic force and is compensatory for life's disappointments and phobias. Sanctity is mingled so intensively with blood, that man has great belief in it. The devotee if he or she be illiterate, then they is a flock of sheep and violent mob. Wise persons seldom care for ritual.

It is most unhelpful to clear thinking to relate sanctity to rituals. A person must bathe then take entry into a religious place. That act is a ritual. God never asked humanity to do so. It is man made and imposed in the name of God. They are self-proclaimed God Man.

Sanctity is a matter of perception. Ritual cannot offer sanctity. The paradox is that a person insists on attaining sanctity through rituals. Ritual is not religion. But religion has been replaced by rituals. Religion is an abstract matter. It needs cognitive intervention to realise, whereas rituals can mechanically be followed without any thinking. As such, rituals are very popular and people enjoy them it in the name of so-called religion. The religion of a person can be identified by the rituals he observes.

Both the theist and atheist shine in life. The atheist is strong-minded. He does not depend on god. He depends on himself. He is so confident. To an atheist the concept of sanctity is quite unknown and valueless at all. To him sanctity is neither a bar nor a ladder for uplift.

CONCLUSION

Plagiarism destroys the sanctity of any manuscript. As such, an editor declines to publish such a cut-copy-paste article. Only a genuine author gains admittance to the editor's sanctum.

REFERENCE

No reference, since the present article is an outcome of Creative Writing