

Art in the Times of Conflicts and Crises

We are living in an age, where we are bound to see some conflicts, crises, problems, issues and tensions all around us. These are of various kinds i.e. sometimes personal, sometimes public, sometimes inner, sometimes outer, sometimes eternal, sometimes outward, sometimes societal, sometimes unsocial. We are bound to live in between those tensions which are given to us by our personal, social, public, national, geographical or cultural atmosphere. Even after so many scientific developments and achievements, there is hardly any remedy for these. We are bound to carry the burden of all these throughout our life.

We have seen growing conflicts over the years between nationalities for borders and so many other reasons, we have seen polarization of the world among cultural roots, we have seen growing tensions over communal fights, we have seen conflicts over loot of resources between the corporate and the common masses, we have seen power against the people apart from the routine tensions of normal life and relationships. By going through all these at the same time many a times a normal human being feels like a pressure cooker.

What role can art play in such situations? We all should ask this question from ourselves. We who are indulge into art practices, we who are connoisseurs of art, we who are critics of art, we who are researchers of art or we who are educator of arts, we all have to deal with the same conflicts as we share the same world with the fellow inhabitants. Can our art produce some remedy for the conflict bounded human beings? Can be it a solace for their soul? Can it hold their hands in their distress? Can it show them the way? Can it be the light humans are waiting for ages?

If you ask me the same question, my answer will be –YES, it Can!

Art can be the light for which human beings are waiting for eagerly since ages, in fact, it was always there amidst them like that. It has provided the much needed solace to the souls of human beings, who feel devastated due to some or other reasons. Art has always been there for human beings to show them the right path when they were unaware of the right or wrong. So, in my views, it could be a perfect remedy for the conflict bounded human beings.

We have seen people singing when in distress or in deep crises. We have seen people humming while being in love or in a mood of joy. We have seen people referring to poems and tales during some crises. We have seen people healing their sense of loss through music and songs. We have seen people enjoying and having fun through art practices. We have seen people forgetting their problems while being indulge in some sort of art practices. We have seen smiling and laughing faces while watching artifacts. We have seen people giggling even on some weird jokes, which certainly have a pun.

So my answer is – Yes, it can!

What we need to do is just make it accessible to the people, fellow human beings.

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