

KHALIL GIBRAN LIFE LESSONS TO LEAD LIFE IN LIGHT OF LITERATURE

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Abstract

Literature is an ocean of vastness where one gets ample beauty, knowledge, and awareness. It not only broadens one's thinking patterns rather by reading and going through Literature as a part of the curriculum one gets an opportunity to stand class apart from others. Literature, after all, is considered a Treasure House of Knowledge through which one learns the art of living removes ignorance and rectifies the bent of mind in a positive manner. Eventually, life becomes more fulfilling, beautiful and satisfying. These are the quintessential elements that make worse things better. Wherever we reach in life we lead our lives through logic, reason, facts and reality. Education through the works of Khalil Gibran in Literature gives us that set of values, ethics, and morals in totality, which also proves real in today's scenario. Literature in all its ways helps one to imbibe knowledge by shutting the door of innocence and ignorance. The sole objective of this research paper is to present the work of Gibran (prose, parables) in light of literature through education which will enhance students, and learners to lead a better life ahead and cope with difficult situations that occur in life. Hence, bringing life skills, stability and better vision in all areas of life. Such is the effect of reading Khalil Gibran's works that a person gets lifetime achievements in every sector of life by emitting vibes of positivity in the surroundings. Gibran's work is related to our day-to-day lives which helps one to know the intricacies of life along with the appropriate solutions. Gibran's work helps in the holistic development of individuals in every phase of life. His works and themes are valuable, and worthwhile till date. It is a deep ocean where one comes out by filling a bucket full of blissfulness.

Keywords: Enlightenment, Ignorance, Knowledge, Perspective, Treasure.

INTRODUCTION

Khalil Gibran(1883-1931) well known as a Lebanese poet, artist, and mystic was born in the year 1883 to a poor Christian family in Lebanon in States. Gibran means To Restore or To Repair. In 1904 his first art exhibition was held in Boston. In the year 1912, he got settled in New York where he devoted his life to writing and painting. Gibran did not receive any formal schooling during his youth in Lebanon.

Khalil Gibran's works speak volumes about various topics related to day-to-day affairs such as Friendship, marriage, love, peace, relationship, war, freedom, tears & laughter, wisdom, garments, self-knowledge, good & evil, work, joy & sorrow, giving, beauty, houses, prophet, hermit, dreams, wine, women, ambition, solitude, seas etc. These elements fill colours in one's life of course, hard to understand but somehow part of life. In fact, Gibran offers no shortcuts or precise formulas to happiness or successful living rather he advises everyone to look closely into one's own heart and enjoy life and comprehend its real meaning.

Khalil Gibran unleashes multiple hidden layers under the carpet of life and enlightens humanity and students on the matters that will glorify new perceptions, attitudes and mindsets in human personality. Our living is determined not so much by what life brings us as by the attitude one brings to life; not so much by what happens to you as, by the way, one's mind looks at what happens. After all, the right attitude determines the right thinking process.

Gibran sees the world as ethically and morally deformed, wishfully, he wants to advise and teach people how to dispose of evil and vices. It becomes possible when his work becomes a part of literature in our education system and eventually will bring a sea change in the personality, thinking patterns and outlook of students. Khalil Gibran in his work The Prophet lucidly presents a picture of children in front of readers through these lines of his work The Prophet, " Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They came through you but not from you...(18).

Gibran clearly wants to pass the message to the entire human race not to pamper or over-possess their children. In fact give them the freedom to think, act and move independently in life so that they can learn at their own pace and time span. There is no doubt in saying they are your product but one cannot force their thinking, and habits on them. They are independent in every sphere of life. give them wings to fly rather than cages for captivity.

Khalil Gibran's works act as an eye opener as a part of the education system to the entire humanity in each and every possible way be it: The Prophet, The Wanderer, Sand & Foam, The Madman, The Forerunner, The Earth Gods, Nymphs Of The Valley Tears & Laughter and many more. All these works depict the essence of human life which guides entire humanity towards happy and healthy living which are core human values to lead a life in the

absence of fear, misery, doubt and ego. According to Khalil Gibran, “You talk when you cease to be at peace with your thoughts.

Literature when becomes part of education is broadly defined as an amalgamation of written work, which includes: prose, an art form, poetry and drama. In modern times, literature has taken up a wider spectrum and dimension which includes: stories, biographies, preachings, teachings, prose poetry, and parables that eventually help in uplifting the human mind, body, spirit and soul beyond the limits and makes an individual wise to tackle turmoils.

Khalil Gibran has beautifully elaborated the concept of work through these lines from his work *The Prophet*, “You work that you may keep peace with the earth and the soul of the earth.” (24). Work is worship as far as Gibran is concerned. When one works it keeps an individual healthy, fit & fine. One gets every morning with a purpose & goal in life. Above all, a person stays positive, and grounded and enjoys the natural flavour of life.

There are endless lessons to learn from Khalil Gibran and Mother Nature as one takes a deep stroll early in the morning on wet grass and feels the essence of dew drops that fall on the petals of Red Rose, Lily flowers, newly born leaves, and small saplings in the corner of the garden. Khalil Gibran puts light on the very concept of freedom, “And thus your freedom when it loses its fetters becomes itself the fetter of a great freedom” (42). Children develop and flourish well when they are set free on the path of life to progress and break the unconventional shackles of life. So, this insight knowledge can only be attained when one indulges in literature by reading closely Khalil Gibran.

Students attain a better understanding of cultures and have a greater appreciation of all aspects of nature when they read Khalil Gibran’s literature in the classrooms in form of prose, poetry, and parables under the tutelage of their esteemed mentors. Reading literature certainly acts as a healer for the human race and takes us out of stress in no time. In fact, no other subject gives an individual so much in-depth knowledge that is too filled with priceless values as literature is imparted through the works of Khalil Gibran. Such is the magic of Khalil Gibran’s works in the literature.

According to G.K. Chesterton, “Literature is a luxury; fiction is a necessity.” We human beings witness unparalleled doubts, fears, and terror in life. Through these experiences, we polish our personality and give shape to our rough edges to face challenges in life. So, by reading Khalil Gibran in literature students get insight into the knowledge of life’s hidden treasures related to various aspects of human personality such as friendship, pain, sorrows, joys, wisdom, love, tears, laughter, war, peace, freedom etc which ultimately prepare them for the future life ahead.

Khalil Gibran says Some of you say, “Joy is greater than sorrow,” and others say, “Nay, sorrow is the greater”. But I say unto you, they are inseparable”. (27). Children must learn to face any tough time in life boldly and courageously which will make their life easy ahead and never losing hope is the basic trait in every child from the beginning. These skills develop in students when they read Khalil Gibran as a part of literature in their curriculum.

Reading great literature, especially Gibran’s work fills the intellect of students with the power of imagination, understanding life in a better manner, boosting one’s thinking skills, improving the flow of thoughts, and nurturing their young mind with priceless assets for life which are rare to be found. In fact, it only comes when one goes through literature with a positive approach to learn and imbibe specific skills in life and Gibran’s works come first on the list.

Talking about Khalil Gibran’s works you open any page of Gibran’s works it’s brimming with energy, wisdom, life, life lessons, and parables to teach & give us life lessons and above all, there is not even a single page and chapter in his book which is without the element of pure bliss along with the share of worthwhile, priceless sagacity. Gibran is always pleasurable to read whether one is travelling, at home or during office hours. Such are the gems of knowledge hidden in Khalil Gibran. Once one starts reading it no one can stop until one reaches the end.

According to Dr P.V.Vaidyanathan, “Truth is a deep kindness that teaches us to be content in our everyday life and share with the people the same happiness”

Literature, after all, introduces one to a richness of language, and culture that helps one to inculcate and rediscover good skills, and language along with words and discover new skills in one’s life to make it uplifting, and positive in each manner. The problems in society are endless and literature gives us that light to solve them with a balanced mind as literature in itself is considered an ocean of endless knowledge, treasures, and priceless assets that no one can steal rather it increases more when read, absorb it and above all retain it.

Jane Yolen opines, “Literature is a textually transmitted disease, normally contracted in childhood.

CONCLUSION

Literature is a wide portal for the development of students and laymen closely connected to literature through the works of Khalil Gibran with a positive outlook. Literature is like a flower that blooms every morning not to enjoy its own fragrance but enter into the threshold of other hearts so that their heart remains full of fragrance throughout the day and helps us to stay positive, and uplifted throughout the day with vibes of positivity emitting throughout the day.

Such is the beauty and texture of Khalil Gibran's work when it becomes part of education in real life. Literature allows students to break down all shackles of culture, identity, and past. It brings students to gel with others into close connection with others and knows more about them allowing students to widen their perspective of thinking and learning in all domains of life by keeping negativity at bay by closely studying the works of Khalil Gibran. According to William Somerset Maugham: "The crown of literature is poetry." So, Khalil Gibran works well in the field of literature as a part of the curriculum for the students to progress in their lives with a blend of values, and awareness intact in their minds. There can be no better option than taking Khalil Gibran in all its aspects and manner.

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