

## **Art As a Factor in the Soul's Evolution** **by Brother C. Jinarajadasa**

(Excerpt)

There is one problem which is every before us, from the moment we are capable of thinking to the day we die. It is the problem of life. What is life? What will life give us, what will life take from us? – these are questions which, consciously or unconsciously, we ask every day. None of us can be negative to life, not responding to life as it impinges on us from without. We must react to life, from moment to moment. Not to react to life is the sign that death is near.

The importance of art to humanity is that we find in art a new understanding of life. It is also a more complete understanding than what we have so far realized through our emotions and through our intellect. This does not mean that every artist today is greater than the scientist or the philosopher. Yet the artist represents a new type of humanity which is to come. If I may say so without disrespect to artists in general, the artist today is a rough specimen in miniature of what all humanity will be someday.

Every thought, feeling and deed of the artist is revealed somewhere in his art. There is no “art for art’s sake.” Art cannot be separated from life nor from humanity. The artist is a human being and as he creates the collective life of humanity flows through him.

This indeed is the artist’s glory, that through his art, however abstract it may seem, however detached from men, he becomes intensely linked to all men. He becomes for men a mediator between God the Artist-Creator and the children who are men whom God is trying to make artistic, and they think and feel and do. The artist becomes a high priest of humanity to teach men the new lesson of reacting to life with their intuitions and so create for themselves and outer world of harmony and beauty and an inner world of deathlessness and Divinity. All men are now at the dawn of a new age when they will pass to the new revelation of what life is, as revealed by the intuition. It is the artists who are to lead us into this new Eden.

But in order to lead them to Eden, and not away from it, he must inscribe on his banner not only the word “Beauty”, but also the name of every virtue.

Source:

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