

THE TRUTH ABOUT BEAUTY

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ABSTRACT

“Beauty lies in the eyes of beholder” goes the saying but do we think that there is any truth in it? As reality is always stark and biting so is our attitude towards beauty. John Keats, the famous romantic poet, has said, “Beauty is truth and truth beauty, that is all we know and all we need to know.”

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INTRODUCTION

There is only one problem: Beauty exists, and it's unevenly distributed. Our eyes and brains pretty consistently like some human forms better than others.

Yet most of us in real life do not see any example which can authenticate this claim that truth is beautiful. According to me beauty means something which attracts your attention and makes you feel joyful from inside. May it be a beautiful scene, a beautiful atmosphere or a beautiful living thing or a beautiful girl and women; we have certain parameters to measure the beauty of such things. These parameters vary from person to person and from situation to situation. Something that is very beautiful for you at some point of time cannot be the same at some other point of time. Keats has also said, “A thing of beauty is a joy forever.”

My objection to this statement is again got supported by real life examples where beauty is never eternal and we have seen many beautiful things changing their status by becoming callous and dull. A man married to a girl after seeing her before marriage but after few months of marriage he left her only on the ground that she was not beautiful or vice a versa.

Many beautiful people don't look so beautiful when you meet them often and see their real personality. Moreover beauty of a person resides more in his/ her quality and less in his/her physical appearance. If you like some person for some reasons that person becomes beautiful for you. It also leads to the conclusion that beauty can be superficial and artificial on one hand and can be real and lasting on the other.

It depends on what kind of beauty you prefer. Some people are beautiful looking and some are not so beautiful (I'll not say 'ugly' as that word is already used in other reference) but their worth makes them beautiful for others.

I have a friend who was considered odd by we friends because he was highly qualified and handsome and his wife was twelfth failed from a rural background of Uttrakand now and Utter Pradesh then, but kudos to my friend who groomed his wife to match his standards. Now his wife is a superbly clad beautiful woman who can be proud of any party with her talent in singing and matching her husband with no less quality.

Beauty should not be given preference when it comes to real friendship or human ties. I have the experience of being appreciated as “the most charming person” by a person on one hand and considered to be ugly duckling by some other person. Sometimes it depends on the person’s mood to see things according to his/her convenience and temperament. On FB plenty of times I have seen profile pictures tagged to have we friends remarks, yes positive remarks as tagger must have in his/her mind and our remarks are -- beautiful, charming, awesome, incredible but my question is, do we really mean what we write ! or we do not have guts to write 'ugly' to make your friends foes. Well I choose not to comment when I do not find someone beautiful as per my parameters of beauty.

If we see our film industry which is flooded with beautiful and smart people but there are some established actors who perhaps do not qualify our parameters for beauty. Take Shahrukh Khan who has pouted nose, dark colour, shaggy look and not so handsome personality. But he is the heartthrob of millions of people just because of his hidden quality to perform excellently and perfectly. That makes me realise that some additional quality in person makes him/her beautiful rather than his/her real looks. Ugliness is associated with something unlikeable. At some point of time, we feel somebody unlikeable and loathsome which can amount to ugliness but after some twist of events we start changing our opinion about the person and the person starts looking beautiful to us.

Koutilya, Socrates, George Bernard Shaw are well-known for their ugliness of appearance but on the other hand they're still remembered for their excellent qualities as economist, philosopher and novelist par excellence respectively. Keeping a feeling of positive thinking, we can see so many things around us beautiful and charming. When you start looking for beauty around you, you become beautiful for others. This is the secret of a beautiful life where ugliness does not interfere with you. Try to see beauty in nature, in people around you and in inanimate things as well. Then you need not say what T. S. Eliot has sung in ‘Four Quartets’, “Time and the bell have buried the day, The black cloud carries the beauty away.”

REFERENCES

1. “Beauty is truth, truth beauty, —that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know” (1819) by John Keats one of his famous odes, “On a Grecian Urn”.