

## Stammer- A contemplation on the Absence of Creative Dialogues

- Radhakrishnan C K

The poem presents different perspectives on stammer . It presents stammer as a struggle to translate our selves. It also justifies the presence of diversity in our life as evident in the line "thats why all the words of man carry different meanings ".In that sense the poem is about the different perceptions we have on life. Life is beautiful. Even stammer is no handicap. It is a different mode of speech.

Though there is an effort to celebrate stammer as a different mode of speech in the opening lines,slowly the poem becomes a slight to stammer ,especially in the lines exploring the history of the word,as evident in "these questions make the linguists stammer ". There begins a streak of concealed humour in the poem which is sustained till the end . The references to 'the sacrifice we make to the God of meanings and 'a society with stammer as their mother tongue " tell us about the the critical approach of the poet. Our response to the burning social issues are not good enough. The poet then proceeds to remark that God stammered when He created man , that man stammers and even the poets do. The difference is that we call it poetry when the poets stammer ! . Even the poets fail in engaging in creative dialogues as and when humanity is struggling to cope with the challenges like intolerance

,violence,terrorism , globalisation and commercialisation.The ironical shift in the perspective on stammer is evident here.

Still the crisp ending with the words 'like poetry' brings back a tone of meditation,peace and hope. The poet seems to contemplate a hope that the times will change and the conversation will be resumed.At the end of all the stammers, we begin to wonder ,whether the poet has been translating himself or exploring the self of others. As the poet himself has written once ,the poem conveys an apprehension about the fate that awaits humanity.A contemplation that begins in stammer may justly end in suffocation:

Our poetry is the last  
dreamy song sung in  
haste by a head on the

rails listening to the  
rumble of the  
approaching train  
before the steel  
crushes its thought.

(Farewell, a poem addressed to Saleh, the Syrian poet from The Arabian Nights)

Reference : Sachidnanadan on the poem .....My nostalgia for the 60s and the 70s of the last century springs mostly from the happy memories of those eventful days when the artists had come out of their cloisters of isolation, exchanged ideas, shared sensibilities, attempted collaborative work and exhibited camaraderie which in the main seems to have been lost in our times for diverse reasons, one of which I fear is the intrusion of market values on arts like painting. While there are artists who still take risks and experiment, I fear their number is decreasing and the burgeoning art market, despite the temporary recession, is tempting artists to imitate the modes, their own or of others, which have found commercial success. The poets too seem to be finding greater comfort in retreating to the sequestration of their writing rooms than engaging the practitioners of other arts in creative dialogue. I can only hope the times will change and the conversation will be resumed.

At the end of all the stammers, I begin to wonder whether I have been translating my self or exploring the self of others. A contemplation that begins in stammer may justly end in suffocation:

Our poetry is the last dreamy song sung in haste by a head on the rails listening to the rumble of the approaching train before the steel crushes its thought. (Farewell, a poem addressed to Saleh, the Syrian poet from The Arabian Nights)

## STAMMER (satchidanandan)

(A reading by Abdul Rasheed.k, HSST ENGLISH- DHOHSS Pookkarathara, Edappal)

The poet sees stammer not as a handicap, but an effective mode of communication. Stammer is actually a digestion time for the listener between the words of a speaker or it is the silence between a word and its meaning. Limp or lameness is the silence between word and deed. Here the reference is to the contemporary society where words and deeds are never in consonance. The poet also tries to wound our pious inaction on many burning social issues. We are reminded of an affluent society where words and deeds never contradicted and they lived in perfect harmony. We can only dream of such a society as our people fiddle when the Rome burns.

It is often said that language is for communication. Human language is very complex because we can communicate very difficult and complicated ideas with the help of our language. Communication without language is also possible, which may have a fixed meaning and very limited scope for exchange of ideas.

Ambiguity is a very close friend of language. We can conveniently rename it as STAMMER. We stammer when we feel that the language we use is not sufficient to communicate our ideas OR the the language we use is not being properly understood. Therefore we can say that stammer is an attempt for meaningful communication or a megaphone diplomacy, which is an attribute, certainly laudable

Stammer actually opens up a different possibility for communication, which must be properly explored by linguists and poets. A poem can be given different interpretations by different readers and critics, which the poet might not have thought of. When a poet employs his bag of tricks to cherry pick an apt word or phrase for parturition, he stammers numerous times to God. It is actually the prayer of the poet to God to beget the best of his off springs. When we read the same poem we also stammer, trying to attribute different meanings to different words and phrases. Here both the poet and the readers are engaged in oblation. This kind of a brainstorming by the writer and the reader is absolutely necessary for the existence of any literary genre.

It goes without saying that the traits of creator will be reflected in his creation. It is almost an accepted fact that God might have stammered during the creation of man. This stammer is exactly reflected in man as well. (The concept of God itself is different strokes for different folks)

Any how the stammer of God during the creation of man has given the language of man its ambiguity and variety. This unusual attribute of

language is a boon to poets and literary figures. Their literary outputs are read and interpreted by attributing variety of meanings and connotations by readers and critics. Thus poetry is made bright eyed and bushy tailed, repeatedly asserting the fact that poetry is worth its weight in gold.