

Growth and Evolution of Renaissance

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Abstract

It is an established fact that The Renaissance was a fervent period of European cultural, artistic, political and economic “rebirth” following the Middle Ages. Without any shadow of doubts, renaissance is supposed to take place from the 14th century to the 17th century, the Renaissance promoted the rediscovery of classical philosophy, literature and art. In brief, after the dark period of middle ages, Renaissance brought a complete change in the whole world in general, and Europe in particular.

Key-words: Greek, renaissance, effect, concept, culture, adventurous, rebirth.

Paper

It goes without saying that the word Renaissance has been originated from the French word which is generally applied to the concept of rebirth and reawakening of cultural and intellectual activities in Europe. Albeit, There can be no rebirth of past but with the encouragement of old roman and Greek literature, Renaissance took place as a full fledged movement. According to a famous historian, H.A. David, the word renaissance signifies the rebirth of the freedom loving, adventurous thought of man, which during the Middle Ages, had been fettered and imprisoned by religious authority.

In fact, the beginning of modern Europe is supposed to start with Renaissance. During the ancient time, Europe was at the highest point of progress which was perceptible in Greek and Rome. During the middle ages, the Roman and Greek culture had almost got invisible, but during the Renaissance period it was again alive. Once again, there was seen the importance of humanism, orthodoxy was replaced by

rationality which were the subjects ignored during the middle ages. But, with the advent of Renaissance, such circumstances were developed which were favourable for the growth of old values. Renaissance is generally regarded as an important landmark that heralded a new era in the history. It served as a bridge that connected the period of middle ages and modern period.

Among the major reasons of the growth of Renaissance can be included the decline of feudalism which occurred as a recurrent feature during the middle ages. But, feudalism started declining with the fourteenth century due to the power of middle classes. From the eleventh century onwards to thirteenth century, there was a perpetual war between the Muslims and Christians for Jerusalem which is called as 'dharmayudh.' Due to this various latest inventions reached to Western Europe. So, because of these dharmayudhs, there was a constant encouragement for new ideas, and the old ideas, institutions and beliefs were the target of attack which helped in flourishing the renaissance.

The emergence of commerce and development was one of the important factors for the development of Renaissance. The invention of printing press also helped in spreading the literature of Europe in to the different corners of the world. The invention of the printing press multiplies the books and made culture accessible to every common man in the society. ideas neither to the exclusive right of the nobility and the clergy now began to throw light in to dark and uncivilized lives of the many. Apart from it, occupation of Constantinople by the Turks and rise of Mangol Empire also accelerated the pace of Renaissance in Europe.

The centre of the emergence of Renaissance was no doubt Italy, and later on, it was spread to Germany, England, France and other countries. Among the main reasons of the growth of Renaissance in Italy can be included that Italy was the famous centre of commerce. With the reason of this, there was development of other cities like Naples, Florence and Venice. Due to the prosperity of Italy, there was

an emergence of new commerce class in the country. This prosper commerce class did not pay attention towards feudal lords and pope of the church. One of the dominant reasons of the emergence of Renaissance in Italy was that it had been the birth place of ancient roman culture. During the Middle Ages, there was influence of religion on education, but due to the growth of commerce in Italy, education was free from the bondages of religion and as a result of that, science and rationality were dominating the whole scene. It was because of the fact that in the sixteenth century, Italy became the school of Europe and its cultural activities could be compared to those of the city of Athens at the height of its glory.

Among the main characteristics of Renaissance can be included its stress on reasoning which means all the scholars related to this field based their opinions on logic and reason. Importance of experiment was another feature of Renaissance which was followed by the writers of this movement. Humanism was also one of the recurrent features of renaissance, and according to this, human values were given the utmost importance. Petrarch was the leading scholar who propounded the idea of this world instead of the other world in his writings. Worship of beauty was also one of the leading traits of Renaissance where one was supposed to worship beauty without any material or physical burden. In a very liberal way and full of freedom man is supposed to express his feelings and emotions.

One can witness the impact of Renaissance in different scholars like Francesco Petrarch, Giovanni Boccaccio, Nicolo Machiavelli, Dante Alighieri etc., and diverse fields including Italian literature, English literature and other languages. In the field of art, Renaissance also played a dominant and significant role like painting, architecture and science.

There was a considerable effect of Renaissance that was witnessed in social, religious, cultural, economic, and political fields. Among the social and religious effects of renaissance, we can include the

spirit of inquiry, spirit of humanism, upliftment of women, decline of morality and decline in the importance of church. Among the cultural effects can be included development in the field of literature, progress in the field of education, development in the field of fine arts, scientific inventions and geographical discoveries. It also left an indelible effect on the economy of the world where one can witness development of trade and commerce, development of industry, impetus to colonialism. Renaissance also affected political scene where rise of strong monarchy, downfall of feudalism, new modes of warfare are worthy of detailed consideration.

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