

❖ **Bonelli's Eagle : By Niranjan Sant**



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❖ 'What I have lived for ...' : Prologue to Autobiography, by Bertrand Russell

[Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) was a British philosopher, mathematician, historian and social critic. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950]

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy - ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness - that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that the saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and thought it might seem too good for human life; this is what - at last - I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

❖ **Back in Stockholm : By Ramya Pandyan (<http://ideasmithy.wordpress.com>)**

Your heart is a barren wasteland.

It's where dreams go to die
and hopes that have a masochist side to them
hang around your mind
waiting to be strangled
while you polish your tools
try to choose
between condescension,
cynicism and the old faithful – indifference.

You must be a collector.

A connoisseur of dampened aspiration
Purveyor of wounded emotion
and a curator of broken hearts
Not well preserved,
that might make them heal
and whole again
but lying scattered
and tattered in pungent disarray.

You can add mine to the gallery now.

❖ Interview (in Marathi) : Kumar Gandharva

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4hgQbh1gVQ&playnext=1&list=PLB94E709145BEF424&feature=results_video

[Kumar Gandharva (1924-1992), one of the all-time greats of Indian Classical music speaks about his art and his views about how an artist should approach his craft. The interview is beautifully simple – but deeply philosophical.

Kumar says “ people ask me , how I felt when I was awarded the Padma-Vibhushan – while all the awards and all that is fine , I wish people ask me more about my singing – about my performances – because that’s what I am thinking about all the time. About my concert last week , someone said , people really enjoyed the concert – while that is good, that’s not the main point – ask me, whether I was happy about my performance – ask me , whether I succeeded in expressing all that I wanted to”]



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About ‘Treasures’

It’s a compilation that I put together every once in a while, of things that I have found to be beautiful and meaningful.

Do share it with others who you think will enjoy it.

Drop me an email at shaileshd.email@gmail.com if you want to add someone to the circulation list.

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