



## OF RETIRED LIFE

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### ABSTRACT

Retirement means, service of the concerned incumbent is no longer required due to inefficiency caused by old age. They say, scrap that old machine and purchase a new one. Thus retirement implies opportunity to the fresh blood. An old man is complex-minded. Various experiences, good or evil, convert a simple man to a complex one. So a complex character may take judicious decision. But he is not suitable for implementation. For implementation fresh blood is preferred. This is why the proverb goes as – old is gold but young is bold. Old is just like the last rays of the setting sun having inner significance. Though variety is the spice of life, yet human being resists change due to uncertainty, injustice and fear. However, in retired life everything retards but one thing accelerates which is unconquerable death. As such before retirement a man must be mentally prepared for the change to be faced with, like an aero plane seen to run in the run-way before a smooth take-off. But in practice, lack of mental preparation is the main cause of “death- phobia” caused by retirement from this world just after the retirement from the service or business.

**KEYWORDS: RETIRE, OLD, INEFFICIENCY, COMPLEX-MIND, SCRAP, DEATH-PHOBIA.**

### INTRODUCTION

Creative writing is based more on manifestation rather than on expression. It does not inform rather reveals, so it bears no reference. The best creative writing is critical, and the best critical writing is creative. The present article is the outcome of creative writing meant for lay readers. As such free style is the methodology adopted so that the pleasure of reading can be enjoyed by the common mass. As you know well that, Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the immortal writer, wrote many essays, and notably “Of Love”, “Of Friendship”, “Of Ambition”, “Of Studies”, etc. The myriad-minded genius rightly pointed out that all the words of the dictionary can be the themes of essays one can write. But little has been done, in this regard since his death, in order to finish his unfinished monumental works. In fact Bacon's way of presentation and his unique style kindled imagination and inspired me to write essays, in the light of creative writing, thus to get relief through Catharsis.

### ARTICLE

Retirement means, service of the concerned incumbent is no longer required due to inefficiency caused by old age. They say, scrap that old machine and purchase a new one. Thus retirement implies opportunity to the fresh blood. An old man is complex-minded. Various experiences, good or evil, convert a simple man to a complex one. So a complex character may take judicious decision. But he is not suitable for implementation.

For implementation fresh blood is preferred. This is why the proverb goes as – old is gold but young is bold. Old is just like the last rays of the setting sun having inner significance.

Retired life means relief from normal routine life. After retirement man is guided by non-routine life. Here man plans for relaxation. And his activity is free from cares and anxieties. Someone likes to remain, ‘far from the madding crowd’. So they retire from the world. Somebody retires into himself and plans for devotion to God. Again someone plans to finish the long-cherished but unfinished works which are of two types viz., classical and commercial in nature. Further classical works can be categorized into two different classes viz., personal and non-personal or social. Thus retired life can be spent in different ways as per taste and temperament i.e. attitude of an individual concerned towards life. Some people use it aimlessly. An aimless man, in fact, does not know how to enjoy life. So he becomes tired very soon. But a judicious man can enjoy life to the lees.

Some retired people consider retirement as unemployment again. He was once unemployed at his youth. This is his second unemployment at old age. Since he understands that he will be no more, he tries to do something being driven by strong emotion thus to make himself glorious after his death. But he is too late. Romans are famous for Rome. But Rome was not built in a day. So glorification cannot be achieved overnight. It needs life-long endeavor. Life means a short journey. It is not the Marathon race. So there is little scope to compensate deficiency. That is why we see a few successful individuals in the battle field of life.

Life is nothing but collection of some different stages. Childhood, youth, old age, etc. are the different facets of life. These biological stages appear chronologically like morning disappears with the arrival of noon that is replaced by evening which again escapes away as the night advances towards it. Similarly retired life is such a stage of

life. Man enriches himself with diversified experiences gathered from these various inevitable stages of life.

Time and tide cannot be resisted. Similarly old age can never be avoided. Likewise death is inevitable. As such a wise man welcomes death. So one should not feel melancholy for the departure from this world. Because one day, everybody, must die. In this matter there is no consideration or partiality. Death never grants immortality to anybody. In this world everything is uncertain. Only death is certain. But the very time of sure occurrence of certain death is uncertain. Because it may appear at any stage of life, early or late, without any prior notice. Here lies the uniqueness of life caused by the surprise visit of death. Death is perfectly democratic in its nature and behavior.

Because, rich or poor, literate or illiterate, noble birth or low birth, etc. are equal and at par to it.

In retired life man becomes less active. He feels that he cannot work fast like before. His reflexes get diminished. He realizes his limitation. In each footstep he experiences retardation. Thus he becomes mentally weak. So death threatens him. He hears that death, as if, is knocking at his door. As such death accelerates its steps towards him.

Thus his body loses motion but his psyche suffers seriously from violent emotions.

He thinks that he has become valueless. In politics old age is valued only when it is guarded by young dedicated cadres. Yet between an old and a young political leader the latter dares to disobey the older due to physical strength and efficiency which the old lacks. So a sentimental retired man does not involve himself so much where he will be dishonored instead. He understands that he does not belong to this sphere any more.

He is quite unwanted. He is an undesired obligation to the society. This unexpected betrayal of the society pains him much. So he thinks to welcome death. Death is preferable more than being insulted or ignored.

A frustrated retired man, sometimes, dreams that he is no more in this world. He dreams that he has gone to heaven. He wakes up suddenly due to temporal attraction. He becomes indifferent and sad. He does not want to die. He wants to stay in this world permanently though he knows that it is not possible. He must vacate this earth for the arrival of the next generation. This is the rule of the world. Because, once he was also given shelter by his predecessor. A man knows this truth but wishes, not to happen in his fate.

A man who is physically fit, mentally sound and economically strong seldom thinks about death. Such a man is busy to enjoy the temporal world. But after retirement a man realizes that his days are numbered. Then he thinks about divine world i.e. life beyond death. Here man's response is of two types. In the first case a pious heart is eager to meet God. But a man, mad for worldly enjoyment, becomes afraid of the departure from this world. He does not want to die. He pre-laments for his

death. Temporal attraction destroys his clarity of thought. He cannot believe that everybody, like him, must die today or tomorrow. He cannot realize the mortality of human being. Also he does not want to understand that one day he must die but everything will remain as it is. This universal and inevitable truth when gets shelter in his thought he becomes melancholy.

He prays to God for granting him immortality. He asks the Almighty to allow him to live with his family for ever. For this, he is ready to abide by, as faithfully as possible, all the laws laid down by the Omnipotent. But when he realizes that his prayer has been rejected and death is imminent, tears roll down his cheeks ceaselessly. He surrenders to

God for his safety. He believes in the existence of life beyond death. But he does not want to stay there, even if it is Heaven. His family is his Paradise. So he wants to come back to his family again through rebirth. But he who is frustrated with family-life being deceived or tortured much by the society prays to God not to send him back in this world again. Rather he wants to get permanent shelter at Heaven.

He becomes nostalgic. He wants to get back his past dawns, idle noons, romantic evenings and talkative silence of the vast night's sky. Trifling matters of lost childhood or bygone days render his eyes wet. He wants to beg pardon to his fiancée whom he betrayed. He wants to pay back money to his friend whom he cheated. He wants to start his life afresh and will abide by all the rules of the society. He resolves to be sincere and faithful to the world. Instead he wants to get back his lost childhood or at least promising youth. But when he realizes that it is not possible, he sighs out a lament as nothing to be done. He curses himself. He curses those who misled him. Sometimes he curses God blaming the Almighty for not directing him in the right path. He wants to meet everybody. He wants to love all. He will not hate anybody. He wants to create an example.

Nostalgia provokes him to go back home and pay a visit to all the pre-visited places there. Thus he wants to see his deserted house, paddy fields, big trees, river banks, high hills in the horizon, etc. He wants to sit under the cool shadow of the big banyan tree of his village beside the lake crowded with migratory birds round the year, only for a single time. City life rendered his life miserable. So he prefers country life. As such he wants to enjoy the unobstructed view of the sky there. Also he wants to visit the unvisited places he has heard only. He wants to finish his unfinished works. He becomes sorry when he understands that he will not be able to fulfill his desire due to ill-health. He becomes inactive but his mind remains active more to compensate the deficiency of his body. So through telepathy he wants to communicate with his friends and relatives of distant places. He wants to meet his deceased parents thus bringing them down in this temporal world through planchette. He will confess his misbehavior and guilt, if any, to his parents. He becomes restless thinking the uncertain future of his family. Also his imminent death renders him anxious more for his ailing

wife, unmarried daughter, unemployed and prodigal son. Further, he feels uneasy in his mind thinking about his hard-earned property. With such a troubled mind and wretched health he prays earnestly to God for the extension of his life only for a few years to finish his unfinished works. It, seems, it is not his ill-health, rather, evil thoughts and tension render him a pessimist.

Thus he experiences retardation in his activity. He could hardly think in his youth that in his old age he will be so inefficient. He realizes the nature's law and destiny of human being in general.

Some people believe that life means staying in this world. Similarly, like mundane existence, death means another staying elsewhere beyond our knowledge. This ignorance is the cause of lamentation over death. If a man can know the whereabouts of that mysterious world beyond death then he will be tension free. Then life and death both will be identical to him. This mystery of life and death is perceived by a wise man only. So a wise man is quite indifferent to these two different states of existence. To him life and death have no separate meaning. Rather, the learned knows that death, in fact, is the alias of life. Thus, death is a natural extension of life. As such, he has conquered death.

This is why he is learned. A retired old man bitterly mourns for his dead son only when he has no knowledge regarding this matter. If such an old man can realize it then he may dwell at the threshold of life and death without cares and anxieties. Then he welcomes both the states of existence with a smiling face.

Some old men may be strong-minded. But thought of death renders such an old man weak. So he goes to an astrologer or a local priest whom he considers as the agent of

God, for the extension of his life. Even an old miser is seen to spend money for the ceremony and rituals to be observed as desired, for such extension. So he confesses that life is precious more than money. He perceives it at that alarming stage of life. But in early life he loved money more than his life. But at old age, warning of death compels to love himself but not money. He realizes that he has committed Himalayan blunder. If he would follow the correct path that he has adopted at old age, his life would get a noble exposure. Experience allows him to realize everything what he sees now. He protests against injustice. Also his ill-health compels him to overlook. Sometimes he advises the diverted young lovers to be sober at least. He remarks that once he was also young having darling. But for that he was not so unruly as is observed today. So he pleads for moral values, the most precious matter of human life. He sees the children to play, shout and dance in the street. But he cannot join them and enjoy. Because he is matured.

So he refrains himself from that innocent enjoyment and becomes unhappy. Thus maturity murders merriment of man mercilessly. He would think of trouble in doing anything in his youth. But at old age he realizes that a trouble is not a trouble at all until or unless a trouble

troubles one.

Some people always suffer from imaginary anxiety. But in practice he faces no trouble at all in comparison with his evil thoughts. He is quite maniac. So, baseless thoughts affect his health for nothing. Again, a trifling matter may turn into violent event. So, in future what will happen is quite uncertain. Only a trained and judicious brain can tackle uncertain and unprecedented happenings. Thus, old age dwells between uncertainty and certain death and thereby burdened with fear.

## CONCLUSIONS

Though variety is the spice of life, yet human being resists change due to uncertainty, injustice and fear. However, in retired life everything retards but one thing accelerates which is unconquerable death. As such before retirement a man must be mentally prepared for the change to be faced with, like an aero plane seen to run in the run-way before a smooth take-off. But in practice, lack of mental preparation is the main cause of "death- phobia" caused by retirement from this world just after the retirement from the service or business.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pal, Dibakar is a Retired Executive Magistrate in India and PhD Student. Though he is a Civil Servant yet he is genuinely interested in diversified academic fields. As such, he holds master degrees in M.Sc(Math), M.A(English), M.A(Bengali), M.B.A(HRD), M.C.A, P.G.D.M.M(Marketing), L.L.B, D.C.E(Creative Writing), M. Phil (Business Management), UGC- NET(Management)-2008. He attended an International Conference at IIT, Mumbai, India and five International Conferences at U.S.A; though he gets invitation to present papers in many International Conferences at home and abroad round the year. He presents papers on Computer Science, Management, English Literature, Linguistic, Philosophy, Philology, Psychology, Sociology, Humanities and Poems. He presented a paper on Computer Science and Chaired in 2007 IEEE Conference at Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A. Also another paper on Fuzzy Logic was accepted by IEEE Conference 2010 at USA. He serves as Session Chair, Presider and Reviewer. He serves as reviewer of American Marketing Association, Journal of Common Ground; Australia, IEEE Transactions, IJEAPS, AJHC, Journal of Supercomputing.

He has more than two hundred twenty (220) publications and among these one is as Monograph in International Journal on Management Science, one Monograph is in Journal of the World Universities Forum, one is in Consumer Behavior, two are in Computer Science, one is in Neuroscience, one is in Linguistic and rests are Creative Writing of English Literature. In Creative Writing two papers have been incorporated in SSRN's Top Ten Download List three times in November, December 2010 and April 2011. In ResearchGate his papers have reached a milestone through more than 130000 reads. Scholars' Press and Lambert Academic Publishing House, Germany have published twelve books between the months July to

December, 2016. New Texas, A Journal of Literature and Culture, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, USA has published ten essays in February 2018. International Educational Scientific Research Journal (E-ISSN : 2455-295X) and Research Chronicler & Research Innovator (ISSN: 2347-503X; 2348-7674) publish Creative Nonfictions every month regularly. Now he is pursuing his PhD thesis in Business Management in University of Calcutta, India. Also he is currently focussed on the Extension Works of Huffman Code i.e., Coding Theory and Pattern Recognition through Fuzzy Logic (Pattern Recognition, Image Processing, etc) of Computer Science.

His hobby is Creative Writing (Nonfiction). He says:

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## **REFERENCES**

No reference, since the present article is an outcome of Creative Writing.