

SETTING THE NEW LIMITATIONS TO THE NEW WORLD OF POST-MODERNISM: PANDEMIC AND THE CLOSED BOUNDARIES

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ABSTRACT

When Darwin's said that Homo sapiens evolved from the process of natural selection, humans choose to live by the will of their own, and rest is known to us, before getting into the shape of the world- global village, men went for two great wars, several of home and abroad disturbances, and numerous natural calamities, but still, men kept on going and eventually after hundreds of years a time came when the men opened their boundaries, moved from modernity to post modernity, to the much of extent the authoritarian tendencies got some shun and the doors for the economical shares opened with which it paved the ways for the cultural and socio-political interchange. Postmodernism in the words of Fredric Jameson, is itself a form of capitalism, it worked as the bridge to part the world, but now Capitalism is also taking a turn, it is now mixed with nationalism, the country come first and the global at later, the pandemic and the closing boundaries has some underlying motives which would unfold at its own time, but as of now its setting new limitations to the notion of post-modernism. This paper will access the upcoming prospects of post-modernism in the wave of the pandemic.

Keywords: Pandemic, Post-modernism, Politics, Limitations

Introduction

The global scenarios have changed significantly over the years, we have come a long way from where we have started, there isn't any denying that human civilization has achieved the best of its capabilities, be it technologies, medicine or any other field, the kind of progress humans have done are extraordinary in itself. The world has taken a shift from, modernism to postmodernism, where the old settings of the world lost their charm and grip and a new wave took over the world, which does not see anything as concrete, not even the objective realities of science, it has changed the whole Socio-political system, it has uniquely deconstructed the old construct; however, with all these changes, post-modernism finds itself very much capable to hold the men with its effects; a post-modern man encapsulates many a thing. But despite all these advancements and developments, a post-modern world is still uncertain; rather say the uncertainty lies in its very core.

Technically, Post-modernism offers a revolutionary approach to the study of society: in questioning the validity of modern science and the notion of objective knowledge, this movement discards history, rejects humanism, and resists any truth claims. The recent or rather say the ongoing pandemic has tested the very notion of post-modernism; our earth is suffering from one of the deadliest pandemics ever. Margaret Atwood writes in *Oryx and crake*:

All it takes," said Crake, "is the elimination of one generation. One generation of anything. Beetles, trees, microbes, scientists, speakers of French, whatever. Break the link in time between one generation and the next, and it's game over. (Atwood)

The above words of Atwood are not just presenting a grim portrayal of natural calamities but at the same time it also presenting how the generations are eliminated, death is only the metaphor for the elimination but the underlying feature of Atwood's words is pertinently presenting the current breaking away of links. When a connection splits and break from one another it costs more than just the loss of connection and familiarity amongst them but it also delinks the efforts of civilizations that tried to collect the different spaces of humans into one common sphere by establishing and accepting the harmony and the difference of opinions respectively. With the practice of years different communities, culture, and most importantly the crisis of diversity normalize themselves and form a convention with stand out as the link between the multitudes of differences. The breaking away of the generation operates on the rules of disassociations and generating the divides of various kinds. The breaking away of the link between can be done through the various ways but when natures come into play the impact is way greater than our imagined cause and effects. What is happening today is an example of such wrath of nature, no matter what the politics of the nations have to say, one

thing is very clear, nature has shown her power of destruction with the emergence of the pandemic:

But again and again, there comes a time in history when the man who dares to say that two and two make four is punished with death... The question is one of knowing whether two and two do make four. (Camus)

The above words from the work of Albert Camus's "The Plague" very aptly present the current situations of the time, the Pandemic which has caused so much damage to the world is a matter of mystery, how it emerged, who is accountable for it. Here no one knows what the question is and who is answerable? Different theories have been surfaced but none of them are strong enough to take a stand. The world appears divided again, unsure of its reality.

Post-modernism and the Closed Boundaries

The pandemic has forced the nations to close their boundaries, which were once opened. Today we are fighting with an unseen enemy, which has put the world at a halt. However, the emergence of this Pandemic is also a subject of postmodern studies, we are yet to know how it happened to the world, and reasons are also changing as the meanings keep changing linguistically. However, our main focus is how this pandemic proves to be an addition to the limitations of postmodernism. This pandemic has although stopped the world for a while, but it has defiantly given a rise in the Renaissance-like spirit in the men, it has reached the extremeness for the self. What we meant with this 'renaissance' like tendencies; it reflects in the words of Greek philosopher Protagoras that "Man is the measure of all things". Current situation is also borne out of this very attitude of the men. The spirit of individuality when enlarged at nation kind of scale, the word which encapsulates this very spirited gesture is true 'Nationality'. When a particular country puts its own need at the priority and restricts itself in a certain manner to other nations. America, Spain along with other several countries closed their borders. These closing up of the borders aim to avoid the spread of the deadly virus but it goes beyond it, the rise in distinction amongst the native citizen and others took a new turn. The primary benefits of the states firstly belong to its natural citizen. The distribution of the services is also reserved for the people it somehow compromises with both equity and equality.

In the veil of the pandemic, nations play their game of power and dominance, banning the import and export, barring the stay of foreign nationals, and other numerous restrictions and protocols imposed on the exchange. However, the pandemic has also opened new channels for communications and exchanges but nothing can replace the traditional medium. The mobility between humans has suffered to a great extent. The economic, cross-border ethical & cultural, in-campus residential educational, tourism, and everything normal suffers on a larger space. The post-modern functionalities of the communities are also under the screening of the time, it is also finding itself in a breaking position. The sustainability of the post-modernistic community seems difficult. The stark individuality in post-modern men is already killing it in various ways; it has become grimmer than ever under the threat of a pandemic. 5,277,327 deaths are reported to the World Health Organization has severely disturbed the general life of men; the air is filled with fear and concerns. Erikson and Bauman said about the lacking of Ontological security. "The disruption of the sense of ontological security causes existential fears" (Erikson 1968, Bauman 2006). The main concern borne out of such attitudinal change in the global citizens is not a healthy sign for the advancements done by the post-modern world. Today's world is already facing the problem of the extremity of everything and finding himself/herself to cope with multitudes of post-modernistic problems that are a matter of separate discussion. "The evil in the world comes almost always from ignorance, and goodwill can cause as much damage as ill-will if it is not enlightened," Camus wrote these words years ago but they are very much relevant to the current scenario where ignorance is ruling over everything, the kind of world divide which we saw during the pandemic and also in the post-pandemic era is a pivot example of it. The world leaders have gone far in the war of words against each other in the blame game for the pandemic; there is a lacking of clear-sightedness, where the post-modern world finds itself into a question. "The Decameron" by Giovanni Boccaccio and "The Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer have also discussed the divide of the classes and fear of getting infected in the men. The divide was not only behavioural but it become part of the men's nature and the class distinctions were very much similar to today's post-

modernistic trait of the men which has surfaced during one of the deadliest pandemics of the era Covid-19.

The Scarlet Plague written in 1912, much ago set into the future 2073 tells the story of the present like other abovementioned seminal texts this very work is of the same notion the distortion of the civilization and the done by the men themselves under the threat of “Red death” equivalent to Covid-19. But the question is not how much the damage is done by the death but the damage done by the politics of the death. J. London in “The Scarlet Plague” is extremely right and to the point in describing how the civilization turned into the savage barbarians, and the bad to themselves with an intention on others. Humans have achieved not less than extraordinary and they keep aspiring for the best of the bests. Once the self-developing instinct was needed when found it surrounded by the false meta-narrative which revolved around the stories made by some specific group of people but when men broke this unseen cage to be freed from the limitations enforced upon them. But when men succeeded on the way of change, it got corrupted with every single step of advancement and reached a point where the men found themselves above everything once men were wandering naked beneath the blue sky. Whatever wrong happens with the new world of post-modernism is a result of human negligence first to nature, then to the world. The extreme individuality of the post-modern men is proving to be discontinuation from the self it is like what T. S. Eliot has talked about in his seminal work *The Waste Land*. The emptiness of life leading towards a man disassociated with him, finding himself into a chaos of the modern life and with the fear of sustainability under the threat of pandemic it has become severe in the very era of fastness. The men are struggling with their own speed once again looking back to the ancient ways of life and harmonized way of society but unfortunately, it is too late to go back, postmodernism has taken over men, and however, the men are trying to put limitations on it.

Conclusion

The rise of pandemic first tested the world, closed their boundaries, putting the pandemic at the front and nationalism in the background, the post-Morden politics started taking a shape in Vaile of capitalism. When Trump said that America is for

Americans and medical supplies are reserved for the nation first, from there a grand narrative, started for the business for life, for the which cost. This pandemic has served as an opportunity for several world powers to bring certain kinds of slow but steady instability. The post-pandemic era is indeed depressing as the people millions of people lost their jobs, become homeless, severely divested in numerous ways, be it economically, socially, physically, or mentally. The post-modern world thought it is capable of holding itself firm and straight but in reality, it is falling like the arid leaves of an autumn tree. The discussion of liveliness in such a depressing post-modern world is very much important in order to revive the men engraved into different layers of post-modernity where everything is a market and people are a commodity which makes men unable to see the light coming out of the spirit of humanity, “Men can imagine their own deaths, they can see them coming, and the mere thought of impending death acts like an aphrodisiac” The escaping tendencies of the men are very beautifully expressed by Margaret Atwood in her novel, *Oryx and Crake*. Men find a way to escape into each other but many things have changed in the post-modern era and the current circumstance in the post-pandemic era which is borne out of the evil of the men are irreversible and can't be undone at any cost. The new world of post-modernism has found out some ways to do things right not only for the humans but for the other shareholders of the world i.e. the life on, above, and below the earth and the ultimate source of all of these the nature altogether. How badly the world has been affected down the ages, during the transformation from modernism to post-modernism, the world has significantly intended for the good of humans but it transformed with it due to share of vice. They no deny that post-modernism is one of the best things that happened to men but the kind of turn it has taken is a matter of concern and needs a thorough study. In the post-pandemic period, the human ignorance and sympathetic decisiveness which are visible in the acts and at the same time the closing of international boundary goes much beyond its denotative meanings, it has politics of its own which setting the new limitations to the new world of the post-modernism. It is compelling us to act sustainably.

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