

109

Education And Culture

Refinement sharpens the impulses to such an extent that the finer things in life, what many of us may call culture, becomes so ingrained as to be second nature. The poor unfortunate who has been deprived of his chance to acquire an education, or any education at all, for whatever reason, has also been deprived of the opportunity of honing his mind and refining his soul and thus cannot really be blamed for being uncultured.

Not everybody is fully awake to this delicate relationship between education and culture failing to associate the one with the other for all too often we find education as imparted today is deficient and incomplete or we would not be privy to the so-called educated indulging in crassly unsophisticated acts. They would not continue to behave with others less fortunate than themselves in a manner which degrade themselves, nor would they perform brutal acts against the innocent and helpless without putting themselves to shame. Our inter-relationships with our fellow human beings is a reflection of our standard of education and our standard of culture.

How we uphold our values and sense of justice is not only a reflection of society but a reflection on us, as individuals, and on the measure of our own level of education and culture. Even people who claim to have reached their pinnacle in life, who have found their nook where education and culture should be demonstrably indistinguishable are also, at times, not immune to displays of uncouth behaviour which effectively works as a complete denial of their cloak of education and culture which they like to don.

We all decry aloud the state of our own moral fabric. We decry the inability of the young to appreciate the finer things in life and condemn them for their materialistic attitudes and general lack of culture. We deplore today's violence in the young and declining standards in the educational arena yet the poor education we condemn we have imparted to our youngsters within the framework of our own social fabric and is but a reflection of our own declining morality.

We, as guardians of our children's morality, we, as the teachers of the young, have failed in our mission as parents to uphold the nature of education and its relationship with culture which was built up over generations. We cannot deny, even to ourselves the role we must play in setting examples of what we consider to be the essence of true living. By depriving the young of their role models, those with whom the young, lettered or unlettered, can readily identify, we have consigned both education and culture unceremoniously to the dust heap.