

Those who do not accept regret do not accept life

The maxim reveals a great wisdom on life. It contends that he who does not regret his follies, wrong actions, as a matter of fact, does not accept the spirit of life. The maxim regards man a bundle of weaknesses.

A person who does a wrong to someone intentionally must feel a burden on his conscience. If he tenders apology for the excesses done to someone, he performs the act of regret, thereby relieving his conscience of a great strain. His conscience is cleared of the burden caused on account of harming someone, when he regrets about his bad conduct. Man in ordinary course of life does not realize the excesses he does to his fellow human beings. His conscience goes to sleep. However, when the sense of doing something bad dawns on it, and he feels a burden on his conscience, he then is motivated to offer a regret over it. By doing so, he elevates himself to a high moral plateau. The greatness of a person lies in his offering an unconditional regret over his amoral behaviour. Once a person comes to realize that he has been a cause of unpleasantness to someone and decides to seek apology for his offending behaviour, he in fact accepts the spirit of life. Life demands large heartedness from man. It is rightly said that if man were to recognize his shortcomings borne out of his irrational behaviour resulting in the infliction of harm on someone, he would raise himself to the level of a deity. That seldom happens in life. Man remains tied down to his whims, caprices, prejudices, and does. Not feel the compunction of regret.

The mighty, the influential, the powerful, do not feel inclined to regret about their oppressive behaviour. The mighty to gain their personal vested interest can go to any extent to perpetrate tyranny on the weak. This applies to big powers which can break the spinal cord of the weak nations in order to promote their multifaceted interests, and they do not feel the need to regret about that. Man is a strange creature, who mostly remains blind to his interests. He does not bother to regret his excesses in life. This is applicable to the conduct of big nations in particular which don't try to analyse their bad action towards the poor weak nations. Self-analysis on the part of an individual or a nation opens the way to regret to imbibe the real spirit of life. Those who follow the recipe, succeed in removing the bruises of their conscience.

Oscar Wilde, a great writer of the Victorian of age, was able to offer regret of the moral lapses he committed in life. By going through 'De Profundis' reader comes to realize the greatness of the author, who boldly confesses the lapses he made in life. It requires courage of a high moral order to admit one's shortcomings as man by nature stands mired in self-adoration. Regret is the gateway to accept life in the real sense.