

The Majesty of Medicine: Dr. N. Ravi Vincent's Poetic Lines

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Abstract—The present article is intended to unfold the majesty of medicine hidden in the lines of Dr. N. Ravi Vincent's poetry from the poem titled 'The Staff's Majesty' from the book *Icicles of Insight*, which consists of 52 poems of variety of themes. I would like to discuss the themes in the poem, 'The Staff's Majesty', the medicine and its prominence and the physicians and their roles; the different branches of medicine. The diverse themes have been outlined clearly and beautifully.

Index Terms—Majesty, offshoots of medicine, creation, the staff, symbols and humors.

I. THE TEXT

Thy branches solely from the source
Ad infinitude, alone from the source
Wounding and curing may be coarse
The staff's—strength flows from the source.
The archaic character, meaningful
The staff of Asclepius, instructive
The mythological instance—blissful
Curling snake of the staff, indicative.
Poisonous ooze of its breath, mystic
Supposed with the powers— curative
Herpes's sword and winged shoes, archaic
Thousands of such— representative.
Myths and imaginations as tools
In Virgil's Eclogue, viewed.
Tiresias as a shepherd boy's plays
Tiresias—at the snakes's copulation, amazed.
The snakes —become indignant
The boon of blindness—
By the divine— indignant looks instant
The one who glances, glides into gloominess.
Hippocrates, the father of medicine
Humours on it peak—like Everest.
The hues and depth of it as vein of divine.
Percolated into the roots—like an eagle, earnest.
Galen's sea of study on the seasons

Pregnant with the motives and the intentions.
Spring, summer, autumn and winter's smiles
So serene, so serious, so symbolic on studies.
Blood, yellow bile, black bile and phlegm—motif
Air, fire, earth and moisture, matter and spirit.
Sanguine, choleric, melancholic, phlegmatic
Courageous, ambitious, despondent and calm spirit.
Childhood, youth-hood, adulthood and old age
Heart, liver, spleen and brain.
The vital properties of fleeting age
The inflows and input mechanism, quite main.
Galen of Pergamon, a great protégé
His giant swim into his master's mind.
In the literary world, Ben Johnson as a protege
Deftly use of humours from the same mind.
The staff 's wiseness, ever treating and curing
Greatly gracefully glorious.
The staff's nobleness tirelessly curing
Zeal like unquenchable fire—ever marvellous.
Perseverance like a lamb —greatly admirable
Acquisition of knowledge unceasingly,
Like ever flowing springs— highly commendable
Oceanic patience softly strivingly.
The virtues, ever adorable in the lives of the staff,
Billows like work — ever occurring.
The most puzzling tasks with ease,
Beauty lies in enumerating!
Illimitable ocean alludes—persistent suffering
The study of life, the greatness of the staff
Rocky hardships —ever battling
New surges handled with ease and stuff.
The stuffed like deep knots, the staff's stuff
Which abounds life, the study of life's vitals
The offshoots feel deeper and deeper into stuff
As the English ivy —the staff into life's vitals.
Capable of giving and extinguishing of life
Web and tide—common to the staff as properties.
Through them, life flows into every part of life,
Flow of light and darkness — their equal tasks.

Endless ailments make humans restlessly apart
 All diseases, cause dis—ease, tremendous.
 With sicknesses, humans amuse not but shatter apart
 The staff's search into the ocean of study —
 ponderous.
 Harvey with Divine—given spark
 Quite ablaze, fully spark at its brightness.
 Intellectually lit to see the flow of blood
 The human heritage—with its full brightness.

The red—spring through the blue—coloured veins
 Spritely singingly steadily springs.
 The spring systematically and regularly flows
 Blood imbued with life, the spirit flows.
 Like a mysterious and harmonious rivulet—
 Making its course in veins to push life ahead
 Wherever necessary, it's course with inlets set—
 Unfathomable its depth and thus it was made.
 The natural dependency carries the body
 To study it the chiropodists, quite ready.
 Swim the experts to explore the path of humans
 Lifelore, Bios, the fuel to lead life in this body.
 The thinnest blue nerves in humans
 The study of brains, the base for life, in the body.
 The web of nerves like coconut choir of humans
 Appear like a beauteous blue sky in the body
 All-rounder explores into any layer of study
 The study of causes and effects of diseases.
 Pathos— suffering, logy—study like Bacon's search
 Epidermis, the protector, the outer coat of the skin.
 The coat of the body—how protective!
 It's care, how strong! and how protective!
 The natural layers, how naturally protective!
 Common boon to all humans, how naturally
 protective!
 Many a staff study its integumentary system
 Fighter against the germs as natural perennial kite.
 Seven layers like soldiers keep an eye as natural
 system
 The subtle growth of the glands like a slow sprout.
 Countless causes for illnesses
 As firm as the earth's foundation, the body is!
 As iron, the body with bones and connective tissues
 As pillars are, tendons and ligaments, the body has!
 On the skeletal system— astute explorers' explosion.
 Muscles Like tender dancing shoots—muscle fibres
 Intricate fusion, in blood vessels— full of confusion.
 A great aegis movement—muscles marvellous
 Countless, who make a study on its understandability

Illnesses—terrifying invaders, distorting its shape
 Maintaining bodily fluid levels— mandatory stability
 Absorbing digestive tract fats —giving a true shape.
 Lymphatic system, the staff's painstaking attempts
 On the great work, punctilious probings.
 How vigilant on inhale and exhale are!
 Deepening study on oxygen and carbon dioxide are!
 The probings of respiratory system—like Himalayan
 tasks!
 What a wondrous probe on nose, mouth and air sacs!
 Intestines like natural pipes— delving into its
 functions
 A tireless eye on glands, gallbladder and pancreas.
 Gastrointestinal system, a laborious study on its
 functions
 Smarting study on the digestion of foods
 Green leaves and meats as solid soups.
 Sleep slices substances sensibly seamless
 Serene study of the staff on nestling nerves.
 High command's nucleus, fuels the vehicle of life
 Incalculable the calculations of the brain— copious
 Thoughts and ready responses—the vitality of life.
 The studious study of Hypothalamus and Thymus
 Crooning of hormones—centric, body's metabolism
 Intriguing intricate web of choirs like the nest of
 sparrows
 Like an eagle at the hugest globe—the staff's
 mechanism.
 Endocrine system, glazing grandiose glands
 On reproduction, gynics giant genius generations
 Gynecritics like Showalter decry differences
 Similar to Cleopatra's acumen, deal with their
 hindrances
 Cardiovascular system—the soul of vitals
 Balance of diastole and systole
 Four chambers, three layers and four valves
 As a whole— a lesson, quite crystal.
 Urinary system —how prominent one!
 Renal pelvis and bladder, deep study of them
 Giggling grinding of nutrient foods, the work of its
 own
 And to the full of energy, the conversation of them.
 How natural for all human beings to resist foes!
 Tracts, full of water, like a highly advanced system,
 As humans drain out waste water into oceans,
 Through bladder, unnecessary, through tract system.
 Ovaries, Semen, water, blood and the Fallopiian
 tubes—
 Women reproductive issues

Men reproductive issues
 How deep like deep waters!
 Reproducing like profuse crops
 Like fruit—bearing trees
 For the sound health cycles like seasons
 Dealt with ease —Complexity of females.
 The embryos, Master's marvellous handiwork,
 Life in sac like shackles, Master's majestic handiwork,
 Safety in the world of the womb than the world of clay,
 The staff delightfully treats with their wise work.
 The principles of psychology —
 On human psyche like Like William James
 Sigmund Freud on analytical psychology—
 Id, ego and superego—psychology's basics.
 Sensitive nostrils and sinuses in function
 Continuous activity, Inhale and exhale at right
 Nostrils—function without malfunction
 The study of vaccines, their prominence in height.
 The boosters of humanity—worth mention
 Human inventions, plenty on vaccines
 The study of viruses, endless and great function
 Causing the diseases and sicknesses.
 Divine—favour and human—care, healable
 Zygotes in the womb formed—quite enigmatically
 The formation, mysterious, quite ponderable
 Life with life tenderly treated—quite surprisingly.
 Philosopher's pensiveness: the staff's possession
 Sword's sharpness: the staff's profession
 Leopard's swiftness: the staff's passion
 Litterateur's terseness: the staff's precision
 A few backslidden, know not the nobility
 A few may err, deter and deviate
 As long as the world exists, exists its majesty!
 Everyone, with awe—behold; at its reverential
 activity!

II. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. N. Ravi Vincent, who is an Indian born English poet is a well-reputed and respected Assistant Professor with a wealth of many years' experiences in English Literature at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, South India. And he is a global traveler, which experiences, in fact, gave him the direct access to people and the diverse situations, through which I feel, he could become one of the most admired writers of this century. His academic background covers a diverse range of subjects including English literature, education, philosophy,

history, and psychology. Impressively, he holds a Ph.D. English literature and now he is pursuing Ph.D. in philosophy. In addition to his academic pursuits, as coordinator at American Corner, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, he plays a crucial role in fostering cultural and academic exchange between India and the United States.

It's a true privilege for me to have the opportunity to write about Dr. N. Ravi Vincent's poetry, especially considering him as one of best my teachers. His advocacy for a life filled with humility deeply resonates within me, and I believe that it truly stems from his inherently humble nature, evident in both his words and actions. I would like to dive into the profound lines of Dr. N. Ravi Vincent's two compelling poems: "Lifeless Life" and "Is the Burial of Humanity Right?" from his first volume called "Icicles of Insight". In the foreword to *icicles of Insight*, a doyen of literature, D. Pedda Raju rightly opines that "Dr. N. Ravi Vincent is a man of many parts, who uses Shakespearean expression and eloquently articulates his expression in well—chosen words from spiritual to physical. His poems are graphic, scintillating and directly appeal to a sensitive mind, just like a blood transfusion. When a sensitive human being is replete with life experiences..." (P. 111)¹

III. ABOUT THE POEM

The poem, *The Staff's Majesty*, one of the beautiful poems from *Icicles of Insight* from the first volume by Dr. Ravi Vincent, who is an Indian English Poet. This poem realistically offers a quick picture of the human biological system, it's functioning, it's ailments, interrelationship between the psyche and physical body. Each part that has been discussed in the poem throws light not only on the living and its functioning, but the distinct feature of this poem lies in the connection of each of our bodily activities with nature and literature. The temporary dis-ease and its connection to the world around, makes the reader have a quick knowledge of each human biological aspect and the majesty of the poem lies in the relation between our human body and the nature around. George Eliot says in *Middlemarch*, Chapter twenty-two regarding poetry that "To be a poet is to have a soul so quick to discern that no shade of quality escapes it..." (P. 130)²

IV. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POEM

The poem has the mythological significance, some of the names that are to be known to the readers are Asclepius and Tiresias, Virgil, who is said to have staff with him with a curling snake around staff and would ooze the venomous breath and heal Asclepius from his ailments whenever he would become sick. This is a mythological instance, which as the symbol, the staff is used with the two snakes around, the author, **Dr. N. Ravi Vincent** has clearly drawn the history of Asclepius in his poem 'The Staff's Majesty'. Another similar mythological instance is 'Tiresias' that looks at the copulation of the snakes and eventually becomes blind. Another beautiful example from history is 'Virgil's Eclogue' in which Herpes's sword and winged shoes, which are archaic are mentioned.

V. HISTORICITY OF THE TITLE

The poet rightly mentions of Hippocrates, who is the father of medicine and his ardent disciple, Glen, who has the sea of knowledge, and both have surprisingly studied humors on it peak, later Ben Johnson, a great literary figure has worked on humors dexterously. If we study them deeply, we can clearly understand the genesis of the medicine.

VI. THE SUBJECT OF THE POEM

The poem beautifully portrays the miraculous human body functioning and the various elements and organs that are run by His majesty. The working of entire nature, in specific, the complex human bodily functions and structure is His majesty. We are all like the staff in His holy hand and He tends us in a robust manner, yet the temporary dis-ease turns out to explain the nuances of our functioning and systematic working. Our human biological and psychological bodies look every complex, yet their working happens in such a phenomenal unison by the Majestic Will. The title signifies that our bodies, though covered, have multiple organic elements and features, yet we are only His staff. Thus, the title is a mythological inspiration. The majesty of Almighty is seen through the process of healing, recovering and convalescing not just from a disease or a sickness, but it also is felt in the rising of our faculties to become a sovereign and an individual identity in the path of spiritualism. The

multiple operations in every single body and the complex working to support the simple being is the beauty of creation. Though psychologically broken, physically unwell, yet we keep striving. To sustain human Bio is God's Grace, despite the First Sin. And it is God's Grace alone that sustains, holds and recovers us from all forms of mental and physical illness.

VII. THE CRUCIAL THEMES OF THE POEM

Systematic Functioning: The poem talks about all the aspects covering the entire human body. Be it the organs, fluids, functioning, system in unison, disease-chronic and mild, the psychological turmoil, etc. The influence of psyche and body and their proper coordination and the detailing of each bodily unit resonates throughout the poem. **Correlation of Literature and Our Body:** The poem discusses and links a litterateur and a medical practitioner. The scope that this poem offers makes the reader easily coordinate various subjects that are not otherwise easily comprehended. The linking of literature to medicine reflects on how beautifully nature is created.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Thus, the poem greatly offers a deep dive into the human body's elements, organs and functioning in such a majestic way, that is, even the higher levels of human functioning have been detailed in the simplest way. The poem gives a clear and crisp knowledge of our working and discusses each ailment, disease and purpose in a gentle and yet humorous way. The comparison made between the human bodily operations and literature makes the poem one of its kind. The detailing ability, the wide scope and the anecdotal approach turns the poem to be a top notch one, a must read for a proper understanding of the human body.

REFERENCES

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