

U.P.S.C

Don't write
anything this
margin
(इस भाग में
कुछ ना लिखें)

You cannot see your reflection in boiling water.

In the zest of his youth, a brilliant scientist sets off on a project that he believed would give his country, a leg up in the war at hand. As the chief architect of the Manhattan Project, he creates the first nuclear bomb that USA would trial on the non restive towns of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Having seen the untold devastation it wrought, he turns to the Vedas for solace. "I am become death" says Oppenheimer, regretful, in the evening of his life.

Oppenheimer could not see the reflections of his actions, while the vibrance of his youth had his blood locked into a perennial cycle of boiling. Others still, will have fewer opportunities to survey their actions while they advance through the mechanical motions of life, not once stopping to introspect. Is this an outcome of modern living or is it embedded human nature?

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Through the expositions in this write up, the metaphor of boiling water will be unraveled, while paying heed to the myriad reflections that we may see when the kettle is hot and the charged nature of our findings when the kettle is not.

Placid Waters Reflect

Science explains the reflective property of water as owing it's mechanism to principles of reflection and refraction. It is essentially light that dictates how the end image appears. Even the ripples, would corrupt any image formed ~~was~~ on such surfaces, if a pebble were ever to meet such waters.

The stillness of water allows light to function optimally, producing a true picture of oneself. This stillness, if it were to, translate to calmness of mind, one becomes acutely aware of their actions.

The boiling water is emblematic of the emotional quandry, life often superimposes while asking one to exist.

The fury of rage, the desolation of sadness

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The cynicism of envy and the pangs of lust corrupt the very idea of introspection so the need is to simmer down so that one may reconcile their actions with their conscience.

A mirror in scriptures

All of the theological treatises focus on the science of introspection, or at least the need thereof. The Bhagavad Gita's long discourse between the warrior and charioteer are enunciations of seeing one's actions while being composed. The vedas extol the virtues of surefootedness that can only stem from calmness.

The Kur'an seeks similar piety of its followers while the Bible compels its adherents to find peace. The Jaina texts and the Buddhist treatises speak in one breath for the need for stillness in the mind. But could these be instructions as well, to remove the scourge that afflicts, douse the flames that allow for such water to boil?

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Turning the kettle down

In order to think composedly, the rage may be contained when the agitations are internal. The time tested solutions of yoga, meditation and the like aid in such exercises. Scientists advocate distancing themselves from their primary experiments when they face gridlocks. The act of detaching from the end results, they argue, allows the mind to once again focus, even if they aren't explicitly intending to.

But what of the times when the conflict is not of the mind's make? The only solution to the boiling water is to uproot the flame that burns and simmeringly boils the water in a perennial way.

Environmentalists Sir, David Attenborough was thoroughly perturbed when he chanced upon the death of millions of species owing to mankind's follacies. The movement towards environmentalism today implies the extermination of fossil fuel use itself. Ironically, fuel that boils is the flame of extinction.

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The flaming torch to be extinguished

When Che Guevara saw the despair his peoples were in, he undertook the mission of emancipation. He had to become the force mobiliser to evict foreign forces from his motherland in the Southern Americas. How might he have seen the people suffer and not put an end to the destruction.

Che Guevara could not see pain in his brethren so he rebelled against the erstwhile leaders. Fire was met with fire. Bullets were returned with artillery. It was essential for the boiling water to be returned to its placid state, but surely Guevara couldn't see his own reflections in the midst of madness and mayhem.

The Green and Blue Revolutions were birthed to displace the misery that is social injustice and hunger. While India was on the boil through plagues and man made famines, these were methodical constructions to reduce the flame of poverty before India could ^{with} reflection and introspection surge ahead as a global power, vying for its place at the hightable.

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Calm waters dont always reflect

But what if even after dispensing with These injustices, one cannot see their reflection because the waters are muddy? The sinful machinations of the human mind prevent the peaceful pourings of thought. Greed may afflict those who are outwardly peaceful as well. Any of the 7 biblical sins may overwhelm man even as he remains non enraged.

When the "Queen Mother" asks the 'Mirror on the Wall' if shes the fairest of them all, she would not have been thrilled to learn of another's name uttered. The queen would never see her reflection, not because she wasn't beautiful enough for the epithet but because her envy would never allow it.

Elon Musk's frequent altercations with Mark Zuckerberg play out like a Shakespearean tale. Full of envy and hubris, preventing either men from seeing their own true reflections, to reconcile instead for greater good of humanity.

Calm waters But the Reflections are invalid

Even when devoid of all perturbances and masks that deny a clear reflective surface, on occasion the true imprint of an individual may never come to the fore.

The classic tale of the king who was naked, who was duped by a peddler into believing the king donned the finest wares, is indicative. The king was naked, but nobody dared tell him.

Social media and the related paraphernalia has deprived individuals of how they see themselves. They view themselves in the eyes of another. They placate themselves with validation on the digital counter and believe it to be valid reflections.

And in the age of sycophancy, even our leaders are not excused from seeing invalid reflections. Flattery is used as a device of entrapment where, even if the boiling waters are removed they are bound to inaccurate depictions of themselves.

A word to the wise

Why, at all, must one ever attempt to see their imprint in boiling waters? Does it not betray a sense of irrationality bordering on lunacy to expect to see a clear image in the water that erupts?

Would such individuals also seek to see themselves in a volcanic pyroclastic eruption, as well? Perhaps it is the wise telling us not to venture towards impossible elements that simply cannot be attained? Would it be more accurate to say you must not see your reflection in boiling water, instead?

Because the boiling water is an inevitability that cannot be countermanded.

As much as it is a literal prerequisite for our lives, a figurative parallel would have us acknowledge the water boils because we are human beings. It is in the imprint of our genome to be angry, fearful and envious. It is nature herself expressing herself through our hormones. We must not attempt to see our actions when enraged for a period of calmness would soon follow, where we can be more introspective in our actions. The inevitability is such that even law comes to our aid.

Legal distinctions of human indisinctions

When the law prescribes a less severe punishment for crimes of passion, it is nature telling us that it is impossible to equate an ordinary paced man ~~for~~ with someone affected by grief.

If a man kills his wife in a fit of rage over her supposed indiscretions the law identifies this as a natural inability of the human mind to see clearly as it simmers. The husband is handed a lenient sentence, not attracting the death penalty that he only recently sentenced his unwitting wife to.

Mankind's memory as well forgives those who may have erred in their youth to find regret later. Alfred Nobel's name is attached to gallants of our time but he was foremost the inventor of the dynamite. Oppenheimer may have caused unforetold harm to human civilization, but let us remember him for the non proliferation proponent he turned to be later in life, when the stove was turned off and the kettle had all but turned cold.

5. You cannot see your reflection in boiling water.

Oppenheimer the
rest of youth
Sanhattan projects
later introspectively
becomes a ^{open}
proliferation
frustration

Meaning → Can't be understood your actions

introspect when you are angry / emotionally
or when an action is at hand → perhaps useful / regret later.

He quotes the Gita
later in life
"I am become
death"

Science → Can be seen, but the reflection is fragmented
fractured.

In the shimmering
age

'The Gift of The Magi' → reflection was captured in a narrow strip of
mirror →

A mirror in writing

Calm but turbid waters

↓
polluted.

↓
"evil Matamoras"

↓
sinful machinations
of the mind.

→ Snow White & The
fairest of them all
Queen Mother,

Snow White → an
outcast at
the time

Calm waters but still

not a valid

reflection →

→ "The king was naked"
but nobody could tell him.

→ Age of sycophancy →

→ Praise be he to undo them.

→ Flattery deceives, while
the eye perceives.

And all the kings men →

Metaphor

wisdom of
the Gita, the Quran
or the Bible.

↓
reflection of soon
activities

Beware →
water will
boil over.

↓
burns?

→ Don't attempt
it at all.

Word
to the
wise

Leachery

Stoking conflict

↓
pretext
to determine
animosity

→ Kuki - Meitei
(deception)
peace before

But

Boiling water is necessary to

see? there is conflict

so turn off
kettle.

→ Che Guevara
renunciation

→ ~~Freud~~

⇒ Environmentalists Sir David
Attenborough

⇒ Technology → misery / hardship.

→ Israel → water desalination

⇒ Hunger, ^{Swan nation Kenen}
turn the Kettle off

~~Don't go~~

Rage, ~~hope~~

Those who saw the reflection in
boiling water

and did not tell what they saw

→ Reformed men

• The law comes to ^{their} aid

→ Crime of passion →
lesser sentence

Tilted lover / lover sought
the art

→ Scientific overreach → pushing
barriers → Dynamite