



Rembrandt: a Milestone of Portraiture

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Abstract

When we talk about portraiture, the name of Dutch painter Rembrandt comes suddenly in our mind who was born in 1607 and studied art in the studio of a well known portrait painter Pieter Lastman in Amsterdam. Soon after learning all the basics of art, young Rembrandt established himself as a portrait painter along with a reputation as an etcher (print maker). As a result, young and energetic Rembrandt established his own studio and began to apprentice budding artist almost his own age. In 1632, Rembrandt married to Saskia van Ulyenburg, a cousin of a well known art dealer who was not in favour of this love marriage. Anyhow after the marriage, Rembrandt was so happy but destiny has written otherwise, his beloved wife Saskia was died just after giving birth to the son Titus. Anyhow same year dejected Rembrandt painted his famous painting 'Night Watch' which pull down the reputation of the painter because Rembrandt painted it in his favourite dramatic spot light manner which was discarded by the officers who had commissioned the painting. Despite having brilliant qualities of drama, lighting scene and movement, Rembrandt was stopped to obtain the commission works. So he stared to paint nature to console himself. At the same time, Hendrickje Stoffels, a humble woman who cared much to child Titus, married Rembrandt wise fully and devoted her to reduce the tide of Rembrandt's misfortune. Rembrandt was a greatest psychologist which can be seen on the each portrait executed by Rembrandt. Context to this He painted his own face after every six months, and if we analyze his series of self portraiture from his youth to the old age, we will find not only the improving technical qualities of his command over his skill but also enhanced grasping power of the feelings and emotions in the self being. These portraits helped him regain his lost reputation, hence he was again being acknowledged by the same officers who had aerial tarnished his popularity. Context to this, he was offered a commission work. Rembrandt painted it brilliantly which known as 'The Syndics' Thus Rembrandt lived his genius life with the ups and down of a creative spirit.

Key Words: *Genius of portraiture, Dutch, 'Night Watch', Misfortune, Titus, Dramatic lights, Death*

Rembrandt Van Rijn was born in 1607. He was the fifth and youngest son of rich miller who possessed a great fortune as a land lord, wanted to make Rembrandt a great scholar who may serve the

Holland with his knowledge. But young Rembrandt did not take interest in his study rather used to spend his time making drawing on all over the margins of his reading books, however on his father's insist he joined the university in 1620. But soon the intelligent father of a genius son understood that it is useless for Rembrandt to keep on his academic study in the university.

1. Rembrandt's Self Portrait

After leaving the boring university, enthusiastic Rembrandt took admission in the studio of a well known portrait painter Pieter Lastman in Amsterdam. Within a year he learned all the basics of art and came back to Leyden to practice art by himself. Considering his future, he again went to Amsterdam and established himself as a portrait painter along with a reputation as an etcher (print maker). As a result, Young and energetic Rembrandt established his own studio and began to apprentice budding artist almost his own age. In the year 1632 Rembrandt fell in love with a young--Saskia van Ulyenburg, she was an orphan and the cousin of reputed print- publisher- Hendrik Van Ulyenburg who had initially published some of his etching works, was highly opposed the union of the two young loving birds. But ultimately love won, and Saskia and Rembrandt was knot together in 1634. Finding a loving and beautiful consort, the painter rendered his happiness through an expressive painting 'The Artist and His Wife'. The bride brought him a good fortune and the couple assumed that the happiness was only belongs to them. Rembrandt wanted to create a fairy world around his beloved. But destiny has written otherwise, Saskia was died after giving birth to the son Titus in the same year



when Saskia died, Gloomy Rembrandt done his great painting 'Night Watch' which is now the most famous of all his works, almost pull down the reputation of the painter because in this painting Rembrandt painted the army officers in dark and shadows who had commissioned the painting, which led Rembrandt up to the bankruptcy. Although Prof. Baldwin Brown of Edinburgh University of---- claimed that it is the day time not Night as the title of the painting given.

On the other hand Rembrandt contemporary painter, Frans Hals's paintings, the scene were so clear and images appeared too bright which were much appreciated. But, Rembrandt's Paintings had brilliant qualities of drama, lighting scene and movement which cannot be found in Hals's splendid paintings. Rembrandt was a true genius, he always went his own way. According to an art historian Muther "the first artist who, in the modern sense, did not execute commission works, but express his own thoughts. The emotions which moved his inner most being were the only things which he expressed on canvas. He does not seem to think that anyone is listening to him, but only speaks with himself; he is anxious, not to be understood by others, but only to express his mood and feelings."

Neglected by his previous patrons, Rembrandt started to paint nature to console him. He began to visit countryside and from 1640 to 1652 he painted mostly landscapes, in those the most famous are 'The three trees and Six's Bridge' executed in the grand style. After Saskia death, the relative of his late wife drag him in lawsuits to prevent him from being trustee for his only son Titus, although they won the trusteeship, but not the custody of the beloved son Titus who later helped a lot in his ordeals.

Hendrickje Stoffels, a humble woman who cared much to child Titus married Rembrandt wise fully and devoted herself to reduce the tide of Rembrandt's misfortune.

2. Night Watch

Titus was the only cause for which Rembrandt wanted sprit in his life, which is why, merely a year after his bankruptcy, he executed one of the world's masterpieces of portraiture "The Artist's Son Titus" now preserved in Wallace collection. Apart from a great artist, Rembrandt was a greatest psychologist which can be seen in the depth of each portrait executed by Rembrandt. In fact these were not mere portraits but as if the models themselves telling world by world the whole experience of their inner lives. Context to this He painted his own face after every six months, and if we analyze his series of self portraiture from his youth to the old age, we will find not only the improving technical quality of his command over his skill but also enhanced grasping power of the feelings and emotions in the self being. For which a noted art historian Sir John Everett Millais Said that "In his first period Rembrandt's was very careful and minute in detail, and there is evidence of stippling in his flesh paintings; but in the fullness of his power all appearance of such manipulation and minuteness vanished in the breadth and facility of his brush, though the advantage of his early manner remained. .. I have closely examined his pictures in the National Gallery, and have actually seen beneath the grand veil of breadth, the early work that his art conceals from untrained eyes-the whole science of paintings."



3. The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp

Now his reputation gradually restoring and his portraits were again being acknowledged by the same officers who had tarnished his popularity. Add to this, he was offered a commission work. In this official painting, he was given a task to depict the portrait of five officers who are sitting on the dais and presided over a meeting. The theme was painted so clearly to avoid any defame, the painting known as ' The Syndics'. But, in the case of happiness for Rembrandt, it often came with misfortune. As soon as the painting was completed, Hendrickje Stoffels died and the young and handsome son Titus also died within a year of his marriage life. Now Rembrandt was left alone in world to look after posthumous little daughter to Titus, but died in 1669 and left great treasure of art behind him.

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