



## Emergence of Gentleman as a Phoenix in Changing World Order

**Prof. Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh<sup>1</sup>, Md Parwez Alam<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>P.G. department of English, Nilamber Pitamber University, Medini Nagar (Daltonganj), Palamu, Jharkhand, India  
[nksinghla@gmail.com](mailto:nksinghla@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Haji Jamil Ahmed Road, Bhandaridih, Giridih, Jharkhand, India  
[parwezsheel@gmail.com](mailto:parwezsheel@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

The prosperity brought about by the globalization of material profundity the position of man has been lowered to a mechanized robot. Certainly a society that prides on materialism and revolves around economic prosperity has got nothing ennobling and worthy of considerations. There is a jocular cliché of Prof. D.P. Sengupta. Head of English Department, Patna University, who used to say this prosperity as 'a vulgarity of wealth'.<sup>1</sup> T.S.Eliot quotes this situation thus: "By destroying traditional social habits of people, by dissolving their collective consciousness into individual constituents, by licensing the opinions of the most foolish; by substituting Instruction for education, by encouraging cleverness rather than wisdom, the upstart rather than qualified, by fostering of getting on to which is the alternative is a hopeless apathy, liberalism can prepare the way for its own negation."<sup>2</sup> (Courtesy T.S.Eliot, Idea of Christian society). It is almost impossible to keep the pursuit of truth and spiritual exploration alive in a society basically dominated by the pursuit of profit and material consumption:

*"Where is the life we have lost in living?"*

*Where is the wisdom we have lost in time knowledge ?*

*Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?<sup>3</sup>*

*(Courtesy T.S. Eliot collected Poems P. 161)*

In this age of rapid avalanche of Globalization, it is needed to share the view of Cardinal Newman's (1801-1890) "Definition of a Gentleman", he advocated purity in life and conduct during Victorian era. "The true gentleman carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast: all clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment, his concerned being to take every one at their ease and at home. He has his eyes on all his company, he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards distant, and merciful towards the absurd."<sup>4</sup> (Courtesy Cardinal Newman; The idea of a University Defined and Illustrated 1873)" For the man in supersonic industrialized world, this 'Definition' will help him to face challenges serenely. He will have to 'learn' to avoid a jolt with whom he is to interact because a disturbed mind cannot arrive at peace and conclusion. His chief task will be to take everyone at his ease and at home, meaning thereby to have an empathetic attitude towards each and all with whom he is to converse with. Newman's 'Definition' is very telling and appropriate, as he viewed that, a gentleman must see things in its true perspective, "to be tender towards bashful, gentle towards distant and full of mercy towards absurd."<sup>5</sup> This study may help to have new vistas of awareness among neo-globalists to change their stance from profiteering to humanitarian zeal.

The challenge posed by accelerating change which is Anthropologically termed as 'Cultural lag' and rapid flow of development as mind bogling, the lessons taught by Newman will help us to be cool and calm in the society, and to generate ripples of happiness in the environment which is a must for modern time. In his epoch making book Newman advocated a social code of conduct, a restraint in all form of conduct and behaviour in public life. "He can recollect to whom he is speaking: he guards against unreasonable allusions, or topics which may irritate, he is seldom prominent in conversation and never wearisome. He makes light of favours which he does them, and seems to receive when he is conferring, he observes the maxim of the ancient sage, that we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend, he submits to pain, because it is irreparable, and to death, because it is his destiny. He may be right or wrong in his opinion, but he is not clearheaded to be unjust".<sup>6</sup> (Courtesy Idea of a University Defined and Illustrated) Thus, the emerging sentiments of these telling observations of human behaviour are a saving grace of modern trauma, he will be well disposed in a situation and will be well organized to face globalized challenges which is lying ahead. We need, first of all a radical, new orientation towards the future.

Psychologist Herbert Gerjuoy says that "tomorrow's illiterate will not be the man who can't read, he will be the man who has not learned how to learn".<sup>7</sup> (Courtesy Alvin Toffler Future Shock Page 375) In reference to Newman's Definition of a gentleman, and the wisdom emerged that prosperity ushered in by Globalization is not an end in itself Newman showed his fellowmen the path of purity and holiness of heart's affection a path which leads

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to real happiness. A gentleman should behave in exemplary manner to be happy while showing the way of happiness to others.

**References:**

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- [1] D.P. Sengupta
- [2] T.S.Eliot , Idea of Christian Society
- [3] T.S.Eliot, Collected Poems , page.161.
- [4] John Henry Newman: The Idea of a University Defined and Illustrated,1873.
- [5] ibid
- [6] ibid
- [7] Alwin Toffler: Future Shock, page - 375.