

Genius Soul – Michelangelo Buonarroti

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Abstract

The popular idiom ‘Work is Worship’ is totally expresses the temperament of 16th century’s renaissance artist Michelangelo who is considered a greatest sculptor of the world. The king Lorenzo de’ Medici a great connoisseur of art helped him to sharpened his skill and become more passionate for art. As a result contemporary of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo was invited to Rome by Pope Julius II to paint the huge ceiling of Sistine Chapel. The sculptor depicted the 10,000 squire fits aria of the ceiling so unparallel to other great painters that whole world still keen to see the painted ceiling again and again with their necked eyes. Noted historian Sir William Orpen writes- “of all the palaces of art which Europe contains, there is not one more wonderful within, or with a meaner exterior, than the Sistine Chapel”. Apart from these world famous paintings of Sistine Chapel Michelangelo carved the master pieces for the Tomb of his beloved patron – Lorenzo de Medici, in which ‘Dawn’, ‘Morning’, ‘Twilight’ and ‘Night’ were remarkably great. Moreover he again assigned to paint an huge painting titled - ‘The Last Judgment’ on the wall of Sistine Chapel of Rome. The Painting was the source of Baroque art. At last, he was greatest great who died physically on 1564 but his name will remain on the earth forever to ignite the future artists.

KEYWORDS: Renaissance; Sculptor; Florence’ Lorenzo de’ Medici; Sistine Chapel; Pope; Pieta; Haven; Stone; Painted

Great Artist Michelangelo was born in Castel Caprese a small town near Florence in 1475 and brought up among the four brothers whose father Buonarroti Simoni (a well reputed Chief Magistrate) did not like the idea of Michelangelo to become an artist. Anyhow his step but loving mother and a friend Granacci who was six year older to Michelangelo persuade the rigid father to allow the thirteen year old juvenile to study art in the well equipped studio of successful artist Ghirlandaio, where the talented and aggressive boy shown more interest in sculpture than painting. Within a year Master Ghirlandaio recommended his name to be apprenticed in Lorenzo de’ Medici’s ‘The Sculpture Garden’ of which legend sculptor Bertoldo was the director. Bertoldo introduced Michelangelo with the works of many Italian great masters interestingly the sculptures of Donatello Whose ‘David’ Carved in marble inspired him a lot.

Lorenzo de’ Medici a great connoisseur of art was very much pleased with the progress of Michelangelo, took him in his own care and fixed him an allowance of 500 Ducats a month, which lasted till 1492. After the death Lorenzo de’ Medici Michelangelo for the first time become afraid in his life not only because his lavish patron’s death but also the tyranny of Savonarola who took over the command of Florence and began to preach his impassioned – conservative sermons in the broad minded Florence of Lorenzo de’ Medici. At that time Michelangelo was just a boy of fifteen and was unable to think what he had to do in his life, confused Michelangelo returned to his father who still wanted

Michelangelo to help his Dad to prosper their forefather's legacy. Soon Michelangelo got over his hindrances to become a great artist of the future. During his temporary stay in his father's Villa, he thoroughly read Petrarch and Dante and imbibed the beauty of nature as well as studied the classical antiques. At the time of Savonarola's religious flavour was prevailed in the Florence, Michelangelo was busy to carve a sleeping cupid that was so much of Greek essence that it was sold as a Greek antique piece to a proficient antique dealer. When the buyer of the same work came to know that he was cheated, hearing fact, that the purchased work is not an antique piece but actually created by a young boy Michelangelo, he was so happy to think that a living Italian can revive the dead Greek. Thus Michelangelo again got a loving patron for his beloved art. In such a way, from 1498 to 1501 Michelangelo worked passionately on the marble sculpture of Virgin mourn on Jesus (Pieta) in which gloomy mood shows "sorrow more beautiful than self".

After the favourable conditions, in 1501 he returned to Florence to carve the Famous Sculpture 'David' which is still a great master piece not only of Italian art but revered by the artists as well as art connoisseurs around the world. Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci- The two Great genius of the same time were jealous of each other's Excellency. They compete and often remarked ignominiously on each other. In the year 1505 again Michelangelo was invited to Rome by Pope Julius II to build a colossal tomb for him to take rest after death. Enthusiastic Michelangelo went to Carrara and spent eight months to select best possible marble stone for the assigned tomb. But conspiringly an architect close to the Pope, whose name was Bramante whispered to the pope that it will be a great



misfortune to build your mausoleum in your own lifetime. Thus the pope dropped the idea immediately and dejected Michelangelo come back to Florence again. But as soon Michelangelo come over on his gloom. Pope Julius again called him back to Rome and ordered that a genius sculptor out to spend his precious time painterly on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. In fact it was again a plot by evil Bramante, thinking that Michelangelo would fail totally to paint such a hues ceiling and lost his reputation as an artist. Michelangelo did not like the idea to paint on the ceilings of such a sacred and great place of Christian empire rather than to carve a divine sculpture. So

Michelangelo begged to Pope that this painterly commission work should be given to his contemporary young painter Raphael , but Pope was not ready to listen, ultimately sculptor Michelangelo began to paint lonely and unwillingly.

After lying for four years on his back to paint the whole ceiling, finally the doors were opened for public, seeing the executed work, all were astonished 'how a sculptor can paint so perfectly' his enemies were bewildered and grieved for their defeat. Noted historian Sir William Orpen writes- "of all the palaces of art which Europe contains, there is not one more wonderful within, or with a meaner exterior, than the Sistine Chapel". The sculptor measure out the ceiling into nine main sections, in which there are many groups primarily 'The creation of the world' 'The Fall of Man' 'uselessness of sacrifice under the old dispensation' these groups consisted 343 elegant images expanded in 10,000 square feet of the ceiling.

Continuing working for four years on high-scaffolding, Michelangelo appeared an old man at the age of mere thirty seven. His eye sight had become so weak that he could not read a book unless he brought it above his head, his health was destroyed. Unfortunately at the end of such great work the patron Pope Julius died and distracted Michelangelo returned to Florence without getting any reward because Pope Julius's successor Leo X was a great admirer of Young and dynamic painter Raphael. In the Florence, harassed sculptor who surpassed all the painters, again started sculpting the master pieces for the Tomb of his beloved patron – Lorenzo de Medici, in which 'Dawn', 'Morning', 'Twilight' and 'Night' were remarkably great. Short tempered Michelangelo disgusted with all things, including himself, he plunged into the revolution which disturbed whole Florence in 1527.

In the year 1534 again the Pope Paul III from Vatican asked him to paint a huge fresco on the wall at the entrance to the Sistine Chapel. The sculptor again started the painting, known 'The Last Judgment' which snatched five years from his long life. In this giant painting Michelangelo executed differently, which inspired many upcoming artist, as a result the 'Baroque' and 'Mannerism' style were developed that flourished at least two hundred years. In his last years, he lived like a poor man, chiseling his 'Pieta' enthusiastically. On Feb. 17, 1564 the genius breathed his last and the genius soul departed to God and his name remained on the earth forever to ignite the future artists.

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