

Editorial

WRITERS ARE MADE OR BORN?

It has been a matter of discussion for a long time whether the writers are born or made? Francis Bacon testifies writing as a matter that makes a man perfect. “Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man; and, therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he had need have a present wit; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not” (Francis Bacon, *Of Studies*).

This discussion is unending. There are arguments that the writers are born, but I would rather join with the statement that the writers are made. Writers are being made on the basis of the dedication of each individual.

One among the many qualities needed for good writers is the dedication to read the written record of the previous periods and centuries. William Faulkner whose style has been qualified by Albert Camus, the French Philosopher as “interminably unwinding spiral of words and sentences that conducts the speaker to the abyss of sufferings buried in the past” says about reading, “Read, read, read. Read everything - trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You’ll absorb it. Then write. If it’s good, you’ll find out. If it’s not, throw it out of the window.” (William Faulkner).

After reading starts the process of being written. What matters is not what you write but how you write. C. S Lewis, the British writer who held academic positions in English literature at both Oxford as well as Cambridge Universities says, “In writing. Don’t use adjectives which merely tell us how you want us to feel about the thing you are describing. I mean, instead of telling us a thing was “terrible,” describe it so that we’ll be terrified. Don’t say it was “delightful”; make us say “delightful” when we’ve read the description. You see, all those words (horrifying, wonderful, hideous, exquisite) are only like saying to your readers, “Please will you do my job for me.” (C.S. Lewis).

Let us be very good readers and very good writers as well. So, I am convinced that the writers are made, not exclusively born. So anybody with genuine interest, proper planning, dedication, deep rumination over ideas, and a total determination to spend a considerable amount of time in writing would be the reasons for the formation of writers. Best wishes!

Dr. Joseph Olikkalkoonal DSC., PhD
Chief Editor,
yuvista International Multi-disciplinary Journal