



## Practical Philosophy of Sir Francis Bacon

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### Abstract :-

Sir Francis Bacon was a great philosopher and statesman of Great Britain His place in the history of English essays is peerless. He was the pioneer of modern philosophy. His work was full of practical wisdom and philosophical ideology. He was never underestimated the value of practical experience while getting scholastic cognizance. He was critical insighter of the nature of characters of contemporary British society. The present paper aims at depicting the components of practical philosophy of Bacon in context with his essays or counsels, civil and moral.

**Keywords :-** Aphoristic, Empiricism, paganian, renaissance, theology.

### Introduction :-

Sir Francis Bacon was considered as the Father of empiricism. He had served as lord chancellor, essayist, reformer, historian, politician. Meanwhile he became a member of privy council and got two tittles ie. Baron Verulam and viscount St. Albans. He was also knighted in 1603 in the reign of king James one. he had seen many up and downs in his political career he was one of the most learned man of Elizabethan and Jacobean era.

Bacon was not only the pioneer of English essays. But also the pioneer of aphoristic style of prose and writing his ideals to expressed the practical thoughts in his essay are noble and of highest appreciation he was the master of compact and terse style. He used to include aphorisms and proverbs in his essays. He set English prose on that road which was latterly used by Jonathan swift, joseph Addison like essayist. Bacons intellectual ability to explore practical philosophy is extremely breathtaking. Once Alfred Tennyson says regarding his terse styles,

“There is more wisdom compress in to that small volume than in to any other book of the same size that I know”. (i) p415

Bacons essays constitutes a handbook of practical wisdom and practical experience which was not much concerned with ethical values and substance idealism. It was mostly concerned with wordly wisdom and the art of living in life. So Alexander pope calls him,

“If parts allure thee, think how Bacon Shined,

The wisest, brightest and meanest of man kind”

(Essays on man, Epistle IV by Alexander pope) (ii) p51

However his ambitions was redeemed by his desire to serve the race of mankind by the search of truth his first object was to get the knowledge which increases mans empire on this planet. His work had not been connected with any theology or even paganian morality or even Christian morality. Bacons approach to subjects was multi-dimensional. He had explained his subjects from different point of views. For illustration, In his essay “of studies” he had been given a perfect equilibrium between the formal study and practical realization of subjects. He firmly believes that the bookish knowledge must have been supplemented by practical experience of life. Thus he stated that,

“ They perfect nature and are perfected by experience : for natural abilities are live natural plants, that need pruning by study and studies themselves do give forth direction too much at large except they be hounded in by experience”.

(Of studies) (iii) p.150

Bacon had given his counsels, to his contemporary kings, princess and the persons who was at in elite places. However he had been selected the topics which evoke to common peoples and which was based upon the experience of common humans in their life. In his essays namely counsels, civil and the moral, he had covered the vast subjects including truth, death, revenge of stimulation and dissimulation, marriage and single life, of envy, superstitions, innovations and so on. He humbly called his essays “as dispersed meditations”. Actually his essays was not certainly dispersed but it was composed of crafted with arguments for and against the prepositions pitted against one another. He had always used simile and metaphors in his essays which gives an ornamental framework to the structure of text. Sometimes he seems to be idealist and sometime pragmatist in his essays, when he states that the bad habit of telling lies sometimes does good also, for example,

“ A Mixture of lie doth ever at pleasure. Mixture of falsehood is like alloy in coin of gold & silver which could make the metal work better.”(iv) (Of Truth) p4

Bacon had diluted the high ideals with utilitarian views to life. He remarks that when a man pardons his enemies he reveals noble heart and he dilutes high ideals, morals by taking revenge in such cases where there is no legal remedy. Consequently he warns that revenge should be taken in such a way that there should be no law to punished.

“ For as the first wrong , it does but offend the law; but the revenge of wrong putteth the law out of office”.(v) (Of revenge ) p9

Hence Bacon has says that taking revenge is similar to wild kind of justice which should have to be discouraged as it puts the law out of the administration. Revenge is natural tendency of humans but it should be eradicated as poisonous weed

or plants. On the other hand, taking revenge is always challenging to authority and its judiciary.

**Conclusion :-**

Sir Francis Bacon was considered as a child of renaissance era. He not only deals with prosaic matters like gardening and masques but also with unsort able obstacles of contemporary Society like superstitions, revenge ,envy etc. he had also express his vast thoughts on diverse subjects such as medicine, astronomy, astrology, ancient classics, histories of word, myth of ancient mythology. Thus Bacon stands very much ahead of his contemporary rivals.He had always argued in favour of empirical knowledge which was based on his on practical experiences of the life. He strongly belives in the Inductive system of philosophical thinking. He blends various philosophical and empirical element into his essays hence he will be always remembered for his evolutionary practical thoughts which remained almost as elegant as they were written in the past.

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