A Chase of Whys and Hows Kills the Beauty of What Is!

Maninder Kaur Chhabra¹

Received: 29 June 2018 / Accepted: 23 July 2018 / Published online: 31 July 2018
© Association of Surgeons of India 2018

Sir,

The editorial “Basic physics revisited for a surgeon” was aptly introduced with—“If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough”—Albert Einstein [1].

A statement by the genius of the century whose brain was dissected into 240 odd slices to find out why and how it worked so brilliantly [2] (probably without his consent), no wonder his quotes are lapped up by generations of children of lesser God.

This is no criticism or denial of the advantages of the research on why and how of every act but I wish to present another perspective.

“A chase of whys and hows kills the beauty of what is!”

My point is that running after every natural or unnatural phenomenon to find out its cause takes away the beauty of it.

Researchers and historians put in more than 500 years to work on Mona Lisa’s enigmatic smile and proclaimed she had Bell’s palsy [3]. Leonardo da Vinci would be wincing in his grave for sure.

As we dissect a Thiel-preserved wet cadaver layer by layer, we gain knowledge of anatomy—the muscles, the nerves, the vessels down to bones, and viscera—but the cadaver turns into an ugly piece if not a scary ghost. The result is no different in the life outside the dissection hall.

An attractive smile lost its charm when we counted all muscles that were working at it. The quest to create facial beauty gets it caged in angles and triangles in the hands of beholder rather than eyes.

A soul stirring dance odyssey is but a flexion of some joints and extension of others. Adonis is just hypertrophied muscle masses at the right places.

Mothers would loathe the observation that the overwhelming emotions they have for their bundle of joy is nothing but a picogram of a chemical in some sulcus of the brain.

Women in medical profession do not enjoy their pregnancy as much as the non medics—a sentiment echoed by many, for they do not marvel at this nature’s phenomenon of genesis but imagine which chapter in the obstetric book has the fetus reached and which, for heavens sake, it should not.

The revelation of the process of reproduction also spells death for the Stork and imbecility in its visiting.

Richness of variety, of aroma and rejuvenating experience of food is broken down into blocks of carbohydrates, proteins, and fats with awareness of what a diet is all about.

Pursuit of causality of everything under the sun sadly kills the beauty of a magnificent sunrise!

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest The author declares that she has no conflict of interest.

References

1. Rajkumar JS, Chopra P, Chintamani (May–June 2015) Basic physics revisited for a surgeon. *Indian J Surg* 77(3):169–175
2. Witelson SF, Kigar DL, Harvey T (1999) The exceptional brain of Albert Einstein. *Lancet* 353(9170):2149–2153
3. Maloney WJ (2011 May) Bell’s palsy: the answer to the riddle of Leonardo da Vinci’s ‘Mona Lisa’. *J Dent Res* 90(5):580–582

✉ Maninder Kaur Chhabra
mke@isiconline.org

¹ Department of Surgery, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Delhi, India