

Quest for Esthetics in the 21st Century, Evolution or Slavery?

Carina Mehanna Zogheib*

Head of Continuing Education Committee, Lebanese Dental Association, Director of Esthetic and Restorative post- graduate program, Saint Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon

***Corresponding Author:** Carina Mehanna Zogheib, Head of Continuing Education Committee, Lebanese Dental Association, Director of Esthetic and Restorative post- graduate program, Saint Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon ; E-mail : carinamhanna@hotmail.com

Gibran Khalil Gibran is a great Lebanese-American artist, poet, and writer who is the third best-selling poet of all times, behind Shakespeare and Laozi [1].

Some quotes taken from his book *The Prophet*, published in 1923 with a wide variety of subjects are still of topical interest. Explaining some of these relevant quotes in our dental field could be interesting, diverting and a switch to another dimension.

“Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart”. For the people seeking beauty and focusing on the dental appearance, certainly external beauty is a must nowadays; but what is of utmost importance is that you start by brightening the light in your heart... This will reflect in your smile... Exposing your pearly snow teeth... Emblem of beauty in our society!

“Where shall you seek beauty, and how shall you find it unless she itself be your way and your guide?” This could be addressed to the dentists whose only aim is to make their patients’ smile a perfect prototype—aligned on the fashion tendency by emulating others’ work. Just doing a copy/paste work of the esthetic outcome of other practitioners is not an achievement. Be yourselves! Let your instinct, your knowledge,

and your sense of beauty guide you throughout your work and don’t forget that each patient is unique!

“At the city gate and by your fireside I have seen you prostrate yourself and worship your own freedom, Even as slaves humble themselves before a tyrant and praise him, though he says the”.

“And if it is a care you would cast off, that care has been chosen by you rather than imposed upon you”. To dentists and patients don’t become slaves of the esthetic society rules, the 21st century tyrant. Be yourselves, be independent, be masters of your choices!

“And if it is a fear you would dispel, the seat of that fear is in your heart and not in the hand of the feared”. Don’t fear the misjudgment of your peers. Instate your laws and believe in them. Believe in yourself because if you are convinced, everybody else will be!

“And all work is safe when there is love.

And when you work with love you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God.

And what is it to work with love? It is to charge all things you fashion with a breath of your own spirit. Work is love made visible”. I personally believe this is the most important value: Love. Love in every task you do and every step you make. Love in assessing the work to be done. Love in executing the handiwork. Love in admiring and deeming your oeuvre... For love is the engine and the motive of each and every success. If you work without emotions, the outcome could be a state-of-the-art achievement but soulless... lifeless...

“All these things have you said about beauty,
yet, in reality, you spoke not of it but of needs unsatisfied,
and beauty is not a need but an ecstasy”.
“Beauty is life when life unveils her holy face.
But you are life and you are the veil.
Beauty is eternity gazing at itself in a mirror.
But you are eternity and you are the mirror”.

Reference

1. Acocella, Joan (January 7, 2008). "Prophet Motive". *The New Yorker*. Retrieved March 9, 2009.