SUMMARY

Of the Ph.D thesis titled **Kantian Aesthetics: A Study of Beauty in Nature and Art** being submitted by **Ali Asghar Mollazehi (09HPPH08)**, Research Scholar, Department of Philosophy, School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad in June 2012.

This doctoral thesis aims at a constructive and critical study of the central theses of the parthbreaking work of Immanuel Kant in the field of aesthetics. The significance of Kantian aesthetics lies in the fact that it makes a radical break with the past and also in the fact that in doing so it give such a new idiom to the subject that aesthetics can never be pre-Kantian. Further the Kantian aesthetics is an integral part of hic overall philosophical position called ‘critical philosophy’ which even today has a fundamental bearing on philosophical reflection all over the world.

Chapter I begins with a brief discussion of the nature, scope and significance of aesthetics in general and philosophy of art in particular. This is would be followed by highlighting the thoughts of the pre-Kantian philosophers – Plato, Aristotle and David Hume. The chapter ends with a discussion of what constitutes the significance of Kant’s aesthetics.

Chapter II discusses in detail Kant’s theory of aesthetic judgements in general and pure judgements of taste in particular. Its seeks to delineate to logical and epistemic features of Judgements about the beautiful as identified by Kant in his aesthetic framework.

Chapter III which deals with Kant’s theory of beauty in detail and in particular the defining feature of pure aesthetic experience and different kinds of beauty. The chapter ends with Kant’s identification of the distinction between beauty and sublimity.

Chapter IV focuses on Kant’s theory of art with special reference to his conceptions of creativity and genius and the relation of art to other aspects of human life.

Chapter V deals with the bearing of Kant’s aesthetic theory on aesthetic education. In doing so it brings out the cognitive, cultural, spiritual and moral dimensions which aesthetic education can acquire it its philosophical basis is informed by Kantian thought. The chapter ends with a brief discussion of the relation between moral experience and
experience of the sublime with a view to do justice to Kant’s conviction that the sublime constitutes a genuine and independent aesthetic category. The aim of this chapter is to emphasize the point that Kant’s aesthetic theory can not only stand on its own right due to its theoretical richness but also can have significant application in aesthetic pedagogy. Behind the rich and complex conceptual network which the Kantian aesthetics embodies, lies the leit motiv that the philosophical engagement with the aesthetic domain should identify how our consciousness of the beautiful and the sublime is an important way of being in the world aesthetically and thereby realize our supersensuous dimension.

Supervisor
Prof. S. G. Kulkarni

Ali Asghar Mollazehi
Reg No. 09HPPH08
Research Scholar,
Department of Philosophy,
School of Humanities,
University of Hyderabad.