



❖ **Snow Storm : Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth**
By Joseph Mallord William Turner

❖ 'The Capabilities Approach' : Work by Martha Nussbaum and Amartya Sen

1. Life: Being able to live to the end of a human life of normal length . . . ; not dying prematurely . . .

2. Bodily health: Being able to have good health, including reproductive health; being adequately nourished . . . ; being able to have adequate shelter . . .

3. Bodily integrity. Being able to move freely from place to place; being able to be secure against violent assault, including sexual assault . . . ; having opportunities for sexual satisfaction and for choice in matters of reproduction

4. Senses, imagination, thought : Being able to use the senses; being able to imagine, to think, and to reason-- and to do these things in . . . a way informed and cultivated by an adequate education . . . ; being able to use imagination and thought in connection with experiencing, and producing expressive works and events of one's own choice . . . ; being able to use one's mind in ways protected by guarantees of freedom of expression with respect to both political and artistic speech and freedom of religious exercise; being able to have pleasurable experiences and to avoid non-beneficial pain

5. Emotions. Being able to have attachments to things and persons outside ourselves; being able to love those who love and care for us; being able to grieve at their absence, to experience longing, gratitude, and justified anger; not having one's emotional developing blighted by fear or anxiety. . . .

6. Practical reason. Being able to form a conception of the good and to engage in critical reflection about the planning of one's own life. (This entails protection for liberty of conscience.)

7. Affiliation. Being able to live for and in relation to others, to recognize and show concern for other human beings, to engage in various forms of social interaction; being able to imagine the situation of another and to have compassion for that situation; having the capability for both justice and friendship. . . . Being able to be treated as a dignified being whose worth is equal to that of others.

8. Other species. Being able to live with concern for and in relation to animals, plants, and the world of nature.

9. Play. Being able to laugh, to play, to enjoy recreational activities.

10. Control over one's environment. (A) *Political:* being able to participate effectively in political choices that govern one's life; having the rights of political participation, free speech and freedom of association

(B) *Material:* being able to hold property (both land and movable goods); having the right to seek employment on an equal basis with others . . .

Note on 'Capabilities Approach':

The 'capabilities framework' shown above has been created by Martha Nussbaum (Philosopher based at University of Chicago). This is her attempt to answer one of the most important questions ever asked by humanity: 'What activities characteristically performed by human beings are so central that they seem definitive of a life that is truly human?'

This framework has significantly impacted thinking and work across wide range of fields including Development Economics and Human Rights. It can be observed that these capabilities rest on the fundamental principle of freedom and have a component of 'being able to' – which thinks of human beings as empowered entities ('agents') who have the strength to act and bring about change and whose achievements can be measures in terms of his or her own values and objectives.

Nussbaum and her associates argue that this is a universal framework and can be used to reflect about 'status of development' of any human population. The most significant value of this framework lies in the fact that it defines human development in moral and philosophical ways and not just in terms of narrow economic indicators.

As it is true with any work of scholarship, this work too will have its shortcomings and will get debated and further refined over period of time. But what amazed me about it was the incredible power of human mind to ask such important and difficult questions and to try and answer them with such profound simplicity and beauty.

Shailesh.

❖ **Power of Art : Rothko (A film by Simon Schama)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEIn1914XSM>

Art historian Simon Schama takes us on an heartfelt tour of the life and works of Mark Rothko, one of the greatest painters in the history.

A quote by Mark Rothko:

"When I was a younger man, art was a lonely thing. No galleries, no collectors, no critics, no money. Yet, it was a golden age, for we all had nothing to lose and a vision to gain. Today it is not quite the same. It is a time of tons of verbiage, activity, consumption.

*Which condition is better for the world at large I shall not venture to discuss. But I do know that many of those who are driven to this life are desperately searching for **those pockets of silence where we can root and grow. We must all hope we find them.**"*

❖ Quote from a speech by Theodore Roosevelt

'THE MAN IN THE ARENA':

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.



[About 'Treasures'](#)

It's a compilation that I put together every once in a while, of things that I have found to be beautiful and meaningful.

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