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SOCIETAL REFORMATION THROUGH LITERATURE: AN ESSENCE

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Abstract:

“In every age poets and social reformers have tried to stimulate the people of their own time to a nobler life by enchanting stories of the virtues of the heroes of old.”—Alfred Marshall

Literature is an artistic expression of profound thoughts, which is replete with spontaneous and intense passions, imaginative ideas and reflective viewpoints of the literary men. It is exposed in such a lucid form as to make it more comprehensible, giving aesthetic pleasure and relief to the mind of the common man. It interprets life with ornamental language the experiences and spiritual intuitions of man. Literature appeals us greatly due to its essential features including thought, feeling, imagination and beauty of style and form etc. Be it Shakespeare’s Macbeth or Yann Martel’s Life of PI including “Atlas Shrugged” magnum-opus work of Russian author Ayn Rand have been considered as a path breaking works of Literature towards societal transformation.

This paper addresses the following questions:

- How can literature change society?
- On what social changes literature aims and aspires?
- What are the developments at social level literature could bring about?

To answer the above the following works have been chosen from the writers who wrote on universal themes of social reformation: “Gitanjali” of Tagore, Kanthapura of Raja Rao, and Untouchable of Mulk Raj Anand. In the words of Goethe “Literature is the humanization of entire world” talks volumes about the purpose of literature.

Keywords: Literature-Humanization-Society-Universal themes-artistic thoughts-aesthetic pleasure-

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Social equality is the watch word for rational society

India is chaos in order, in order to retain the beauty of unity in diversity, the entire nation should develop affinity to the slogan “All for one and one for all” by word and spirit. Just to realize the objective mentioned above Indian Constitution has been framed by extracting the suitable layers from other Constitutions across the world. The very purpose of Indian Constitution is to emancipate and uplift the downtrodden community in all facets like social, political, economical, educational, religious, cultural and emotional upshots. As a matter of fact, it remained as a grand initiative materialized mostly for appreciation. However its real essence is lost as the downtrodden communities of the nation could not get the real benefit from the ideology of Indian Constitution. Now we see India as a land of tolerance and negligence, it may sound odd to some, true to many, perhaps false to none. The very definition of society has been battered beyond recovery in the independent India. When we look at the society from the stand point of a foreigner, he/she feels the social construction has been envisioned far advanced than many nations but the practicality to the citizens of India is just the contrast. Despite many reservations attributed to some categories ever since the nation attained independence, there is lots of suppression, income inequalities and exploitation still persisting in a free India. The reason behind this social conspiracy reflects in plethora of news papers and resonates in the media as an unending saga of corruption and vote bank politics. But when observed from a divergent perspective the repercussions prevailing are due to the negligence and untimely silence of an average Indian resulted in the decline of patriotism. These two factors plagiarized the entire nation to such a level that we defame our own nation in the name of the freedom of expression. Present research paper is an attempt to study, investigate and understand the social concerns from the works of Tagore, Raja Rao and Mulk Raj Anand in the contemporary society.

Perhaps the key word in any definition of society is "organized." Members of society do not have to live in close proximity to one another to be considered living together as long as they share the basic attributes of the society. Similar laws and values help to bring a society together and give it structure. They also help make a society mutually beneficial for its members. People living in a society usually receive some form of security or identification from being part of it, but they also bear the responsibility of living within its structure. The fair and proper administration of laws conforming to the natural law that all persons, irrespective of ethnic origin, gender, possessions, race, religion, etc., are to be treated equally and without prejudice.

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Tagore's Vision on world peace:

Rabindranath Tagore a writer of universal themes and human emotions. Through his works he pleads for the need of universal peace without which the obliteration of the world would be imminent. His works convey the same theme from divergent facets in order to ignite and illuminate the young human minds irrespective of the age group we fall into and depict the contemporary conditions and the righteous path way to promote mankind. He won Nobel prize in 1913 for his work Gitanjali, which was translated in to national and world languages

“Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high,
where knowledge is free.

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls.

Where words come out from the depth of truth,
where tireless striving stretches its arms toward perfection.

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost it's way
into the dreary desert sand of dead habit.

Where the mind is led forward by thee
into ever widening thought and action.

In to that heaven of freedom, my father,
LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE!”

These first30 lines of Gitanajali convey theme of universal brotherhood and peaceful coexistence without which the mankind goes back to Stone Age. LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE is no where written to convey that India should only know the need for peace and brotherhood but the entire world. Tagore believed that every nation is a state and whole world as one country abiding the principles and peaceful coexistence.

Abdul kalam's quote resonates “Aap aage bado dhuniya apne aap aage badega”

Sanskrit reference could be “Swa dharma palana” insists mankind to be responsible for their progress as a great boon personal familial and social spheres.

“If we tend to need a society of peace, then we tend to cannot attain such a society through violence. If we tend to need a society while not discrimination, then we tend to should not discriminate against anyone within the method of building this society. If we tend to need a

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society that's democratic, then democracy should become a method still as associate degree finish." Bayard Rustin

maybe the key word in any definition of society is "organized." Members of society don't need to sleep in shut proximity to 1 another to be thought of inhabitation as long as they share the fundamental attributes of the society. Similar laws and values facilitate to bring a society along and provides it structure. They additionally facilitate create a society dependent for its members. folks living in an exceedingly society typically receive some style of security or identification from being a part of it, however they additionally bear the responsibility of living inside its structure The honest and correct administration of laws orthodox to the law that each one persons, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, possessions, race, religion, etc., area unit to be treated equally and while not prejudice.

Tagore's Vision on world peace:

Rabindranath Tagore a author of universal themes and human emotions. Through his works he pleads for the requirement of universal peace while not that the obliteration of the planet would be impending. His works convey a similar theme from divergent aspects so as to ignite and illuminate the young human minds regardless of the age bracket we tend to make up and depict the up to date conditions and also the righteous path thanks to promote humankind. He won laurels in 1913 for his work Gitanjali, that was translated in to national and world languages

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and the head is command high,
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In thereto heaven of freedom, my father,

LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE!”

These first30 lines of Gitanajali convey theme of universal brotherhood and peaceful beingness while not that the humankind goes back to time period. LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE is not any wherever written to convey that Asian nation ought to solely understand the requirement for peace

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and brotherhood however the complete world. Tagore believed that each nation could be a state and whole world jointly country imperishable the principles and peaceful beingness.

Abdul kalam's quote resonates "Aap aage bado dhuniya apne aap aage badega"

Sanskrit reference may well be "Swa Hindu deity palana" insists humankind to be accountable for their progress as a good boon personal familial and social spheres.

This is the height of hypocrisy. Mulk Raj shows his utter concern and becomes the real forerunner of social change in bringing out a novel on the theme of Untouchability which was very timely. It was a clarion call by the novelist to by holding a mirror in the faces of the shams like pandith Kalinath in the society. He has portrayed the shams and hypocrisy underlying the polished layer of social life with "Dickensian piquancy of realism". Reconstruction of society is possible by redefining the responsibility of individuals in a society. Justice In this direction, the spirit of patriotism and service within individuals should rise from mere rhetoric every year to an ever ending action every moment.

Conclusion: Thus a society untouched by exploitation of another class or gender would be an outcome if we dream and act for harmonious society. Dreaming is outdated and dreams with action is updated version of a righteous society. Person without eyes is not blind but without vision is blind. When we envision like tagore a universal harmonious society with equality and responsibility as watch words. Then in such world we find pleasure and peace flowing in all directions. Patriotism, as presented by Mulk raj Anand in Kanthapura would contribute to the development of nation on one direction and on the other pivotal side we safeguard our culture and its significance which acts as a catalyst to promote national integrity blended with unity. Last but not the least is Anand's flawless society without which all other efforts go in vain if they fail to benefit the stake holders. When we speak we convey but when we act we inspire, this should pave way to social activism eventually leads us to know our duties to react and respond before a mishap or atrocity so as to limit the lamentation after such an event. As it is rightly said "prevention is better than cure"

The following words throw light on the individual responsibility towards making a just society.

The eternal dream of justice

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Is a misnomer born from the tireless efforts of the few souls?
That sacrificed against harsh reality of life.
The most unfortunate reality that ageless shadows of darkness
Cease not by the few gentle rays of light.
But the meaning of their short existence is to sparkle
The spirit of equality and freedom by
Breaking the chains of selfish patterns of life to witness the dream world.
May the vision of the souls awaken all lands from the bedlam of profound pain
Into a new dawn of freedom and equality for a Just World.

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