

DEMOCRATIC WORLD THROUGH WALT WHITMAN AND KEKI N. DARUWALLA'S POEMS

Rajani Tewari & Sandeep Verma

Research Scholar, Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Received: 18 Oct 2019

Accepted: 30 Oct 2019

Published: 31 Oct 2019

ABSTRACT

Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla wanted to spread the message of love and peace through their poems. Keki N. Daruwalla throws light on how violence takes place in India for no reason at a blink of eyes. Keki N. Daruwalla finds himself helpless many times when people kill each other. He is a minute observer of human feelings. As he had been an IPS Officer, its impact can be seen in his work. He wrote about what he saw. Keki N. Daruwalla wanted one world without any boundaries and same was with Walt Whitman. He wanted Democratic world. Walt Whitman gave emphasis on universal brotherhood, comradeship and fraternity. Keki N. Daruwalla feels that animals kill each other for food as they are dependent upon each other but why do human beings kill each other for no reason; why they are thirsty of each other's blood. Keki N. Daruwalla as well as Walt Whitman feels that war is futile and there should be no war in future. People should learn from history.

KEYWORDS: *Democratic World, Universal Brotherhood, Comradeship, Fraternity*

INTRODUCTION

Keki N. Daruwalla as well as Walt Whitman was a staunch supporter of truth, love and non-violence. They wanted equal rights for all. They felt that everyone should be given human rights. There should be no discrimination. There should be one world. They have even tried to describe the cause of war and violence in their poems. We can get a glimpse of Indian as well as American society. Keki N. Daruwalla feels that animals are cruel because God has made them like that but why human beings are like that and why they are hungry for each other's blood for no reason.

Keki N. Daruwalla

On Violence: Keki N. Daruwalla was a keen observer. He observed what all he saw during his profession. He wrote about his experiences. He wrote about the harsh reality of life. He wrote about the experiences.

Curfew: Keki N. Daruwalla wrote about the curfew which took place. In this, people had to stay inside their houses. They were not allowed to move out of their houses. People could not move out to get medicines and due to that many people died. Dead people could not be taken out for the cremation dead bodies were lying inside the houses but for how long. Women could not move out to get the milk for their babies.

Sometimes the police men are ordered to shoot at the agitated mob. Many people died and they are thus taken to the hospital on the ambulance for the post mortem. There the people come to check the dead body and identify them if it is of their loved one. Many innocent people also become the victim of the crime.

Death by Burial: In this poem Keki N. Daruwalla talk about Bandits who come to the village to loot the ladies. Tries to take away everything of women; their bangles, their earrings, jewellery as well as money. They rape the daughter in law.

They torture the women and ask about the place where they might have kept the money they then leave the place. But when they attack the next time they tried to make everyone scared with the pistol. They then fired in the air but it could not work.

They were surrounded by villagers who happened to overtake them. The villagers caught and put them in a sack. They then served. Then there was an argument related to should they be burnt or buried (cremated). During this time, they could manage to run away leaving the villagers to fight amongst themselves. As after the argument took the shape of fight and communal riots.

Riots: In this poem Keki N. Daruwalla says that riots take place in no second. People burn the buses as well as the cars. Shops and homes are burnt in no second. No one knows the reason for this kind of agitation. People throw bottles on the cars and buses and break the window panes. Poet feels that everything is burning even their bodies and their feet. He finds young boys burning the buses but he feels that the young boy would have been happier burning them. It's an aggressive mob.

Routine: In this poem Keki N. Daruwalla is trying to tell about the violence which takes place in a second. There was a group of agitated people who were committing this sin. They were burning tram cars. The police reached the site and tried to control the situation. In this very situation they were young teenagers too. They were involved in burning the tram cars but he felt that they would have been happier if they would have burnt policemen alive. The mob was asked to stop any kind of violence but still when they didn't hear the orders policemen were asked to shoot. The policemen loaded their guns and they were ordered to shoot. One bullet was shot and a person amongst the mob fell dead and he was taken for the post mortem. During evening time, he heard in the radio that one of the persons from the mob saying, "we won't stop until we achieve the aim".

Rumination: Keki N. Daruwalla feels that some kind of violence is going to take place. He is trying to find such places where people can be killed. Then he is also in search of places where people can be kept after they will be dead. They would be kept in some mortuary for post mortem. He says that it's a kind of place where all the dead bodies were kept after death. Their people will come to identify the dead bodies of their loved ones and take them away with themselves. He feels that dead bodies start stinking after day or two when they are dead.

He also sees a dead body of a lady who was stabbed on her breast by her husband and her lungs were punctured by him because of infidelity. He was suspicious of her having affair with some other person. He feels that everyone can adjust after death even if they are buried or cremated. If the body is thrown to the vultures for eating then also it surrenders. Then the rain comes and it clears everything and he feels that his soul should also be cleaned but now it can't happen as such because it happened when he was a child and now he finds it impossible.

Partition: In this poem Keki N. Daruwalla tries to describe that how during India Pakistan partition many people migrated to India. One could see many trains loaded with the dead bodies. People had killed each other. Many people died on the way due to diseases. Therefore the poet is against any kind of violence or war. The poet wants one world without any boundaries. Poet believes in democratic world. The poet feels that animals kill each other because the god has made its

nature in that manner but why are human beings so cruel and why they kill each other for no reason; are they worst than animals.

Gandhi: Keki N. Daruwalla feels that people celebrate Gandhi's birthday but no one knows the significance. Children should be taught about Mahatma Gandhi and how he sacrificed his life for the country and his people. He was also murdered for the great deeds he did. He was against any kind of violence. He believed in love, truth and non-violence.

King Speaks to his Scribe: In this poem Keki N. Daruwalla tries to describe about how King Asoka fought the battle of Kalinga which was the deadliest war which took place in history. Millions of people were killed during the war. How he repented for what he had done. He felt sorry when he looked at the dead bodies of people lying here and there after the war got over. The dead bodies were half burnt and the head was lying somewhere and body was somewhere else. Asoka never knew the consequences of war. He never knew that so many people would be dead. He could hear the wailing of children and widows. There was no one to welcome him when he returned after winning the war. He felt there was a river blood flowing between him and the common masses. He wanted to come close to the common masses but he didn't know how. So therefore, he decided to serve the common masses. He built the Stupas and asked his messengers to spread the message of peace and love around the world. He gave up war and joined Buddhism. So the poet wants to describe that human beings are cruel by nature. They have greed for power and lust. One race wants to dominate another race. Due to this, the war took place in earlier times and even now one can see the war taking place and even in future the same would remain as this is the human tendency.

Mahabharat: In this poem Keki N. Daruwalla tries to describe how the war takes place between the Pandavas and Kauravas and how Krishna comes for Pandavas rescue. Thus, Mahabharat takes place and thus Bhagwad Gita was written. Its dialogues takes place between Krishna and Arjuna. But why did Mahabharata took place? Poet feels that if the Pandavas were given five villages then this war would not have taken place. Poet feels that why did Yudhishtra play the game of gamble. Why did he put his wife Draupadi in stake? Why Draupadi was wife of five Pandavas. The poet feels that first she was exploited by five Pandavas and then Kauravas. Why did Pandavas cheat the Kauravas during the war time? Was it like everything fair in love and war? Though, it is said that Mahabharat is a war between right and wrong. Pandavas win at last. Thus, we can say that alas truth triumphs. But the poet feels that what we are seeing outside is already going inside our mind. It's inside us. Therefore, war is not outside it's inside us inside our minds. That is the battle between the right and wrong and it's an ongoing battle and at last the right decisions, right things on our mind wins. We are at conflict and confused which one to choose, so therefore, after lots of efforts and thinking we come to some conclusion and take the right decision. But we should try to choose the right path. We should do right deeds. We should take right action at the right time. In this, Krishna tries to say that only body dies but soul is eternal. Like we change clothes, we change our bodies when we are dead. We are born again and again. Everything is a part of this universe and will stay in his universe only. Nothing will go out of this universe. Everything is a part of God so it will go back to god the supreme energy. So therefore, we should take the right action. We should do our karma. Krishna says everyone is inside me and I am inside everyone. Everyone is having the energy of God and that energy will return to god when one is dead.

Against Tyranny or Hitler

Keki N. Daruwalla was against tyranny and autocracy. He didn't like the rule of Hitler. He felt that third world war would start due to him. He tortured and killed many people. He feels that country should have good leaders. He feels that people

should also be responsible and chose the right person. They should not be swayed by fake promise. They should look at the work of people and not just listen to their meaningless speeches. They should not go on appearances. People should be aware about which leader to select. He was against any kind of cruelty and exploitation which was taking place at that time whether in Russia or Germany. He felt sad by listening to the state of people in Russia how they were made to work like machines and they were not paid accordingly. When they died there was no one to look after their children. It seemed that as though everything was cold hearts of the ruler as well as weather condition. Children were also made to work and those who tried to raise their voice were either executed or were sent in exile. Poets were sent in exile whether in Russia or in china they were not allowed to express themselves. They were not allowed to meet their family people. They had to live in isolation.

Walt Whitman:

There is hatred due to jealousy. There was a civil war taking place during his time. There was a discrimination taking place on the basis of race, colour and economic status. White people thought themselves to be superior to black people. They made black people their slave. Black people were sold in different parts of the world. Black people were made slaves and they were exploited. They were not given the right to education, to live with dignity. They were forced to do the work of labour. Walt Whitman was against this. Black women were sold to the highest bidder. Women were not respected. Abraham Lincoln when spoke against prostitution and spoke not to discriminate on the basis of colour or race, he was killed. He had to sacrifice his life for the people, as he also wanted one democratic world. He felt all are connected with each other so why to discriminate. All are equal and there is no differentiation between two human beings. Walt Whitman wanted to spread the message of comradeship, fraternity as well as universal brotherhood through his poems. He feels that people should not lose hope even if there are great dangers. All the people whether men or women should come together and be united and fight for the freedom as well as bring revolution for better world. He believed in Indian Philosophies. He says that if God or Sun doesn't discriminate why I should discriminate amongst anyone. He feels that all should have some aim. One should work to build better future. People from America should go and visit India. Learn yoga and meditation as well as Indian philosophies like Vedas, Mahabharata, Ramayana, etc. Indian people should come to America and learn about technical advancement. There is so much to share. He felt that youngsters should bring revolution for better world. Women should be respected in society and be given equal status. Everyone should be given equal rights as everyone is a part of God and has the same energy. Walt Whitman nursed the wounded soldiers during the civil war. He taught through action what he preached. He wants the same from the coming leaders. He feels that people should choose the right leader so that there is no more war or killing of people. There should be one world, one nation full of love and unity.

SUGGESTIONS

- Students should be taught about Keki N. Daruwalla and Walt Whitman's poems, so that, they can help in the development of the nation, by becoming socially aware about the social evils existing in society.
- Students should be taught about love, truth and non-violence as described by Keki N. Daruwalla in his poem Gandhi.
- Students should be taught not to discriminate on the basis of colour, race or religion.
- People should be taught about the great leaders and their sacrifices like of Abraham Lincoln. Walt Whitman has paid tribute to Abraham Lincoln in his poem O Captain! My captain!

CONCLUSIONS

Keki N. Daruwalla and Walt Whitman were against any kind of violence. They believed in love and compassion. They felt that there should be universal brotherhood, fraternity and comradeship which should prevail in our country. They wanted one world. They had a dream of democratic world where there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or religion. All are treated equally. All are given human rights and no one's rights are violated. For that students should be taught moral values from the poems of Keki N. Daruwalla as well as Walt Whitman, so that, students should become socially aware about their surroundings and thus can help in the development of the country or nation.

REFERENCES

1. *Daruwalla Keki N. Daruwalla Under Orion. New Delhi: Rupa & Co. 2000 Print.*
2. *Tewari, R. Preserving Peace and Humanity through Walt and Keki's Poem.*
3. *The Scarecrow and the Ghost. New Delhi: Rupa & Co. 2004 Print.*
4. *Huq. Rubana (edu.) The Golden Treasury of Writers Workshop Poetry. Dhaka and Kolkatta. 2008 Print. -collected poems, New Delhi: Penguin books 2002 print.*
5. *Arnold, Mathew Essay in Criticism : Second Series. London : Mac Millan & Co. 1938 Print.*
6. *Asselineau, Roger, The Evolution of Walt Whitman Mass. & Cambridge : Harvard University Press. 1961 Print.*
7. *Canby, Henry S. Walt Whitman. An American: A study in biography. Boston. 1943 Print.*

AUTHOR PROFILE



Rajani Tewari, B.ED, M. Ed, M.A. English, PGDCA, PGDEA, Ph. D (English)-English Teacher in St. Amtul's Public School, Nainital. She is pursuing her Ph. D (English) from Teerthanker Mahaveer University. She has also written a book Education Revolution-Path Leading Towards Humanitarian and Peaceful world. She has a rich experience of teaching in Higher Education (B.Ed Institute). She has attended as well presented many research papers in many National as well as International Conferences and has got many Research Papers published in many national and International journal like Malaysian journal -DIRPUB.

