

Perspectives of Hunger in Basheer's Works

Dr. Bennichen Scaria,
Pavanatma College, Murickassery

Abstract

Vaikom Mohammad Basheer, is a legendary figure in Malayalam literature. Basheer's works, entrenched in vivid experiences of life, led the reader into the world of similar occurrences. Basheer extracts some points from his collection of experiences and elegantly presents them through his works. Basheer is a writer who has surpassed misfortunes in his life. Basheer pens his genius by breaking the boundaries of grammar and language rules and presenting the vision of hunger without the rhetoric of figurative words. This article intends to re read the virtuosity of Beypore Sultan in his portrayal of hunger through his works.

Key words: Humanity, Bharata Mata, Visappu, Janmadinam, Amma

Basheer's works trace the footprints of distractions and depict poverty and harsh realities of life. His writing is a celebration of humanity that makes people laugh and think in the language of the common man. Telling the stories of people living at the grassroots level of society, gave rise to the intensity of their thoughts, feelings and emotions in terms of life experiences. The characters and stories of hunger and poverty were enough to break the reader. One can experience pictures of life turning into bone marrow in hunger that burns everything in *Janmadinam* and *Visappu*. Basheer's writings deal with internal experiences as well as world experiences.

Basheer's *Janmadinam* is a reflection of the depths of hunger that question pride. The protagonist, who is completely hungry on his birthday, explains how painful hunger can make a human being. The celebrities who visit him do not ask about hunger but engages in conversations about important social issues. Moreover, the hungry child is tricked by gifting counterfeit money. Basheer shows the courage to cover up the hypocrisy of a society that pretends not to see the slightest hint of hunger pangs. Finally, the protagonist, who needs to steal food from the neighborhood to satisfy his stomach as a birthday present, becomes a personification of shattered existence and pride when he pretends to be a hungry clown. The protagonist, who claims that his own body is someone's food, also reflects Basheer's sense of justice for hunger. Everywhere billions of men and women are starving. Basheer sighs that he himself was among them.

The story *Amma* is about a mother who prepares dinner every night and waits for her son. In this story, we find the motherhood that is always vigilant against hunger. This is a story that symbolizes pre-independence India, its poverty, hunger and slavery. Through this story Basheer asks his mother why she gave birth to him to this unfortunate land full of hunger, slavery and disease. The mother who asks the one who only cares to wear a *khadar mundu* and a *khadi* shirt, whether this pride satisfies their appetite is a symbol of hunger for every Indian. The beggar in the story *Bharata Mata* is a direct picture of hunger with her eyes closed, her cheeks bent and her bones bent inwards. The boy with sore skin and the blind girl with the protruded stomach are the remnants of hunger. The memory the eldest son who was starved and finally caught in an attempted robbery and died in prison breaks the heart of both the protagonist and the reader. The sight of the lady walking with the blind girl after a sumptuous food, he remarks "Me too have hunger". It is here that the hunger pangs from the inside are revealed.

Basheer is trying to find the depth of hunger that he has experienced for himself and his companions. Basheer's writings were able to express human reality in depth. Growing up seeing and experiencing the misery of hunger Basheer tries to portray these expressions through his works.

Conclusion

Basheer's story with signs of burning stomach poverty touched the hearts of the readers. The ruling will never be hungry. He explains that he who is ruled knows the intensity of hunger. Poverty is a terrible experience. He believed that indigence destroys body, heart and soul.