

Lakshminath Bezbaruah and his contribution to Assamese Literature

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Abstract

Lakshminath Bezbaruah was an honest writer of Assamese Literature. He was a novelist, editor of Journal Jonaki, poet and play writer of recent Assamese literature. Lakshminath Bezbaruah the author of Jonaki, which begins the amount of recent Assamese literature. During this point the famous Assamese periodical Jonaki was launched under the leadership of Chandra Kumar Agarwala. He was the editor and thus the publisher of the Journal. Lakshminath Bezbaruah actively participated in this venture. His first satirical pieces appeared within the pages of Jonaki, within the second year of the journal, he wrote extensively under the pseudonym Kripaabar Baruah. Lakshminath Bezbaruah dominated the Assamese literary scene for about half a century. During his life time he devoted himself to revive the lost glory of Assamese literature. In those days, Assamese wasn't utilized within the varsity, course of the state. Lakshminath Bezbaruah fought for incessant battle with many of his contemporaries to work out an accurate place for Assamese within the state. His literary and cultural crusade was aimed toward the overall development of the Assamese society.

Keywords: Lakshminath Bezbaruah, contribution, Assamese, Literature, Jonaki.

I. Introduction

Lakshminath Bezbaruah was an Indian poet, short story writer, novelist and playwright of recent Assamese literature. He was one among the literary stalwarts of the Jonaki Era, the age of romanticism in Assamese literature when through his essays, plays, fiction, poetry, satires, he gave a replacement impetus to the then stagnating Assamese literary caravan. He knowledgeable the prevailing social environment through his satirical works to bring the sustain positive changes to the previous. His literature reflected the deeper urges of the people of Assam. Bezbaruah was honoured by a completely unique title as 'Roxoraj' by the Assam Sahitya Sabha. 'Roxoraj' meaning 'The King Of Humour' in Assamese literature for his ever popular satirical writings under the nom de plume 'Kripaabar Baruah', a pseudo personality that he created and portrayed because the lead character in such works. He is also known in Assamese literary society because the 'Sahityarathi' which suggests 'Charioteer of literature' for his expertise altogether branches of literature.

1.1. Personal life

Lakshminath Bezbaruah was born in 1864. Lakshminath Bezbaruah was born on a ship during a sand bank of the river Brahmaputra at Ahatguri, near Nagaon. His father was a senior official with British government. His father name was Dinanath Bezbaruah. Looking back on his rather unusual, when a son was born in those days it had been customary to welcome the newborn by blowing conch shells and perform other auspicious rites. But under such extraordinary circumstances Bezbaruah had to return back to the world with none of the quality welcomes rites. Lakshminath Bezbaruah spent his childhood in numerous places of Assam and eventually they settled in Sibsagar. Lakshminath Bezbaruah received his early education at Sibsagar Govt. high school at Sibsagar. Thereafter he studied for his F.A. from the town College and subsequently graduated with B.A from the General Assembly's Institution in Calcutta

then he studied his M.A. and B.L. degrees from the University of Calcutta. then he married Pragyasundari Devi , Lakshminath Bezbaruah was died in 1938 at Dibrugarh , Assam.

II. Literary composition

Bezbaruah was honoured by a singular title on 29 December 1931 as ‘Roxoraj’ by Assam Sahitya Sabha at its Sibsagar session. Within the felicitation letter by Assam Sahitya Sabha , the word ‘Sahityarathi’ was used for the primary time for Bezbaruah. Roxoraj meaning ‘The King of Humour’ in Assamese literature for his ever popular satirical writings under the nom de plume ‘Kripaabar Borboruah’ a pseudo personality that he created and portrayed and the lead character in such works. He also knew in Assamese literary society and also the ‘Sahityarathi’ which means ‘Chariateer of Literature’ for his expertise altogether branches of literature. Lakshminath Bezbaruah wasn't only the first Assamese story writer, but also has paved the way for several aspects of Assamese literature. He has contributed eminently within the field of Assamese poetry, story, drama, novel, essay, humorous literature, biographies, auto bio graphics, memorials and journalism for a whole period between 1890 to 1938. Bezbaruah started his literary career with a farce, Litikai in 1890, serialised from the primary issue of Jonaki magazine. He wrote 8 plays , 4 farces , 3 historical works , 1 act drama , 3 biographies and a few of autobiographies . He also wrote for the youngsters. He collected and compiled folk tales of Assam (Xadhukotha) and added on his own to the basket, quite few new tales to the advantage of nurturing parents and babysitters. His short stories covered the various features from the Assamese society but with humorous sentiment. Bezbaruah was equally pioneering and prolific when it came to writing prose. His favourite from when writing prose was the historical novel and simply cast himself because the master of this genre in Assamese literature when he wrote his acclaimed Podumkuwari. It had been published in 1905. Having a further ordinary command over both western and classical orientation gave him another advantage in laying the inspiration of up to date Assamese literature. He had written his short stories quite a century ago. Even the first Assamese film made by Jyotiprasad Agarwala was supported Lakshminath Bezbaruah's play Joymoti. Bezbaruah was overwhelmed by Jyotiprasad agarwala's Joymoti and conveyed this sense to the filmmaker by writing a note of appreciation on the film during the last days of his life. The environment during his time, the social organisation and thus the people's way of living were all different. A society under goes marked changes with the passage of your time. But it's note worthy that despite the advance in time, several characters that appear in Bezbaruah's stories their dialogue and their natures are still relevant in today's times. The Journal Jonaki was primarily aimed to reformation of the Assamese society and rediscovering the wealth and wonder ingrained in Assamese tradition and folk lore and Lakshminath Bezbaruah was the simplest literature of Jonaki age. Bezbaruah edited the Journal Banhi between 1910 and 1935 and succeeded in stirring the latent creative urge within the Assamese minds and hearts. ‘O mur apunar desh’ is the state song or state anthem of the Assam. It was written by Lakshminath Bezbaruah and attuned by Kamala Prasad Agarwala. The song itself is from among the finest poems created by Lakshminath Bezbaruah . It was first published in 1909 in an Assamese magazine named Banhi. The historical dramas were written by the author with the inspiration of love to the own country and raised. And also respect to the heroes of own raised and country in the main cause of inspiration for the author. The respect to revolution of the society and the patriotic sentiment for own history were the main reason for the creation of historical dramas. Lakshminath Bezbaruah wrote three historical dramas, which were -Joymoti Konwari , Chkradhvaj Singha, Belimaar . He also wrote comic plays, which were- Litikai , Nomal , Paachoni and Chikorpoti Nikarpoti . He was the first author of Assamese short story . He wrote many short stories which are wealth of Assamese literature. His short story collection were Surabhi , Xadhukothar Kuki , Jonbiri and Kehokoli . ‘Mor Jibon Sowaran’ was his auto biography. In his auto biography he explained every incident of his life. Through his autobiography we can learn about many rules and regulation of old Assamese society. His collection of stories include the immensely popular Burhi Air Xadhu , Koka Deuta Aru Nati Lora , Junuka published between 1909 and 1913 which still con- inue to intrhall the young and old alike . He also wrote many biographies, which were- Dinanath Bezbaruahar

Xankhpto Jibon Charit , Sri Sri Shankardev , Mahapurush Sri Sankardev Aru Sri Madhabdev . His translated work 'Bharat Barhar Buronji' published in 1906 bears testimony to his historical awarness and Consciousness . Lakshminath Bezbaruah's satire essays were Kripabor Baruahar Kakotor Tupula, Kripabar Baruahar Obhotani , Barbaruahar Bhabar Burburani , Barbaruahar Buloni . Other collection by Lakshminath Bezbaruah were Kamat Krititwa Labhibar Xonket , Bhagwat Kotha , Bharatbarshar Buronji , Tatwa Kotha , Sri Krishnakatha , The Religion Of Love and Devotion , Axomiya Bhaxa aru Xahitya, History Of Vaishnavism In India , Raxolila Of Sri Krishna .Bezbaruah was an unashamed liberal and all his observation of people and places were strongly tinged with the sense of rationalisation . His thought provoking essays on the position of faith in lifestyle reflects his rationalisation also as his liberal outlook. Lakshminath Bezbaruah was a strong representative the creative and imtell ectual resurgence of recent India. As a person's being Lakshminath Bezbaruah was honest and sincere and open minded. He was a product of the Bengal renaissance and therefore the romantic idealism of the western world within the real sense of the term . He cherished the renaissance ideals strongly exhibited within the lifetime of Anandaram Dhekial Phukan who was a dreamer and visionary of 19th century Assam. Like an archetypal romantic hero, Lakshminath Bezbaruah was a wonderer in his real world too. He spent a substantial a part of his life touring and visiting the jungles of Sambalpur and even the forest of Assam. Later he was to use material from these visits in his prolific writing. Deeply patriotic, Bezbaruah remained loyal to his first love, literature. Lakshminath Bezbaruah was an Indian poet and play wrights of modern Assamese literature. He was one among the literary stalwarts of the Jonaki Era, the age of romanticism in Assamese literature when through his essays, fiction and satires; he gave a replacement impeture to the stagnating Assamese literary caravan.

III. Conclusion

A well known writer from Assam, Lakshminath Bezbaruah started his literary career in 1889 through his Journal Jonaki, He made immense contribution, to the deploiment and enrichment of Assamese literature. He has to his credit several plays, poems, essays, and fiction al work, several of which are based on patriotic themes. It was Lakshmintath Bezbaruah who wrote the patriotic song in Assamese, 'O Mur Apunar Desh '. Thus the name of Lakshminath Bezbaruah has been widespread through to out the Assam as an excellent literary figure.Assamese literature is far indebted to him for its prosperity. Lakshminath Bezbaruah was great thinker. He was a superb orator. He dedicated his life to the welfare of the people of Assam. He was an ideal to the people of Assam. They were inspired by his selfless work. The great son of Assam died at Dibrugarh in 1938. His memory will ever be cherished by vailing social environment through his satirical works to bring and sustain positive changes to the former. His literature reflected the deeper urges of the people of Assam within the autobiography he unflinchingly noted the weakness and failures of his life and career. Including the fact that he was unable to clear his law examination. After graduating from General Assembly College Bezbaruah had wanted to go abroad for higher studied.Unfortunately his conservative family did not approve of the idea, so Bezbaruah stayed on. But he was able to wuthstand tough opposition at another crucial juncture of his life. Growing up during a strictly Vaishnav environment , Bezbaruah faced opposition when he decided to marry Pragyasundari Devi, the grand daughter of Maharshi Devendranath Tagore, consistent with brahmo rites. He even refused to simply accept the Rs 10,000 dowry from the Tagore family .Unfortunately like many great writers, Bezbaruah was denied the popularity he deserved during his life time. The response to all or any 25 books he published, before 1930, was met with little or no appreciation from the overall public. Even today, little or no of his prolific output is basically appreciated. The house in Calcutta where he lived lies ruins. He died at Dibrugarh on March 26 and therefore the Asom Sahitya Sabha annually observes today Sahitya Divas.

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