



A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DR. DEBABRATA ROY'S ANTHOLOGY "MYSTI QUE OF THE WILY TROUBADOUR."

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Abstract :-

In my present book – review of Dr. Roy's "Mystique of the Wily Troubadour", I have presented different aspects of Dr. Roy's poetry. Dr. Roy has presented his views on different subjects in his poetry like Nature, humanity, sufferings and tribulations in life etc. In my present Book – Review I have dealt with different aspects of Dr. Roy's poetry.

Introduction.

A Brief Profile of Dr. Debabrata Roy:-

Dr. Debabrata Roy was born in East Bengal, spent an amazing childhood in the midst of its bogs and bugyals, lush foliage, fields and meadows, its mesmeric seasons.

His late father was a great source of inspiration to him who infused creative and literary spirit in him, Dr. Roy's father has brought him up, taught him and trained him .

Dr. Roy wanted to be a physicist but fate willed otherwise. Lady Fortune made him a public health specialist. At present he is a Pro-Vice Chancellor at Ras Bihari Bose Subharti University, Dehradun.

What is Poetry ?:-

Poetry is a type of literature that aims to evoke an emotional response in the reader through language chosen and arranged for its meaning, sound and rhythm.

The five defining characteristics of a poem include:-

1. meter
2. rhyme
3. form
4. sound
5. rhythm / timing

Poetry is defined as a type of literature or artistic writing that tries to appeal to the reader's emotions and imagination through a variety of different poetic techniques.

The poet uses a combination of rhythm word choice sounds, rhymes, structure and more to create a piece of writing that stirs the reader's feelings.

Poems come in lots of different forms and styles and the text is often separated into paragraphs which are called stanzas.

A poem is usually about or alluding to a specific topic or theme – some of the most common themes that poets write about is :-

1. love
2. nature
3. friendship
4. family
5. animals
6. good / evil
7. growing up & ageing
8. bravery & courage
9. prejudice
10. war.

Introduction to the “Mystique of the Wily Troubadour”

The book may be described as a collage of words of many hues, embodying fitting and nebulous thoughts in the sub or supra – conscious A pallor of melancholy has engulfed Dr. Debabrata Roy's poetry. The poet engages in extraordinary communion or sets up strange rendezvous with an ever – elusive renegade or comprador muse.

Dr. Debabrata Roy's poetry deals with a wide – variety of Themes. It is a perfect illustration of “Stream of consciousness” Technique i.e. psychological element abounds in his poetry.

He has dealt with universe, nature, human suffering . Dr Roy has also dealt with the spiritual aspect of sex. Moreover he has dealt with human anatomy also.

Dr Roy's present anthology is renowned due to the deft use of words and he has left no aspect of life untouched.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DR. ROY'S POETRY

1. Background and Setting:-

The background of Dr. Roy's poetry is amidst natural settings, He writes in "Bliss."

"the golden oriole

bucolic dreams in its kohl eyes

green warmth

of Polynesian islands under its wings

and wily petunias

connive and revel

in a riot of colored glee

springtide wells up

and sapphire tongues of bliss

like a sweet consumption of fire !"

Like a famous romantic poet William Wordsworth who has been regarded as a high priest of nature Dr. Roy sings of birds, flowers, animals. He says in his poem " Trust me please."

" trust me

for the umpteenth time

the demure jacaranda shall break into a

sprightly rustle.

bid good riddance riddance to the very profligate northerly

and the ever itinerant geese."

Wordsworth's nature poetry is characterized by accuracy of observation and truthfulness of representation. He is content to describe the bird and flower the wind and the tree, the river and the mountain just as they are and is content to let them speak their own message. He can actualize a scene faithfully and give a subtle expression to the sensuous delight the world of nature , for example he can describe joy of the daffodils :-

"Continuous as the stars that shine

And twinkle on the milky way

They stretched in never – ending line

Along the margin of the bay.”

The setting of Dr Roy’s poetry is generally is a dawn or a dusk. In “Silent soprano” he has written
 “ ingots of molten gold
 bejewel this december morning.”

In his poem “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”, T.S. Eliot writes
 “ The evening is spread out against the sky
 Like a patient etherized upon a table.”

2. Humanism in Dr. Roy’s poetry :-

Amidst natural settings there is a human suffering that has been brought out by Dr. Roy in his poem
 “Morning – a – Shulamite Lass.” He writes

“frivolous spring and its shenanigans
 wring her heart.”

William Wordsworth portrays the melancholic song of the Scottish maiden in his poem. “The Solitary Reaper.”

Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow,
 For old , unhappy for off things,
 And battle long ago.”

T.S. Eliot too brings out the monotony and ennui in his poem” The Waste Land.”
 Dr. Roy in his poem “A witness.” Brings out the element of monotone. He writes

“philia or eros
 mirth or melancholia
 very predictable and relentless soiree, this,
 inane with a riverine monotone.”

The poet Dr. Roy abounds in the love for humanity as in “Morning The Shulamite Lass” in which he writes.

“her flowing tresses auburn and fiery gold
 as the charismatic charioteer
 whilps his magnificent steed
 up into the firmament.”

Wordsworth too writes about the humble humanity. He poetizes the qualities of strength, hope, endurance
 simplicity, courage and determination which he finds in ordinary humanity. He treats “Nature and humanity” in
 the same way :-

“Love had he found in huts where poor men lie,
 His daily teachers had been woods and rills,
 The silence that is in the story sky,
 The sleep that is among the lively hills.”

The great American poet Walt Whitman also sings of common humanity. He sings of an average American as he writes in one of his renowned poem “One self I Sing.” “One’s self I sing a simple separate person. Yet utter the word Democratic the word En-masse.”

3. Treatment of Nature in Dr. Roy’s Poetry –

Dr. Roy sings of the nature universe and the celestial objects as is evident from his poems. He seeks for bliss of solitude in nature as he writes in “Baptism in solitude.”

“and an ordained consecration!
this communion was profound.
this proximity a sacred covenant
this baptism in solitude !”

The poet says that communion of baptism and solitude was profound. In his poem “Nimbus and the sapphire consumption the poet describes the landscape where clouds are conjuring up with a swagger and flourishing in a cope enchanting the conifers of the brown. He writes.

“the nimbus
conjured an ebony mystique
with a swagger and a flourish
of its dark cope.”

But there is no didactic element of Dr. Roy’s treatment of nature unlike Wordsworth who emphasizes on the educative aspect of nature when he writes

“One impulse from the vernal wood.
Can teach you more of man
of moral evil and good
Than all the sages can.”

4. Mysticism in Dr. Roy’s Poetry – His Philosophy-

Dr. Roy’s mysticism is found in the communion of his poetry with the Comprador muse. In this context he writes.

“it’s not easy
to keep holding four winds
it’s not easy either
to raise the bar
or cross the threshold
and witness
comprador muse violate the sacred
covenant
we made
and wallow
in germane endorphins
that assuage
all cowardice and caprice.”

Wordsworth's mysticism is grounded and rooted in the senses.

Whitman's mysticism lies with the feelings of oneness with all created things and his soul would embrace with love even the smallest created. He sees the divine presence permeating all the objects of nature.

In "Song of Myself" he tells us
 " And I know that the hand of God is the elder hand of my
 And I know that the spirit of God is the eldest brother own of my own."

5. Dr. Roy's poetic style –

Dr. Roy expresses his thought as it flashes across his mind. In his present anthology "The Mystique of the Wily Troubadour" has made the selective use of the words that bears evidence of his solid linguistic and academic background.

Dr. Roy has opposed some stereotypes while composing poems. He has not capitalized the initial words in the lines of any of his poems for instance :-

"mystique of the wily troubadour
 serenading peals from his tambourine
 in concentric words reverberated and spume
 an enchanting dies quiet
 as the rapt morning listened to his travelogue
 a wayfarer's tale
 from across bays and straits
 a tagoresque mien
 this canvas of cascading rains
 eager profligate words couldn't wait to embellish
 in wanton mirth !"

6. Psychological element an Dr. Roy's poetry :-

Psychological element abounds in Dr. Roy's poetry He has made use of "Stream of consciousness Technique" in which he penetrates into the chaotic welter of his character's emotions impulses and instincts.

The gloomy impasse engulfs the tender reservoir of pain that is burnt and critical. The mute conifers stick the darkness and then turn's blue gradually existing at or from the beginning of time. A terrible monster with wings is painful to the heart that is silly and irrelevant like pine wood sulks. He writes in "Winged heartaches."

"a saturnine impasse
 incubates tender reservoir of pain
 single and hold at ransom
 the mute conifers
 viscid darkness they drink
 and turns blue insidiously
 and the night primordial and profound lumbers along
 a behemoth
 winged heartaches ricochet off it
 inane and trivia as it were these.
 the pain wood sulks
 a saturnine impasse
 incubates tender reservoir pain

The nature of the character varies with the variant seasons. In the “ Morning-a-Shulamite Lass he writes.”

“ frivolous spring and its shenanigans
wring her heart.
the morning – very nubile and an eager wench
fecund spring has kept her at a thrall.”

7. Dr. Roy’s Treatment of Divinity –

A divine note pervades throughout the poetry of Dr. Roy. The poet has alluded to divinity in his several poems. He has dealt with celestial objects like sun, moon and the stars. In the “Vintage Moon” he has written :-

“it wasn’t the vintage moon
with quintessential prurience
pabored up from behind
the sleepy mountain hamlet.”

In the “sine-pence” moon he has written

“a six pence moon
bristted at this rite of passage
as rainbow denial morphed
into monochrome benediction.”

Conclusion -

“The Mystique of the Wily Troubadour” is one of the greatest Masterpieces of Dr. Debabrata Roy. In my present review I have dealt with several aspects of poetry .

Dr. Roy has left no stone unturned in touching the wide – variety of themes. Moreover I have attempted to present the various aspects of Dr. Roy’s poetry in the context of other poets also.

At least I would say words are not merely enough to eulogize Dr. Roy’s Anthology “ The Mystique of the wily Troubadour.”

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