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Inculcating Human Values through Keki N. Daruwalla's Poems

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11. Inculcating Human Values through Keki N. Daruwalla's Poems

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Abstract

Didacticism is one of the major functions of literature. Traditionally, Literature has had been playing a vital role in preaching and correcting wrongs in human society. World today is in the midst of chaos, human values such as love, equality, universal brotherhood, peace, non-violence, selflessness and so on are deteriorating from the society. Reasons for this degradation of human morality are many in numbers viz. selfishness, over greed for material pleasure, unfulfilled desire for power etc. Therefore, it is very important to inculcate human values amongst young generations through prescribing to them the literary texts which are delighting in nature and didactic in function. The poems of Indian English poet Keki. N. Daruwalla are extensively didactic in nature and exhibits core human values which are fundamental to human civilization. This research article is an attempt to study the selected poems of Keki N. Daruwalla in the light of human values and also appeals to the widespred readers to read them and imbibe values which are at the core of humanity.

Keywords: Didacticism, Literature, Human Values, Morality etc.

Keki N. Daruwalla is powerful voices of modern Indian English Poetry. He exhibits exemplary poetic skills and a great variety is his poetry. Evidently, his vast range of work is an outcome of his experience in direct dealing with the people and his keen observation of almost of all sectors of society. He is not only supple, subtle, sublime, sincere in his style but also superspecialized in sustaining in subject suiting his structure, which soothes us and provides solace to our souls. He inspires numerous readers to behold his themes with human values.

Keki also observed man struggling for the daily living, wars, violence, riots, bloodshed taking place in the society, partition, death, diseases prevailing, selling of woman, exploitation, and corruption taking place, hatred, jealousy etc. like emotions existing within man how a person

for daily living and due to societal pressures become a bandit. How superstitions exist in society etc. He tells about society, people, rituals, death, disease, emotions like jealousy, hatred leading to curfew, riots how a man is trying to kill another man. Through his poem, we come to know how cruel he can be?

K. N. Daruwala tries to make us aware of our surrounding. How one race conquered another race about fake ritual taking place, how people are dominated by their ministers when they attain authority. How one who is a Sadhu can be a fraud. How the people (men and women) are trapped in a society woven web. They are all trapped in some way or the other.

They have to follow all those rituals, traditions in whose web they all are trapped since the past many generations. In his "The King Speaks to a Scribe"

First, Kartikeya, there's no pride involved, nor humility; understand this. I speak of atonement, that is, if blood can ever be wiped away with words. We will engrave this message on volcanic rock, right here where the earth still reeks of slaughter.

The poem starts with Ashoka asserting to his scribe, Kartikeya, that what he is about to tell him does not come from pride or humility but atonement. Yet, there is an upfront awareness that his words will not be enough to wipe away all the blood that has been shed.

It also tells about how cruel a man can be when he is ambitious like king Asoka and how does he regret after killing so many innocent people in the battle of Kalinga. He feels guilty and doesn't know what he would do so that he would again be accepted by the people who have started hating him after Kalinga war. It helps us to ponder over what were those feelings that led him Kalinga war shedding so much of blood of innocent people and then why did he feel guilty.

Ashoka struggles to articulate the full extent of his own sorrow and pain for what he has caused and seen. He wants people to know that he can only offer them his quiet surrender so that they can do with him what they will.

He urges his scribe to write these messages on every available surface, etching them deeply

"cut deeper than the cuts of my sword" so that no force can make them disappear." It was dug deep into the rock so that generations could read his message of spreading love, peace, truth, and non-violence. He wanted to tell through it that how deeply he was hurt about it the Kalinga war which took place. He said that he was hurt so deeply he wanted to come close to common people but couldn't repent now as it was too late millions had already died and there was a river of blood flowing between him and the common people He can't cross this river and it's too difficult he can close to them only by serving humanity.

Our country being the biggest democratic country has always set an example for the whole world so again it's the duty of the teachers who are the guiding light to teach students who are the future of this developing country to learn and imbibe in themselves about peace and help in spreading the same message to the whole world if we want our children to live in a peaceful and loving world where there is no hatred, love for humanity, universal brotherhood, no exploitation, no discrimination, no selling of people and no war.

Keki through his poems tries to express what he sees and observes. He sees the riots taking place, corruption, exploitation taking place he expresses selling and buying of people. Hardships faced by the people during India Pakistan's partition. How people died during the partition and havoc it created. He talks about that in someplace there is dearth and scarcity of water and mosquitoes are biting but still people are staying in such places for the job to earn money. Farmers they marry and they leave their wives to feed themselves and their children all on their own therefore they indulge in prostitution. Man is cruel and enjoys giving pain to others as they are worst than animals.

Keki says that human beings are greedy, cruel, dominating since past many ages and centuries. For ex: Asoka, Mughals, Alexander etc. Wars have taken place and greed for domination, power etc. have taken place and would always remain the same as always. If one wants changes in society they can be made because even an individual can make a difference. Teachers by teaching students through value education, poems, stories, dramas, role—play, skets, operas, movies, audio-visual aids, field excursions, visit historical sites should spread and inculcate the values amongst students. Teach about human rights and duties. Make students responsible citizens who are dutiful and who know their rights.

It can be concluded that Keki's poem deals with human values. Students learn more by seeing and observing what others are following and doing they learn more through actions. Through the literature like Keki Daruwala, one can come to know about the lifestyle, thoughts,

feelings, emotions of human beings etc. So therefore, through poems, also message on human rights, duties, fraternity, universal brotherhood, peace, love, and non-violence can be spread Literature depicts the culture of the society. Keki talks about the harsh reality of life he doesn't want to change anything.

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