



Sense of patriotism in Sarojini' s poetry

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Abstract

Sarojini Naidu, a prominent Indian poetess, was deeply influenced by the sense of patriotism that prevailed during the Indian independence movement. Her poetry reflects a profound love for her country and an unwavering commitment to its liberation from colonial rule. In her verses, she masterfully weaves together the emotions of pride, nationalism, and the longing for freedom. Naidu's patriotism is evident in her passionate portrayal of India's rich cultural heritage, its diverse landscapes, and the heroic struggles of its people. She uses vivid imagery and evocative language to celebrate the spirit of the nation and its quest for independence. Moreover, her poems often incorporate traditional Indian motifs, symbols, and mythology to reinforce a sense of unity and identity among her fellow countrymen. Through her poetic expressions, Sarojini Naidu became a compelling voice of the Indian freedom movement, inspiring countless individuals to join the cause. Her profound sense of patriotism continues to resonate with readers, instilling a deep sense of pride and love for the country and its heritage, even long after her time.

Keywords : -Patriotism, Nationalism, India, National identity

Introduction

Sarojini Naidu, fondly known as the "Nightingale of India," was not only a gifted poetess but also an ardent patriot who played a significant role in India's struggle for independence. Born in 1879 in Hyderabad, she grew up during a time when the Indian subcontinent was under British colonial rule. Naidu's poetic journey was deeply entwined with her love for her country, and her verses became a powerful medium to express her unyielding patriotism.



In Naidu's poetry, one can discern an overwhelming sense of love and pride for India, its rich cultural heritage, and its people. Her verses are infused with a deep emotional connection to the land, reflecting her firm belief in India's greatness and potential for greatness. She celebrated the diverse landscapes, from the majestic mountains to the serene rivers, and painted vivid portraits of its enchanting beauty through her words.

One of the striking elements in Naidu's poetry is her portrayal of India as a nurturing mother figure, affectionate and caring towards her children. This metaphor of the motherland evoked a profound sense of attachment and duty among her readers, instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards the nation's welfare and freedom.

As a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement, Naidu actively participated in the struggle for self-rule. Her poetry became a source of inspiration and encouragement for her compatriots in their quest for freedom. In her literary gatherings and public readings, she used the power of her verses to stir the hearts of her listeners, igniting the flame of patriotism and motivating them to stand united against the colonial oppressors.

Naidu's works often showcased the valor and sacrifices of India's heroes and heroines, emphasizing the importance of national pride and identity. Her poems frequently drew from Indian mythology and folklore, intertwining the past and present to cultivate a collective memory of the country's glorious history and its ongoing battle for independence.

Throughout her literary career, Sarojini Naidu's poetry acted as a beacon of hope and resilience for her compatriots, fostering a strong sense of patriotism and national consciousness. Her contribution to India's struggle for freedom and her role as an influential poetess have earned her a revered place in the hearts of millions of Indians. Even today, her words continue to echo, inspiring generations to cherish and uphold the spirit of patriotism she so passionately conveyed through her poetic artistry.

In her impassioned speeches, she urged the students to cultivate a deep sense of pride in India and to actively contribute to the cause of national unity. She even expressed her devotion to India



in a letter to her son, Jaisoorya, stating that she had dedicated his young life to the service of the country long before he was born (Paranjape Letters 85).

Addressing Randheera, she emphasized the crucial role of the youth in shaping India's greatness, stating that the nation's potential could only be realized with the help of its young men (Paranjape Letters 89). Despite the rough world of politics, she brought a soothing touch of feminine sensibility to her role and stood firm on "The Golden Threshold" of free India as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Her vision was that of a rising nation, and she ardently believed that true patriotism was essential for individuals to be worthy of being called children of the great Motherland (Grover 146).

Patriotism became her all-consuming passion and obsession, evident not only in her nationalistic poems but also in her fervent and stirring speeches that ignited the emotions of the nation. Her public utterances reflected the spirit of her poetry, as noted by P.E. Dustoor, where the words she spoke were just as powerful and evocative as her verses (Naidu 6). Sarojini Naidu's speeches resonated with intense patriotism and a profound dedication to the service of the motherland. She covered all regions of India in her speeches, pouring forth her patriotic zeal and inspiring her fellow countrymen to break the chains of slavery and revive the cultural glory of the nation. Her words served as a clarion call for Indians to rise united and build a new, liberated India, fueling her burning desire for the country's freedom.

...inaugurate from Kailash to Kanyakumari, from the Indus to Brahmaputra an untiring and dynamic campaign to arouse, consolidate, educate and prepare the Indian people for all the progressive and ultimate stages of our united struggle and teach them that no sacrifice is too heavy, no suffering too great, no martyrdom too terrible, that enables us to redeem our Mother from the unspeakable dishonour of her bondage, and bequeath to our children an imperishable legacy of Peace. (Paranjape Prose 186)



Sarojini Naidu's speeches resounded like a trumpet call to patriotism, earning her a revered place in the annals of the Indian freedom movement. Her literary works, including poems, letters, and speeches, spanning different periods of her life, all reflect her unwavering passion and fervor for her beloved country. This deep love affair with India had its roots in her childhood (Narvane 75).

Even at the tender age of twelve, in her poem "Traveller's Song," one can discern a note of patriotism, showcasing her yearning for her motherland. The lines, "But wheresoever I may roam / I long for thee, my dear, dear home!" (Khan 256), exemplify her emotional attachment to India.

Living in an era of national awakening, Sarojini Naidu envisioned a beautiful and glorious India and dedicated herself to transforming this vision into reality. She felt a compelling urge to serve her country, as if the drumbeat of destiny called upon her to do so (Bird 79). Her poem "The Faery Isle of Janjira" expresses her determination to utilize the gift of her poetry in the service of her community. Responding with all her heart to the call of the motherland, she experienced an inner conflict between her desire to indulge in the beautiful Faery island of Janjira and the imperative call of duty. The longing for beauty and the joy of writing verses were irresistible, yet the urge for action and service to her country was equally potent. In the face of this conflict, she willingly chose to set aside personal pleasures and pains to passionately immerse herself in the affairs of her country and its people. She aspired to serve her country through her poetic voice, offering her song for the betterment of her nation.

The solace of faith to the lips that falter,

The succour of hope to the hands that fail,

The tidings of joy when Peace shall triumph,

When Truth shall conquer and Love prevail. (Bird 80)

Sarojini Naidu's poems offer a wide and enlightening view of the Indian world. As a poet, she delves into the customs, traditions, and values of the people, seeking to understand and uncover the essence of India. This deep engagement with human life stands as her enduring contribution to her country. Her poems often contain references to India's rich cultural heritage and its



profound mythological treasures, resonating with a patriotic spirit. Through her verses, she glorifies the ancient Indian culture and religious beliefs, often writing about Indian Gods and Goddesses. Her ardent patriotic instinct is evident throughout her work, as she consistently chooses Indian themes and settings for her poetry. She beautifully captures the pageantry of Indian life, infusing her verses with a sense of national pride. This patriotic strain runs strong in her poems, which portray the diversity and richness of Indian culture, further reinforcing her love for the motherland.

Need of the Study

The study of the sense of patriotism in Sarojini Naidu's poetry holds significant importance for several reasons. Sarojini Naidu was a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement, and her poetry played a crucial role in inspiring and mobilizing the masses during that historic period. Understanding the essence of patriotism in her works allows us to grasp the impact of literature as a tool for social and political change.

Naidu's poetry serves as a representation of the broader sentiment of patriotism that prevailed among the Indian population during the struggle for freedom. Analyzing her verses enables us to delve into the collective consciousness of the time and provides valuable insights into the aspirations, emotions, and challenges faced by the people under colonial rule. Furthermore, Naidu's poetic expression of patriotism offers a unique perspective on the diverse cultural fabric of India. Her incorporation of Indian symbols, mythology, and traditions in her poetry reinforces the idea of unity in diversity, a core value in the Indian ethos.

Studying the sense of patriotism in Sarojini Naidu's poetry also sheds light on the role of women in the freedom movement. As one of the pioneering female voices in Indian literature, her works challenge traditional gender roles and highlight the significant contributions of women in the fight for independence. Naidu's poetry continues to resonate with contemporary readers, evoking a sense of pride and belonging to the nation. By analyzing her verses, we can understand the enduring appeal of patriotism in literature and its ability to foster a sense of national identity and unity. Delving into the sense of patriotism in Sarojini Naidu's poetry is essential for



understanding the historical context, cultural significance, and enduring impact of her literary contributions. It offers valuable insights into the power of literature as a force for social change, the spirit of the Indian independence movement, and the celebration of national identity.

Conclusion

Sarojini Naidu's poetry brims with a profound sense of patriotism that remains a defining hallmark of her literary contributions. Her verses serve as an ode to India, capturing its diverse cultural tapestry, ancient traditions, and mythological richness. Through her poetic expression, she glorifies the nation's heritage and religious beliefs, fostering a deep sense of national pride.

Naidu's poems often depict the pageant of Indian life, celebrating its vibrant colors, customs, and values. She eloquently expresses her unwavering love and devotion to the motherland, intertwining her passion for poetry with her ardent desire to serve India. The frequent allusions to India's cultural wealth and mythological past reflect her commitment to preserving and promoting the essence of Indian identity.

In her works, Naidu emphasizes the crucial role of youth in shaping the destiny of the nation, urging them to be the architects of a new and liberated India. She invokes a sense of collective responsibility among her fellow countrymen, encouraging them to break the chains of slavery and strive for national unity.

Sarojini Naidu's poetry serves as a window into the soul of India, shedding light on its beauty, resilience, and enduring spirit. Her verses resonate with the echoes of patriotism, inspiring generations to come and fostering a profound connection to the land they call home. Through her literary brilliance and unwavering commitment to the service of the motherland, Naidu remains a beacon of inspiration for all those who strive to celebrate and uplift the essence of their own nations. Her legacy continues to live on, a testament to the power of poetry in nurturing a deep and abiding love for one's country.



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