

PERSONAL COMPLEXITIES IN THE CAPITALIST SOCIAL STRUCTURE: A CASE STUDY ON R K NARAYAN'S "THE GATEMAN'S GIFT"

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Abstract:

Ideas are a kind of faith and confidence that speak an individual to sprint life. Ideological domination constantly intimidate individual in the society. But it influences social structure in many forms. It sounds as if, it takes care of one to be the service man of other. In the light of such views, RK Narayan's "The Gateman's Gift" (1943) is presented to expose an ideological set up of a gatekeeper under the bourgeoisie's possession. Govinda Singh serves consistently the business company for twenty five years. His faithful service to his Sahib upholds an ordinary subordinate personnel's complexity in the capitalist social structure. It sounds the false consciousness of ordinary people who retires with continued loyalty to officer in the colonial regime and how their services are betrayed at the end.

Keywords: Capitalist Society, complexity, Colonial regime, Ideology, Faith.

Introduction:

"The Gateman's Gift" (1943) by R. K. Narayan contains a mixture of feelings and emotions of an ordinary man in 20th century. It conveys fear, insecurity, control, powerlessness, bravery and independence and a few other shades in mental process of common man. However, it also exposes the theme of fear, paralysis, insecurity, suffering, social opinion, pride and identity. The story is taken from Malgudi Days (1943) collection the story is narrated in third person by an unnamed narrator and after reading the story the reader realizes that Narayan may be exploring the theme of fear at the beginning but at the end of the story it reveals what's the cause of aimless or unintentionally being afraid about something without making any sense. Govind Singh is the central character of this story. He is the ex-gatemen who worries about his pension very much and becomes mad. He takes his hand made thing to his company each time when he goes to receive his pension. He, with his spouse lives a humble and bucolic life out of his twelve rupees pension. His wife also earns doing unskilled menial jobs of washing and sweeping in a couple of houses. It reflects their lower class life which they are honestly running. After retirement, He spends time by making the clay toys and visiting the nearby stalls of his cousin.

The story gives a message that unintentional thoughts and aimless things don't work in life. One should not leave one's passion and talent due to the fear on what people would think about them. Life is with full of complexity, a mixture of many ups and downs. It is the minimum responsibility of every one to take it as a challenge by not missing anything in it. Govind Singh's character reflects that one should not feel degraded for what they do even it is a watchman post or any other fourth class employment, one gets bread and butter with own hard work. It is nothing but the dignity of labour. The reward is offered to Govind Singh

at end is only Rs. 100. But it is not suitable and sufficient token of gratitude by the company to a sincere employ. Ultimately, it says that one should be aware of the what they are doing and what they are getting out of their work which is equal to their sweat and blood or not. It decides whether the profession is suitable to such people in Post Modern Era.

The emotional attitude of 19th century people can also be seen through Govind Singh Character. It is about elderly and retired gateman who used to live with his wife with pension of 12/-per month. In order to meet the expenses of his life, he innovatively discovers new avenues. As a part, he starts making a small clay sculpture after his retirement and sends them to sahib at his old company. One day Singh made a new discovery about him. A child brought him a doll for repair. He repaired it and started making dolls out of clay. This skill with which he made beautiful dolls made many people advice him. His models made a mini nature reflection of this world. He showed his loyalty to the Sahib of the company by making a present of his hard work to him. After sending his "master piece" he thought that he would get a piece of registered mail from his company. He is scared to open the mail and begins to slightly insane because he assumed that his pension has been cut off. Finally, he runs into an accountant from the office and tries to open the letter. It contains a reward check for his interesting art works, and a letter praising and encouraging him. R K Narayan's style is very simple and lucid with the flavor of local dialectical influence. C D Narsimhaiah in his comments on Narayan's style opines that Narayan writings are with local perspective of vernacular and accepted the comments made by William Walsh. He traces in the works of Narayan an artistic development which brings a positive relief, gentle irony, humour and a kind of tolerance of human eccentricity.

Conclusion:

It is not the just story of Govinda, a gateman. The protagonist stands for untiring services for 25 years. Though there are many challenges and hurdles in course of his personal and professional life, he never felt them as obstacles but he is happy with his life. In another way, one can understand that the capital cultural industry made him to follow and impose all kinds of things for which he never resort to fight against it during his tenure at the industry. The trick played by the corporate industry is to keep the working class people under the shelter of false consciousness. On the other hand, general people never dare to resist interests of the rulers because of their oppressive policies adopted by them. Thus the story reveals the Gateman's unforgettable characters, his simplicity and loyalty, his blameless career for 25 years, his art of preparing clay toys, and above all his misfortune and sympathetic life.

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