

Sweet and Sour Feelings of a Magnificent and Ferocious Animal: Tiger

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ABSTRACT

Human being is one of the most wonderful creations of the almighty God. It is special because it can express its emotion through various ways. There are visual as well as written ways of expressions are used by all of us. When we talk about written expression we cannot ignore the great literary personalities who have contributed their thoughts in various languages. Leaving the other languages apart when we focus on English language, which is the second language, we need to remember Mr. R.K. Narayan, a great writer. He is an architect of English language. His immense contribution in field of English literature is admirable. He brought revolution in English literature through his writing style. The fiction of R.K. Narayan brings the imagination to reality. As one goes into deep of the fictional stories, one realizes that each action narrated is happening around him. In his various novels and stories Narayan was successful to express the feeling, pain and thoughts of his characters with his magical words. The main thing which elicits our attention is that Narayan not only expresses the feelings of human beings but our national animal tiger. As we read the introduction of the book "A Tiger for Malgudi" we come across a conversation where the writer was asked that Why has he chosen a tiger and not a mouse? The writer replied to the smart journalist who had come to interview him, when he mentions the subject of his novel. , " so that the chief character may not be trampled upon or lost sight of its hole." (pg-8)"A Tiger for Malgudi" A king Penguin published by Penguin Books, reprinted 1987. This paper would be based on the book "A Tiger for Malgudi" A king Penguin published by Penguin Books, reprinted 1987.

Key Words: Tiger, expression feeling, architect

I INTRODUCTION

Reading has always been a staple food for the mind of a literature lover. When we explore the writing of English language in India contribution of R.K. Narayan elicits our attention tremendously.

At present everyone including an environmentalist or a common man is making a hue and cry to protect tiger the national animal of our country. When we look thirty six years back a book written by Mr. Narayan "A Tiger for Malgudi we find his deep concern about protection of animal as his primary concern. He has skillfully expressed the feelings of our national pride. The story starts with a scene where an aged tiger lying in its cage and thinking about its past. He thinks about its cub hood and wonderful days in the jungle and his life in captivity as a star performer of the circus. It even remembers how it attains freedom by escaping from a film shooting camp and wanders into the nearby town. The fear stricken public attempts to get it shot but how it was saved by an ascetic who appeared on the scene and protected it and adopted it as a companion for the further journey of life.

II LOCATION

The journey of a cub starts from a forest where he leads a free life and enjoys freedom with all other animals. His early days were mixture of pleasure and shame .The lived in far end of the Mampi range which trails off into the plain. It lived in his cave on the edge of a little rivulet. It swelled and roared along when it rained in the hills. It was fordable in dry season with

the jungle stretching away on other side.. The cub hood is recalled by the tiger" I remember my cub hood when I frolicked on the sandy bank and in the cool stream, protected and fed by a mother. I had no doubt whatever that she would live forever to look after me: a natural delusion which afflicts all creature including human beings." (pg-12).)"A Tiger for Malgudi" A king Penguin published by Penguin Books, reprinted 1987.

The magnificent animal even expresses its pride that how every creature in the jungle trembled when it sensed that the ferocious tiger was approaching it. It even expresses its fear to see a porcupine Though it could scare most of the wild animals of the forest, it was extremely scared of the creature having quills on its body. The tiger recalls," I once tried to toss him about and received such a stab of quills over my nose, jaws and paws that I retreated to my cave and collapsed. I lay there starving for several days; I expected I would soon be dead."(pg14) A Tiger For Malgudi" A king Penguin published by Penguin Books, reprinted 1987.

The writing of Narayan describes each location beautifully. The movement of the cub from cave to jungle has been expressed nicely. While reading one would enter the virtual location. The forest, the behavior of the residents of the forest is described lively. It simply holds the interest of the reader and provides many opportunities to smile.

III FROM FOREST TO VILLAGE

As the days passed the tiger had various experiences. He found that some of the tigers and cubs were taken away from the forest. So he followed them. He moved towards a village at night and found all the habitants were fast asleep. It moved around quietly. When the villagers realised that number of their cattle are reducing they decided to keep a watch. All the villagers were vigilant and took good care of their flocks. Due to those there was scarcity of food for the tiger for a few days but it found a way. Now it started visiting the village at night for the prey and somehow managed to survive.

IV GREED: AN OPEN DOOR TO HELL

The tiger even narrates how his greed brought him to the world of human being. Through this the writer wants to convey that anyone who wants to lead a peaceful life should not be greedy. Though in the beginning it was little cautious and avoided negligence to keep itself safe from any trap laid by the human beings. Just once it could not stop it's temptation that ended it's freedom. Though it regretted for it's deed but nothing on this world gave it a helping hand. This particular act changed it's fate and forever it was taken to a circus.

V FROM FOREST TO CIRCUS

The captured tiger was taken to a circus. The owner of the circus was extremely happy to see him. His happiness increased when saw the tiger was in pain.

The cruel nature of human being has been portrayed here "Now I saw a man with a long staff in hand standing close by, saying ,want to get out ? All rightcome on' and he poked with the staff and laughed when I protested. "pg40) A Tiger For Malgudi" A king Penguin published by Penguin Books, reprinted 1987.

VI CONCLUSION

The novel portrays the unbearable truth which revolves around human beings. For our own greed and benefit we don't spare these speechless creatures. Though we have a super mind, we leave no chance to harm others for little benefit or survival. Through his writing Narayan has tried to communicate that like human beings the wild animals also have feelings. We need to take extra care to save nature and our national pride. If we give a thought and observe carefully we will certainly agree that the nature is supreme. Let's all of us come together to take care of the nature and develop the right spirit of being human.

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