



Historical Background and title of Kanthapura by Raja Rao

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ABSTRACT:

Raja Rao was born in 1909 within the village of Hassana, in Mysore during a very South Indian Brahmin family. He lived in France from 1928 to 1939, came back to India on the eruption of war II in 1940 and once more visited France in 1946 and lived there until 1956. It had been in France, thousands of miles far from India that his initial novel *Kanthapura* (1938) was written. His love for Indian culture and philosophy colours his second novel *The Serpent* and also *The Rope* (1960). He accepted Hindu Atmanand, the good Vedantic scholar as his guide and mentor. Therefore the pursue a 'Guru' is Associate in Nursing ever – revenant theme in his novels. He spent some months in 1942 in Gandhiji's 'Ashram' and a few time at Mahakal Temple at Ujjain. In 1950 he visited USA and was fascinated by yank culture and approach of life. This is often the primary novel of Raja and in some ways his most excellent and satisfying work. It had been written in France thousands of miles far from India and nonetheless it provides a most graphic, vivid and realistic account of the Gandhian freedom struggle within the Nineteen Thirties and its impact on the plenty of India.

Keywords: freedom, struggle, poverty, exploitation, quest.

Introduction

Kanthapura could be a novel coping with the impact of the Gandhian freedom struggle on an overseas South Indian village of that name and what happens in *Kanthapura* was happening everywhere India in those stirring years from 1919 to 1931 of the Gandhian non-violent, non-co-operation movement for the independence of the country. Gandhi doesn't build a private look within the novel however he's perpetually gift within the background and at each step there area unit references to special events of the day like the historic Dandi March and also the breaking of the Salt Law. Therefore for the higher understanding of the novel it's essential to make a transparent plan of the vital political and social events connected with the Indian freedom struggle.

India's struggle for independence from the colonial rule of country goes back to the war of 1857 that was discharged by the Britishers as a mere mutiny. The battle for India's freedom continued to be fought on the social and economic fronts. Social reformers worked endlessly for the destruction of social evils like kid - wedding, Sati, untouchability, 'purdha' system and also the exploitation and unwell - treatment of widows. They waged a relentless war against illiteracy, belief, blind religion and orthodoxy. They highlighted the grinding economic condition of the Indian plenty that were being rendered poorer as a results of the economic exploitation on the part of their foreign rulers.

In 1885, the Indian National Congress was based by Associate in Nursing English person, A. O. Hume. Indians like Surendra Nat Banerjee, Feroze sovereign Mehta, Dadabhai Nowrosjee and lots of others voiced the Indian demand for 'home rule'. These leaders were moderate within their outlook as they were tuned in to the great that their contact with the Britishers had done to them in transferrable a couple of political and cultural regeneration in the country. The division within the rank and file of the party was perceptible at the Surat Session of the Congress in 1907. The Extremists light-emitting diode by Tilak assailed the Moderate and also the session skin up in confusion. The Congress remained underneath the leadership of the Moderates from 1907 to 1917. Indian plenty area unit deeply spiritual then faith was freely exploited by Indian patriots for the duration of the liberty struggle. The spiritual sentiments of the agricultural people were absolutely exploited by Tilak by introducing Hindu deity pageant and Shivaji Jayanti festivals in geographical area and indoctrination in them spirit, patriotism, discipline and unity. Athletic performances, loyal and spiritual songs, kathas and ballads were recited on an outsized scale, leading to a way of pride within the wonderful and worthy past of India. It's going to be mentioned that faith is employed during this terribly approach within the novel. There have been recitals of Kathas and holding of Harikathas and festivals everywhere the state. It had been underneath the guise of a procession of Ganapati that the folks of *Kanthapura* attempt to keep their escape. Faith vie a very important half within the Indian struggle for independence then it will within the novel.

It was the arrival of Gandhi from African nation that infused a replacement life and vitality into the Indian struggle for independence. He had already no inheritable appreciable expertise within the use of non-violence and non-co-operation as a political weapons however it had been in India that he formed his technique and used it successfully. Throughout the war years 1914 - 1918, he created a forceful plea for extending all attainable facilitate to within the hope that once the war some live of autonomy would be granted to the Indian people. Once the war was over, the thankless British government failed to fulfill the guarantees created to the Indian leaders however brought within the disreputable Rowlatt Act, 1919. The result was that Mahatma Gandhi gave the clarion imply direct action. There was Associate in Nursing upsurge of Indian nationalism and loyalty like had ne'er been

witnessed before. Public conferences were organized everywhere the country and leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Gopal avatar Gokhale etc freely voiced the demand for independence. As public enthusiasm mounted, government repression additionally exaggerated until there the tragedy of the Jallianwala Bagh was enacted on thirteenth April, 1919, that sent a wave of horror throughout the country. There have been signs of accelerating violence leading to unprecedented violence of Chauri - Chaura. Gandhi was afraid, regarded it as a private failure and suspended the movement. Gandhi continued to arrange the state for the prolonged struggle that lay ahead before independence may well be gained. He aimed toward the overall involvement of all sections of the Indian folks then launched a comprehensive programme of economic, social and spiritual uplift and freeing of the Indian folks. His programme of action was fourfold:

- a) Spinning of the charkha, weaving of one's own artifact and boycott of foreign garments
- b) Destruction of untouchability and alternative evils just like the purdah system in order that ladies and also the so - known as lower castes could play their half within the freedom struggle.
- c) Village upliftment, destruction of economic condition, illiteracy, casteism etc
- d) Hindu- Muslim unity.

Within the novel Moorthy places this terribly Gandhian program of action before the folks of Kanthapura. Gandhi's stress was on truth and non - violence and this message was carried to the remote components of the country by devoted Congress employees. Congress Committees were fashioned in each nook and corner of the country and Satyagrahis were trained to hold out the programme at the decision of the sage. The second part of the Gandhian direct action began in 1929. This point the movement was additional militant although Gandhi still insisted on non - violence. There have been conferences and Satyagrahas everywhere the country. There have been picketings and boycotts. Then Gandhi undertook his historic march to Dandi beach to arrange salt there and so break the unjust and anti - folks Salt Law. He started with some followers however thousands and thousands joined him on the approach. Raja Rao has succeeded in capturing the thrills and sensations also because the brutality and suffering of these tumultuous days once the entire nation was enthused with loyalty throughout the historic Dandi March.

The British government was agitated. Gandhi was invited to England for talks. He accepted the invite and went for the spherical Table Conference wearing his usual loin artifact and therefore the result was the well - celebrated Gandhi - Irwin treaty. The treaty left the Indian individual's discontent. Gandhi did 2 things in 1930: he created British individual's people aware that that they had cruelly defeated Bharat and he gave Indians the conviction that they might, by lifting their heads and straightening their spines, raise the yoke from their shoulders. Country beat the Indians with batons and rifle - butts. The Indians neither cringed nor complained nor people. This created England weak and Bharat unconquerable. It's precisely such a psychological finish that the individuals of Kanthapura fancy within the moment of their defeat. It had been this terribly Gandhi - Irwin treaty that paved the manner for the institution of the Indian Federation and therefore the formation of Congress Ministries each at the Centre and therefore the States. It had been presently clear that country Government was on the resolution and independence was around the corner. The Indian individuals - just like the individuals of Kanthapura - had to have Associate in nursing ordeal of fireside however as Gandhi he instructed, "Swaraja obtained while not sacrifice ne'er endures."

Significance of the title Kanthapura

The title of the novel ought to be apt and suggestive. Even as a symbol board tells North American nation of the contents of a store therefore a decent title ought to indicate the contents of the novel. The title 'Kanthapura' is apt and suggestive as a result of the novel is a couple of South Indian village named Kanthapura and if there's any hero within the novel it's the individuals and therefore the community of the village named Kanthapura. The novel opens with Associate in nursing account of the case, the locale, of the village. We tend to area unit told within the terribly starting that Kanthapura could be a village in Mysore within the Province of Kara. It's settled within the value of Himavathy; there it lies "curled up sort of a kid on its mother's lap". This single image makes the village spring into life and therefore the reader's area unit able to visualize it because it lies protected and secluded sort of a kid in its mother's lap. It's four and twenty homes within the Brahmin quarter; it's a castaway - quarter, a Weavers' - quarter and a Sudra - quarter.

These socio - economic divisions in a very village that has all told sixty or hundred homes, promptly strikes one with its novelty. during this manner, by telling North American nation of the varied quarters into that the village is split, the writer has highlighted the actual fact that the Indian villages area unit caste - ridden which there's no free combination of the individuals even within the tiny and restricted community of a village. Having represented the village, the writer involves the individuals. there's a master Suryanarayana together with his 2 - storied house. Patwari Nanjundiah United Nations agency had even place glass - panes to the windows the thotti - house of pock - marked Sidda, that had an enormous gallery, giant roof and a granary; body of water Venkamma, United Nations agency roared day and night and Zamindar Bhatta, United Nations agency has gone on adding peasants lands to his own domain; the young, idealistic corner - house Moorthy, United Nations agency is destined to shake the village out of its self-complacency and place it on the map of Mysore and India; and therefore the 9 - beamed house of Patel vary Gowda, the vigorous peasant chief of the village married to the soil from old generations. it's obvious he is aware of them even as well however if he doesn't individualize them it's clearly as a result of he does not prefer to crowd his canvas. So we tend to area unit told of the individuals, their impoverishment, their content and their petty jealousies. The villagers' area unit portrayed in their realistic colours. Their names area unit created descriptive in nature - it's a typical rural manner. For instance: Bent leglike Chandrayya, Cardamom - field Ramachandra, low - planter Ramayya, Corner - house Moorthy etc.

The individuals' area unit ignorant, poor and irrational. At an equivalent time, they're conjointly deeply non secular. They need full religion in god Kenchamma, the presiding supernatural being within the village. Right within the centre of the village could be a temple dedicated to Kenchamma, "Great god, benign one." Kenchamma is that the centre of the village, forms the still - centre of their lives and makes everything purposeful. Marriage, funeral, sickness, death tilling, harvesting, arrests, unleash - all area unit watched over by Kenchamma. The image of village life is stuffed up by giving additional accounts of the grinding impoverishment, illiteracy and therefore the conflicts and tensions that mark the Indian village life. Indeed, there's a relentless shifting and ordering of fabric, choice of serious details so Kanthapura acquires a symbolic significance. It becomes a model of the creation, one out of the lakhs and lakhs of Indian villages. It's to the present remote South Indian village that there comes the Gandhi movement through Moorthy and alternative town boys. It's Moorthy, United Nations agency organizes the Gandhi add the village. He's so life and spirit behind the movement in

Kanthapura simply a Gandhi was the life and spirit of the liberty struggle in Bharat. However terribly presently the individuals of Kanthapura as a full area unit actively concerned and therefore the novel becomes Associate in nursing account of their suffering and their heroic sacrifice. Associate in Nursing unequal fight it inevitably proves to be, because the Satyagrahis area unit maimed and broken and scattered, and a remnant reaches - once soar trials and vicissitudes - another village, Kashipura, on the far side the border wherever they calm down. a number of the Satyagrahis - Rangamma, Ratna, Moorthy - pay Associate in Nursing assigned span in jail.

Thus Kanthapura isn't a unique managing the life and conduct of somebody hero. it's in no way the story of Moorthy however of the lots of the village, of their suffering, of their exile, of their momentaneous defeat that has in it the seeds of final finish. It ends with Associate in nursing account of their life in Kashipura and provides North American nation a way of permanent fulfillment that they need earned. Thence if there's any hero within the novel, it's Kanthapura itself and its individuals.

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