



A Study on Life History of Kazi Nazrul Islam and his Contribution to Bengali Literature

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.ABSTRACT:

As a perennial author Kazi Nazrul Islam upholds the title of 'Rebel poet' in Bangla literature as well as in world literature. Being a Muslim musician, poet and novelist, he used his poetry to inspire Indians to rebel against British colonialism. Thus is the proof of Nazrul's inflammatory attitudes against oppression. He had several pieces of literature banned by the British government in an attempt to suppress the rebellious movements. Bidrohi is one of his famous anti British writing piece, which has immediately placed him in the public eye. In the time of Whellion and political unrest, Nazrul's poetry played a crucial role in uniting the oppressed and providing them with an intense sense of nationalism. He joined Swadeshi (self rule) and boycotted the British. He composed many songs to sing and let the youths become enthusiastic for ingrained nationalism, patriotism. His literary works were very much against the foreign rule, communalism, imperialism, colonialism, fundamentalism and exploitation. The British government prescribed his books and put him behind bars. Through his written Rajbondir jobanbondi (prisoner's deposition) and his barty days hunger strike, Nazrul protested against the harassment. His writings were full of revolutionary messages that stirred up the spirit of freedom amongst the grass roots level foiling masses. This made the British government cautious about Nazrul. This paper is an effort to understand the fierce works of Kazi Nazrul Islam, including some of his famous poems, songs, essays and anthologies.

Keywords: Kazi Nazrul Islam, Poetry, Literature, Song, Anthology, Colonialism, Rebellion

1. INTRODUCTION

Kazi Nazrul Islam is known as the national poet of Bangladesh. He has brought about revolutionary changes in the spirit and style of Bangla literature and music. Nazrul belongs to the ISP century as a poet and musician. Eventually he became the national poet of Bangladesh and revolutionized the style of Bangla music and literature. He was imprisoned for his anti British writing. He wrote many poems and articles to support the struggle against the British. He wrote against the injustice, the oppression, the exploitation and the violence that was carried out all over India. Kazi Nazrul Islam was concerned about the landless farmers and workers and fought against social injustice through his writings. In this matter he was influenced by the socialist revolution in Russian that took place in 1917.

Kazi Nazrul Islam is the writer known for many literary pieces such as Bidrohi, (The Rebel). This poem was first published in 1921, thus it has been created the fierce reputation about Kazi Nazrul Islam. Following his poem Bidrohi, he has written many more revolutionary poems, songs, and short stories. Therefore, Kazi Nazrul Islam's, poems, songs, anthologies are the incredibly important and significant concoctation to explore his fierce literary works in Bangla Literature.

2. Early life and Education

Kazi Nazrul Islam (Bengali: কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম) (May 25, 1899 — August 29, 1976) was a Bengali poet, musician, revolutionary and philosopher who is best known for pioneering works of Bengali poetry. He is popularly known as the Bidrohi Kobi — Rebel Poet — as many of his works showcase an intense rebellion against oppression of humans through slavery, hatred and tradition. He is officially recognized as the national poet of Bangladesh and commemorated in India. Scholars credit him for spearheading a cultural renaissance in the Muslim community of Bengal, "liberating" Bengali poetry and literature from its medieval mould. By creating a bridge from traditional Islam to a modern sensibility, Kazi Nazrul Islam helped to bring his people into a new relationship with modern life.

Born in a poor Muslim family, Nazrul received religious education and worked as a muezzin at a local mosque. He learned of poetry, drama, and literature while working with theatrical groups. After a stint in the British Indian Army, Nazrul established himself as a journalist in Kolkata (then Calcutta). He assailed the British Raj and preached revolution through his poetic works, such as "Bidrohi" ("The Rebel") and "Bhangar Gaan" ("The Song of Destruction"), as well as his publication "Dhumketu" ("The Comet"). While in prison, Nazrul wrote the "Rajbandir Jabanbandi" ("Deposition of a Political Prisoner"), intensifying his criticism of imperialism. Nazrul condemned Muslim religious fundamentalism and explored the lives of downtrodden masses in India. He remained active in political organizations and literary, art, and music society.

3. Career

Nazrul left the military in 1920 and then joined the 'Bengali Muslim Literary Society.' He published his maiden novel titled 'Bandhan-hara' soon after joining the society and then came up with his first collection of poems as well. In 1922, Nazrul wrote a revolutionary Bengali poem titled 'Bidrohi,' which is considered as his most popular work. He continued writing many such revolutionary poems, which received commercial as well as critical success. On August 12, 1922, he started his own magazine called 'Dhumketu,' which served as the perfect platform for his revolutionary works.

Nazrul was eventually charged with sedition by the British and was arrested on January 23, 1923. The buzz around his revolutionary and eccentric poems earned him popularity and he soon became popular as a 'rebel poet.' During his time in the prison, Nazrul composed many songs and poems, which were banned by the British authorities, for they were rebellious in nature. In April 1923, he started a 40-day fast, claiming that one of the jail superintendents had abused his power. After his release from prison in December, he came up with a book titled 'Bisher Banshi' in 1924, which was once again banned by the British.

Nazrul started encouraging people to raise their voice against the British Raj. He also organized a socialist political party called 'Sramik Praja Swaraj Dal,' along with another revolutionary named Muzaffar Ahmed. After his wedding with Pramila Devi on April 25, 1924, Nazrul's image as a rebel poet attained further popularity as he married a Hindu woman, who belonged to the 'Brahmo Samaj.' In December 1925, he started publishing a weekly called 'Langal' and even worked as the publication's chief editor.

In 1926, he settled down in Krishnanagar along with his family, post which he began experimenting with his poetry and musical skills. By transforming Urdu and Persian poetry, Nazrul composed the first set of Bengali ghazals. He also introduced Islam to Bengali music, which was dominated by Bengali Hindus until then. His religious songs, which were based on both Hinduism and Islam, became extremely popular among the masses, which led to his association with the famous record label 'His Master's Voice' (HMV) in 1928. His compositions were broadcast on national radio stations, making him popular all over the country.

In 1930, he once again faced charges of sedition for publishing his book 'Pralayshikha,' which was banned by the government. Three years later, he came up with 'Modern World Literature,' a collection of essays. Due to a certain real-life events, Nazrul's works during the later stages of his career were influenced heavily by his religious beliefs. Though a born Muslim, Nazrul was an exponent of Hindu belief system, which he incorporated into his works of art.

4. Objectives of the Literature

In the writings of Nazrul, he was ingenious to express his love, freedom and revolution. In his innate nature he was open minded, didn't allow any kinds of prejudice based on gender, class, caste and religion. He was a liberal person and opposed to the realm of anarchy. As a writer he tried his best to portray all of his insight understanding related life. He was an innovator in the literary field. Nazrul did present many famous poems, songs, short stories, essays and also he has brought Bengali Ghazals which was the brand new segment in Bengali literature. He was a composer of 4,000 songs which are known as Nazrul Geeti. For his phenomenal Nazrul Sangit, Nazrul was and still now he is famous in India and Bangladesh. Everyone remembers his name with pride and respect. In the form of World literature Kazi Nazrul Islam has contributed immensely. He was considered as the epitome of Bangla poetry and other literary works. Nazrul was the inspiration to the world and still his works are truly inspiring towards all kinds of persons, and in all time zone. In the future his fierce writing pieces would keep us enthralled not only in the Bengali literature but the world of literature as well.

5. Literary Reviews (criticism or analysis)

While his career was active, Nazrul received intense criticism from religious Muslims for his assimilation of Hindu philosophy and culture with Islam in his works and for openly denouncing many Islamic teachings.[8] Although a Muslim, he named his sons with both Hindu and Muslim names -Krishna Mohammad, Arindam Khaled(bulbul), Kazi Sazbyasachi and Kazi Aniruddha. His rebellious nature has also earned him the adage of the "anarchist poet," as he criticized the main political parties and ideologies of the day.[14] Nazrul is hailed for his sincere conviction in the liberation of women. His poems explored the independence of a woman's mind and the ability to perform diverse roles in society.[16]. His vision of gender equality was powerfully expressed in his poem "Woman." [17]

Nazrul's poetry is characterized by an abundant use of rhetorical devices, which he employs to convey conviction and sensuousness. He often wrote without caring for organization or polishing his work. His works have been criticized often for egotism, but his admirers counter that they carry self-confidence. They cite his ability to defy God yet maintain an inner, humble devotion.[9] Nazrul's poetry is regarded as rugged but unique in comparison to his contemporary Rabindranath Tagore's sophisticated style. Nazrul's use of Persian vocabulary was controversial but it widened the scope of his work.[9] Nazrul's works for children have won acclaim for his use of rich language, imagination, enthusiasm and an ability to fascinate young readers.[9] Kazi Nazrul Islam is acknowledged as one of the greatest Bengali poets of all time. He pioneered new styles and expressed radical ideas and emotions in a large collection of works. Scholars credit him for

spearheading a cultural renaissance in the Muslim community of Bengal, "liberating" poetry and literature in Bengali from its medieval mould.[18] Nazrul was awarded the Jagattarini Gold Medal in 1945 — the highest honor for work in Bengali literature by the University of Calcutta — and awarded the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian honors in 1960.[12] The Government of Bangladesh conferred upon him the status of "national poet." He was awarded the "Ekushe Padak" by the Government of Bangladesh. He was awarded Honorary D.Litt. by the University of Dhaka. Many centers of learning and culture in India and Bangladesh have been founded and dedicated to his memory. The Nazrul Endowment is one of several scholarly institutions established to preserve and expound upon his thoughts and philosophy, as well as the preservation and analysis of the large and diverse collection of his works. The Bangladesh Nazrul Sena is a large public organization working for the education of children throughout the country. Nazrul's numerous works remain widely popular with the public of India and Bangladesh.

6. Methodology

In light of the fact that this is a piece of creative writing, the majority of the inferences and conclusions I came to were reached through the application of inductive and deductive reasoning. We collected and analyzed data from a wide variety of sources that were connected to the article in order to produce research questions and identify the scope of the current project. This was done so that we could assess how extensive the project would be. This action was taken in order to further enhance the article. In spite of the fact that many of the sources that were used to compile the Bengali-language dossier of Kazi Nazrul Islam's life were only to be accessed in a handful of specialized online and offline resources, the dossier manages to be both exhaustive and accurate. Despite the fact that many of the sources that were used to compile the dossier were only available in Bengali, this is still the case.

7. REMERKABLE LITERARY WORKS OF KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM

Kazi Nazrul Islam's literary works began with the publication of his prose work, *Baunduler Atmakahini* (Life of a Vagabond) in May 1919. Following the same year in July, Nazrul was accomplished his another poem *Mukti* (Freedom) published in *Mussalman Sahitya Patrica*. In 1922, this poem was published with the publication "Bidrohi" (The Rebel) which made him famous and perennial rebel poet. Bidrohi was one of the greatest poem in Bengali literature, where the elements of revolution was the consolidate subject. In the epoch of Nazrul, he was created a irrevocable situation of revolution against all kinds of oppression. The writing pieces of Nazrul were based with fierce words which have been exhibited in his poems. Some famous lines from Bidrohi has been smashed the readers forever. I am the unutterable grief I am the throbbing ten I am the wild fire on the woods, I am Hell's mad terrific sea of wrath! I ride on the wings of lightening with joy and profundity, I scatter misery and fear all around, I will bring earth-quakes on this world! "(8th stanza) Weary of struggles, I the great rebel, Shall rest in quiet only when I find The sky and the air free of piteous groans of the Only when the battle fields are cleared of jingling bloody sabres Shall I, weary of struggles, rest in quiet, I am the rebel eternal, I raise my head beyond this world and, High, ever erect and alone! "(Last stanza)" The above lines denotes the depth of Nazrul's rebellious nature. This poem was actually written after seeing the circumstances of his motherland. And according to the need of the country he wrote such an fierce poem. When India was under British rule and the people wanted to get rid from their grips. To inspire them Nazrul tried to motivate them through his writings. These eternally ingrained lines for revolution, made the Rebel poet became an extra ordinary poet who came out from the contemporary poets of his time. Nazrul was not only a poet of rebellious nature but also famous for his rebellious language which he has been used in his poems drastically. The poem Bidrohi was published in the magazine "Bijli" (Thunder) in the year 1922. In the time when Gandhi ji started the non-cooperation movement to throw the British empire from India, immediately on that time Nazrul's poem Bidrohi made the general people brave and enthusiastic for eradicate the root of British Raj. After portraying Nazrul's poems with aesthetic beauty and universal appeal towards sensivity, he has also started to portrayed his first anthologies of poems *Agniveena* (The Lyre of Fire) in 1922. Nazrul got success in other genre of literature i.e. short stories, prose work and essays. He published his first volume of short stories, the *Byather Dan* (Gift of sorrow) and *Yugbani*, an anthology of essay in 1922.

8. CONCLUSION

Kazi Nazrul Islam, the national poet of Bangladesh and also known as the „Rebel poet“ not only in Bangladesh but also in front of the whole world. His fierce resistance towards all forms of oppression, injustice, has been expressed enormously by his poems, short stories, songs and essays. Nazrul has created the vibrant rhythms and iconoclastic themes, formed a revolutionary and drool worthy contrast to the contemporary poets. His use of vocabulary and subjects were never been happened in the history of Bangla poetry before. He became immensely popular for portraying his poems with the issues of political and social matters. Nazrul was also known as a poet of unprecedented activities such as the fusion of Hindu and Muslim cultural traditions. In the field of mixing the Bangla metres with Arabic and Sanskrit, Nazrul was the master for doing that. Nazrul nourished almost all the streams of Bangla literature and generated the solid foundation in the history of world literature.

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