



“ Exploring Tagore’s Vision of Humanity in “Kabuliwala” and “The Editor” ”

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ABSTRACT :

With a focus on readings “Kabuliwala” and “The Editor” by Rabindranath Tagore, this study will explore the poet’s deep vision of the human being as well as outline his opinion on human relations and the principles of empathy and mercy. I aim to uncover Tagore’s wayfaring on human relations, love, compassion and the conflict with societal norms. The analysis will focus on how Tagore depicted characters fighting against social boundaries, racism and the need for recognition. The stories reveal the kind of humanity that Tagore saw beyond the social barriers when different characters of conflicting social status.

Keywords- Rabindranath Tagore, Kabuliwala, The Editor, Father-Daughter Relationship, Empathy, Humanity, Compassion, Social Issues.

Introduction :

Rabindranath Tagore, a celebrated Indian author, lies in his poignant tales. These narratives, often exploring the bond between a traveling salesman and a child, or a father’s struggle to balance work and family, delve into the depths of human connection. Describing heartfelt values of life and its philosophies, these stories written by Rabindranath Tagore are still touching the hearts of readers and making them contemplate. We are looking for the visions of Rabindranath Tagore regarding humanity. We’ll be looking at two of his stories: Two of its stories include are “Kabuliwala” or „The Kabuli Fruit Seller“ and “The Editor”. In the “Kabuliwala” the central character is Rahmat who travels from Afghanistan selling goods. He desperately longs for her back in his home which makes him have a friend figure in this Indian little girl Mini. As for the lack of language barrier, while people may not believe that they should become friends at all, Tagore is able to prove that they do care about each other. In the short story “The Editor”, the editor himself is depicted as a father who is always busy with his work in a newspaper company. He has a daughter named Probha whom he does like but too preoccupied with his day-to-day activities to spend time with her. Tagore explains to us how this leaves Probha disappointed and how her father comes to learn that the most important thing which should be valued is true companionship and support of the loved ones. As we explore these stories, we’ll see how Tagore uses his characters to show us different sides of humanity – kindness, loneliness, love, and regret. We’ll also think about how these stories relate to our own lives and how we can be more understanding and connected with the people around us. So, get ready for a journey into the world of Rabindranath Tagore, where we’ll learn valuable lessons about what it truly means to be human!

The Life of Rabindranath Tagore

Rabindranath Tagore or Rabindranath Thakur is a Bengali polymath, whose contribution to the Indian as well as the world literature is incredible. Independent poet, a novelist, a play writer, a musician, a thinker of philosophy, a social reformist and a painter; yes all this was Rabindranath Tagore. The international fame came to him at the age of 62 when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, and the same year became the first non-European and the first Asian to get this honor. He was awarded with the Nobel Prize for the collection of his poems named ‘Gitanjali’ which means song offerings. Tagore was born in Calcutta (now known as Kolkata), India on May 7, 1861, although his father Debendranath Tagore did not want the birth registered and the birth actually occurred at Jorasanko, the family ancestral home coming from Debendranath, who was himself a noted figure of religious liberalisation. It is very easy to ponder the great potential of such an environment for the growth of a person with several merged abilities like Tagore. . He also opened an experimental school at Shantiniketan where he applied his Upanishadic ideals of education. From time to time he participated in the Indian nationalist movement, but in his own practical but visionary way; and Gandhi, also known as Political father of Modern India was his friend.

Now it will be worthwhile to go deeper into the topic considering the Tagore’s contribution to the short story genre. Thus, one has to admit Tagore’s input in the sphere of short story writing was notable. Quite early in his career, he was one of the first Indian writers to do so, he combined traditional Bengali oral narration style with tools of the occidental narrative.

His principal areas of focus were love, the family and the dynamics of change in principles of the society and the clash of the old and the new which were typical most of his short stories.

Critical Analysis of “The Editor”

“The editor” by Indian Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore is not a simple story, it paints an operative picture of a family through a beautifully intrusive melody filled with harsh notes. Let me introduce a man, a successful editor of a local newspaper, the one whose life is organized by the thin line of carefully worded news articles. Now, imagine his daughter, Probha a young girl who has never heard a Father say “I Love You” and seeks for a touch as rare as a headline that is forgotten in the morning newspaper. This is the crux of Tagore's treasure; it is a story that explores the rigorous ramifications of a lack of affection and care within the household circle. The Editor is the story of a man who has lost his wife and has a daughter who looks after the household. He loves her well, but is unable to give her any attention because of his editorship of a Zamindar's paper. The story focuses on father-daughter relation. The story says about expectations of daughter from her father. The character mentioned are The Narrator (The Editor) : First, the narrator gives a proper treatment to his wife and daughter by exploring his affection for them. But after his wife's death, the grief turns into insatiable desire for a sign of approval and attention from other people. Probha : The major role of Probha can be described as a pursuit of father's attention. Some of such cultural codes include her loneliness and efforts to communicate with her father, though he does not reciprocate similarly.

Altogether, in the story, Rabindranath Tagore uses different class of narrative approach in a very skillful manner to present an emotionally loaded and significantly powerful story.

Through the First-Person Narrative the whole process evolves around the editor's chair and is rather told from the first person narrative point of view. This leads to the enhanced clarification of his thinking, intentions, and reasons for his behavior. However it never opens the reader's eyes and brings a feeling of limited vision as the reader is left to depend on the untrustworthy narration of the editor. This uncertainty forces the reader to wonder whether the editor is ignorant of his shortcomings, or if he actually cares enough to give the things he loves a proper attention.

Tagore also employs certain forms of symbolism to enhance the power of carrying out the story's message. The flowers Probha leave on the desk represent innocence, desire to communicate, lack of reciprocated affection in her way, which actually means that she left her dad untended love. The main character is the narrator, a writer of farce plays and films, but he is now living the farce as the whole plot revolves around his life with wrong priorities. In this aspect, the newspaper rivalry can be viewed as a portrayal of the triviality and absurdity of competition at the expense of treasured relation. Jealousy is portrayed as a small and useless competition between the two newspapers: I believe this is a satire on useless competition and how human relations are ruined.

Thus, “The Editor,” written by Rabindranath Tagore in 1916, remains very relevant in the contemporary world. It can be viewed as a parable that tells a valuable lesson in light of the current state of the world. While Editor chooses his job over his child, today's people are ignoring families because of technical advancements. Communication toys like social networking, work e-mail, and alternative distractions also set up a similar barrier, making children feel like unheard harmonies looking for possession and yearning for a connection.

Beyond the Story: It left a message for all of us “The Editor” therefore became a critique of societal pressure, but it also called people to action. It brings audiences back to the basic tenet of human nature, which is the desire for bonding and, in this case, within the family context. Through his poem, Tagore convinces readers that the current life priorities need to be adjusted and that people should pay more attention to their friends and family. It appears that the very actions of silencing our devices and paying attention to the subjective stories going on around us, we would be able to generate a perfect agreement within our households and societies.

Critical Analysis of “Kabuliwala”

The urge to capture thoughts on Rabindranath Tagore's "Kabuliwala" strikes upon reaching the computer. Beyond any doubt, it can be named one of the favorite short stories as it brings the kind of affection that grows not only for the story, but also by its author.

Rabindranath Tagore's "Kabuliwala" is a beautiful story about friendship, overcoming differences, and the love between a father and his daughter. It follows Rahmat, a traveling salesman from Afghanistan (Kabul) who sells nuts and fruits, and Mini, a curious young girl in India. This story is much more than just a typical friendship narrative, this is how Tagore enlightens the audience as to how individuals of different cultures are capable of understanding each other, irrespective of this understanding. He questions the perception within communities that people from other places are frightening, people feel and they require love too. Tagore explores the theme of Filial Love, Appearance are deceptive, and he portrays that Humans, no matter what their nationality or background, are all the same. In this respect, it can be seen that Kabuliwala is very much an autobiography as it contains a lot of aspects that bear the semblance of Tagore himself. I am still inspired by his writing even to this date, and it is definitely a privileged to be given a chance to pass on my thoughts on Kabuliwala to all of you.

Let's discuss the characters featured in this amazing story. Rahmat : At the first sight, Rahmat, the Kabuliwala might appear to be different from all the other characters. He uses a different language, looks different in some quite noticeable ways, and carries a knife that is used for cutting fruits. But underneath this stranger's appearance is a man with a tender-hearted soul and abiding affection for his daughter left behind in the old country. Whenever Rahmat is able to communicate with Mini, one is able to see that he is a soft-spoken man who only wants to find a friend to be with. Mini : Mini is a playful and curious girl, and because of her feelings for her Rahmat finally can open himself up. She only sees the friend and not a stranger and this has demonstrated how kids can change people's perception.

The Significant Symbols used in the story are Almonds: These yummy treats then become the bond between Rahmat and Mini symbolizing their friendship. Sharing them is more than a sale; it gives the signal that Rahmat is concerned and would love to be comrades. They symbolize the beauty of friendship that can grow despite the color and taste of the soil, which is a metaphor for the culture of two people. The Knife: This object is a symbol of the fact that Rahmat is from another place and this may seem scary to her. Others do not talk with him because of that knife, and it is pathetic, they do not know that it is for his work. However, it also opens the curtain to a scene where he misunderstands something that sends him to jail.

As sad as the story may seem, it is quite striking. Rahmat returns years later and gives Mini his savings as a wedding gift as is evident to show that they remain friends. It is a loud message that love is stronger than time and can break the barriers of social status and even prison. Through the story of "Kabuliwala", it becomes very clear that people no matter how different they may be, can be bound by a common thread of humanity. Whereas, it tells us to focus on the humanity and not the differences in cultures across the world. By presenting almonds and listening to the Walking Man's story, Tagore reestablishes how the act of kindness and companionship can change a person's life.

Conclusion :

Proceeding to summarize the key points of analysis for both the stories

It is customary to receive motivation and inspiration in the morning; this particular story is relevant for parents with working children. It tells people that family is valuable and that time spent with friends and especially with children cannot be regained. Due to technological advancement in recent years and increased pressure for work and business at any given time, the story seems to be even more relevant today. The story is not only about the "work-life Balance" It goes beyond that, it tells us how crucial it is to spend some time with our loved ones. In the story, Editor is physically present but he is so engrossed in his work that he is separated from his daughter. Perhaps it also has a message that one should not sacrifice enjoyable moments in life such as, family bonding to achieve some success at the workplace. Essentially, a good life enables one to spend time on work, hobbies, and family.

To make the points more stronger, let's examine some Textual Evidence from the story

"Never before had she possessed such a perfect doll as she now had in her father...and so she took the keenest pleasure in feeding him, dressing him, and even putting him to bed." This quote reveals Probha's desire for her father's attention, even if it comes in a form of her taking care of him.

"He had a child, a daughter named Probha...Being a single father, the editor wanted the best for his daughter...His desire of wanting Probha to have a good future somehow engulfed him into being a workaholic, causing him to neglect his daughter's existence."

Illustrating about "Kabuliwala" they failed to realize that this story is universal, it applies to everyone regardless of their culture or social status. It makes us realize that love and longing are universal, and that everyone has the capacity to experience such emotions. Looking at the world where people from different cultures encounter each other more often than we can imagine, "Kabuliwala" conveys a message that people should not judge a stranger, but try to find the similarity to themselves instead. It promotes togetherness with people experiencing the same thing regardless of the outward environment. The story also has beautiful lines that portray the sorrow one feels when he or she has lost someone dear to him or her. In terms of meaning, the story presents a rather powerful statement through the act of desiring. And it is always a wake-up call to embrace the lucky ones that are still with us

Some textual evidences to support the analysis :

"He perhaps looked upon Mini as a part of the East that he had come to love." It Highlights the Kabuliwala's emotional connection beyond just business.

"The sentence of exile was annulled." Metaphorically describes the narrator's newfound understanding.

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