



Unconditional Love of Mother depicted in Nissim Ezekiel's 'Night of the Scorpion'

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Abstract : Nissim Ezekiel was an Indian Jewish poet, editor, playwright, and art critic. Nissim Ezekiel, honored with the most prestigious awards Padamashri and Sahitya Academy, is one of the most distinguished Indian poets in the history of English literature. He is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of 20th century India. Nissim Ezekiel is seen as one of the most relevant poet in early modern Indian poetry. He was the first Indian poet 'to express modern Indian sensibility in modern idiom.

Nissim Ezekiel is one of the most prominent names among the Indian English poetry. He reveals in harmony to be in commitment to the line of work, originality of expression and genuine purpose. He gave civic touch to poetry. Ezekiel is aware of Indian social practices and experiences of groups such as societies or culture & personal realities such as an individual's private thoughts. In 'Night of the Scorpion' Nissim described sublime love of mother for her children. The mother's endurance is to protect her children from all odds. The whole life she prays and wishes that her children should always be safe, no matter whatever pains they have to suffer. Ezekiel improved and established Indian English language poetry through his modernist innovations and techniques, which broaden Indian English literature, moving it beyond purely divine, sacred and post modernist themes, to include an extensive range of solicitude and passion including events running in the family, individual.

Keywords: *Unconditional love, superstition, sacrifice, selflessness, stereotype, rationalist, harmony*

I. INTRODUCTION

"Night of the Scorpion" was first published in Nissim Ezekiel's collection of poetry entitled The Exact Name (1965). The poem is situated in an Indian rural backdrop, which points to the larger agrarian culture in India. Prior to independence, the rural Indian culture was in stark contrast to the emerging urban culture. Ezekiel was one of the most important Indian poets of the 20th century. He was a thoroughly modern poet evident in his stylistic form and use of themes. He moved away from the Indian poetic tradition that sought inspiration from legends and mythologies. His poetry appears fairly simple in the use of poetic techniques and diction.

Feel the unconditional love of mother in every aspect of life.

A mother is the strength of a family. She is the crucial member who connects the family close together. A mother is like divine messenger to her child. She strongly supports her child in all challenges and struggle. Every tough situation of life can be easily driven out with mother's love. No one can substitute part of a mother in a child's life.

A mother plays numerous roles in the life of every child. She is the first teacher of every child and their persistent friend. A mother is the first and favorite pedagogue of a child. With the lessons demonstrated by a mother, children can achieve the zenith of success very easily. A child develops an emotional connection with the mother from the womb.

God's best creation on the universe is Mother. We always heard from our elders or written in the ancient books, that God can't go everywhere or can't be available with everyone, so they have created Mother. Mother has all the quality such as thoughtfulness, consideration, self-sacrificing, love, tolerance, compassion, mercy, integrity, perseverance etc.

Mother's love is the greatest gift of God to a child. The deeds performed by a mother make a house sheltered and full of pep for children. Even before the birth of children, a mother starts influencing them. They play enormous role in illuminating attitude of children. The moral values that a mother teaches will decide the coming times of the child's future.

Mother's love plays a crucial role in shaping the character of children. Mothers are the child's earliest connection of any emotional bond. From mothers, a child learns the foremost lessons of love and affection. Mother's love must be supplied unconditionally to establish trust and develop emotional intimacy in a child's life. The way a mother endow love and concern to her child will greatly influence their somatic and intellectual welfare.

"Night of the Scorpion" is a poem that talks of idealized motherhood.

The "Indian mother" holds a high and prominent position in Indian culture. In "Night of the Scorpion," the mother somehow felt relieved knowing that her children were safe. It seems as if she was unbothered by her own sufferings so long as her children were unharmed. These virtues of selflessness and devotedness are associated with mothers. Motherhood is not looked at like a human idea but something that is divine. Even though readers are overwhelmed by the amount of love the mother had for her children, it is almost as if it was an expected end. In this way, Ezekiel idealizes motherhood in his poem.

"Night of the Scorpion" is a poem based on Indian Scenario of superstition and Nissim Ezekiel's feeling. The poem catches a scene in a rural Indian village. The poet is a young child witnessing a shocking event in his life. The poet's mother was stung by the scorpion and was suffering from unbearable pain. At the cries of poet's mother neighboring peasant flocked to the poet's house like swarm of bees with lanterns and candles.

"With candles and lanterns
Throwing giant scorpion shadow
On the mud-baked walls."

The poet recounts the scorpion as a devil. The villagers were searching for the scorpion outside the house of the poet in the steady rain. The villagers did some superstitious activity and prayed to God to cripple the scorpion. They firmly believed that by doing so the effect of poison could be diminished.

"May the sin of your previous birth
be burned away tonight, they said"

The villagers infer that the mother's desire and ambition are the sin of her earlier life. According to them, due to earlier deeds she is presently suffering

"May the poison purify your flesh
of desire, and your spirit of ambition"

After twenty hour the poet's mother got relieved from her pain. She thanked God that the Scorpion did not sting her children.

The poem exposes the superstitions that dominate the minds of Indians and also the motherhood of a lady who just thinks only of her children even in the worst condition i.e. known as unconditional love of mother. The poet says that he remembers well that night when her mother was stung by a scorpion. The poet is of the views that the heavy rain which lasted for 10 hours made the scorpion hide under the sack.

The poet says that after biting his mother with its diabolic (monstrous tail), People started searching for the scorpion because they believe that the poison spreads across the body with the movement of scorpion so if the latter is stopped and cripple, the poison effect can also be controlled.

This is a superstition and Nissim knows that well. This is why he hates the coming of villagers to his home.

His mother is however crying and rolling on the mat with severe pain but nobody cares for her except for his father who is a skeptic, rationalist. He leaves no stone unturned to cure her.

He uses powder, mixture, herb and hybrid to help her recover from the pain. He even poured a little paraffin upon the bitten toe and then fires it up. The poet watches the flames of fire burning on the skin of his mother.

He also watches the holy man perform rites to tame the poison with an incantation. The phrase again refers to superstitious people of his village who believe in irrational measures to cure a person. His mother ultimately recovers from the poison after 24 hours it lost its sting.

II. Motherly Love

The most overwhelming and radically dominant theme of "Night of the Scorpion" is the unconditional love a mother has for her children. In the concluding lines of the poem, Ezekiel marks the voice of the otherwise silent mother:

My mother only said:

"Thank God the scorpion picked on me and spared my children."

In the concluding lines of the poem, a typical Indian mother expresses her happiness at the fact that her children have been spared. After her ordeal, the mother is thankful that the Scorpion stung her and not the children. She only wished for her children's interests. This attitude of hers proves to be quite sentimental and ironic for readers. She experienced a fatal scorpion sting, yet she was thankful that it got her, not her children. This is the characteristic trait of an Indian mother, idealized in Indian culture as a dutiful, selfless, and devout woman. Whatsoever, a mother continues to love, regardless of the cultural context. She loves in a way she would.

The last line is quite emotional and heart touching. It reflects the motherhood of a lady. The poet says that after recovering from the poison, his mother's words were Thank God the scorpion picked on me and spared my children. Even in such condition, his mother remains more concerned about the safety and health of her children.

Mother's love is the unblended form of love in this World, and Mother is the excellent blessing for a child by God. As a child, it is our commitment to value the foregoing and efforts of our mother because all she wants is the change for the better of her child. We are very blessed to have a mother in our life, and we must respect our mother. We should give her all the happiness and love because she deserves all of that in return for her selfless love for us.

the stereotype of the "silent mother," who merely wishes the best for her kids. She is regarded in Indian culture as a role model for women who have divine traits like selflessness, unwavering love, and unadulterated dedication to their children. The mother's persona in the poem is essentially sanctified. Indianness is characterized by these supernatural qualities attributed to mothers. In addition, the mother's character is frequently utilized to symbolize mother's nature, another Indian belief.

III. Conclusion:

In this manner, a mother is creative, complete, quiet, and perfect in Indian culture. It seems ironic in this poem about the portrayal of a mother's role in India. This is the reason why the poem "The Night of the Scorpion" proves to be quite a realistic representation of Indian culture.

The poem's last line is quite heart touching. The line depicts unblended form of love of mother expecting child's betterment and safety that is the sole desire of mother. Mother is a unspoken form of blessings to her children's health and progress. In this manner, a mother is creative, complete, quiet, and perfect in Indian culture. It seems ironic in this poem about the portrayal of a mother's role in India. This is the reason why the poem "The Night of the Scorpion" proves to be quite a realistic representation of Indian culture.

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