

Vision Of Life And Poetic Creation: A Study Of Vihang A.Naik's Poems

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ABSTRACT:

Vihang A.Naik's poems speak about a writer's consciousness for making an autonomous creation that incorporates the diverse aspects of modern life. His creations are based on the construction of language that largely points to the culture of modern society. We find him continuing his intentions about his claim as the spokesperson of a modern period. His meanings contradict the expected often deliberately alienating the reader and denounces cultural repression that broods on the human condition in modern society. He regards both art and life by mixing both in a magic realism of multiple ending with determinate meaning. His poems are vibrant with impulsiveness and imagination and his poetry is simple with a visionary theme of poetic creation where his eye understood the privilege of seeing into the meaning of things that would come naturally in life and his mind might possess the happy innocence and joy of childhood. Beauty and joy indeed were found to be the fundamental elements in his natural sensitiveness to the agony of suffering humanity in modern life. He believes in the natural simplicity of the expression. He observes life minutely and presents his experiences in his writings in a convincing manner. His poetry is a chronicle of human conditions in so many vicissitudes of life with all its misery, sufferings, disappointments and wretchedness. His exposure to the adverse human experiences deepened his human feelings and sharpened his mind to study human life and situation. His poetry is based on the realistic conception or views of life and it has the drab realism of the environment relating to the futility and meaninglessness of human life in modern technological society that shows his uniqueness as a poet of an impending age of poetic greatness. Therefore, this paper will mainly focus on his vision of life and the process of poetic creation shedding the light on the issues of modern life common to the world in his poetry.

KEYWORDS: Philosophy, Life, Nature, Happiness, Experience.

INTRODUCTION:

"Life is a philosophy

Book with pencil marks

Wounds and comments

You cancelled at the end" (A Matter of life-p.61).

Post-modernist poetry reflects a variety of themes. Since this age is dominated by politics, social, cultural and economic problems, therefore modern poetry deals with the current issues of social life. This form of poetry represents the world of life standing face to face with several questions of existence. Vihang A.Naik's poems are a distinguished piece of post-modernist literature. His poetry reflects Freudian internal conflict, a problem that must be solved implying a new era of post-modernism. His poems have proved to be great poetical achievements. His poems are filled with striking imagery, symbolism and structural economy with a vivid prediction of life. His poems consist

of technical innovations with a common purpose and philosophy to give an intellectual standing. He was born in Surat, Gujarat on September 2, 1969. Four collection of his poetry have been published including 'Poetry Manifesto: New and selected poems' (2010), 'Making a poem' (2004), 'City times and other poems' (1993). His Gujarati collection of poems entitled 'Jeevangeet' was published in 2001. His poetry as a whole has a serious subject and complex structure. He employs material for his poetry from a wide range of social spectrum and accepts the most accessible contemporary reality. It explores a subjectivism in character development turning from external reality to examine the inner states of consciousness and definitely shows the undermining ideas of logical coherence in narration and psychologically explained characters with a new surge of realism. The basis of his poetry is the freeness of mind and spirit and the freeing of emotion and imagination from the narrow, limited conception of the conventional world for the process of poetic creation to take place. "The process of creation is spontaneous; as soon as poet has some ideas, he

should pen it down otherwise they would not come at later point of time. Creating a poem is like chasing a butterfly; it may or may not come to you; and though poet writes a poem, all the ideas wouldn't come on paper as they were in the poet's mind"(Yashwant, Handibag, A Portrait of the Indian Ethos: Vihang A Naik's Poetry Manifesto:New and Selected Poems. Literary Cognizance, I-2,2015: 01-04. Web).

One of the noticeable elements in his poetry is his love for Indian nature. The beauty of his poetry is perceived in the simple, clear imagery of the Indian nature that touches the heart without creating any confusion of understanding. His poem 'The Banyan City' is a straight and simple expression in the destruction of happiness in this nature's modern world stating:

"This aged city
Falling the withered glory
Now wrinkled, cracked
Weather-beaten
With dim eyes
Has stood the time" (p.14).

His poetry represents a decentered concept of the universe where individual works are not isolated creations in the fabric of literary creation. His adoption of style combines or pastes together multiple elements that show his advancement of poetry in a unique way. His poetry embraces the notion that literature is a created work of art and is a strong example in contemporary literature. His views on poetry overlap repeat or bifurcate into multiple possibilities. It may be defined as a piece of literary work maintained by the use of still, sharply defined, smoothly painted images of figures and objects depicted in a realistic manner. His poem 'New Websight' projects that society has moved past the industrial age and into the information age where people are inundated with information and technology has become a central focus stating:

"Your vision
Makes an inductive
Leap
The fear grips
An e-age as the century
Turns" (p.11).

There is an ordering system beneath the chaos of the world that offers another recurring theme to his poetry. This theme coincides with the idea of techno-culture and hyper reality. The subject in his poetry coexists with emotional commitment and is characterized as a focus in a surface description where readers are expected to an active role in finding the exceptional meanings. Our understanding of the modern world is mediated by simulations of the real. He provides a general context and allows the reader's imagination to shape the various elements, themes, imagery and factual references that are fragmented and dispersed throughout his entire work. There is an uninterrupted sequence of events, character development and actions where a sense of alienation of character and world is created to form a kind of structure. It actually compliments the illustration of the author's character and subconscious fears in the course of his explanation of the modern world. "The poet has well-known in man a perpetual desire for existence which is physically powerful and says that birth and death is the ending reality but life has struggle in every position and new gentleman has a desire for tune, not for tears" (Aroli, Dr.Jitendra . 'Kaleidoscopic Vision In The Vihang Naik's Poetry: Manifesto' published in Research Scholar :An International Refereed e-Journal of Literary Exploration. ISSN 2320 – 6101 ,Vol. I Issue II, May, 2013).

The poet was a shrewd observer of modern life with a keen interest upon human nature where he aimed to present modern life as it really is. His poems reveal him as a person presenting life in an ironically detached manner and his deep and absorbing interest in modern life had been clearly reflected in his poems. They are intensely personal and are a panorama created with a philosophic purpose and its theme is relevant to the present situation of modern life for it is a detailed and complete examination of human condition. He establishes a picture of dull, pretentious and stifling social scene. His poems show a stronger relationship of the body with the human soul. His poem 'Self-Portrait' is based on an individual's introvert soul and the psychological struggle of the mind where there is a complete transformation of the self:

"I wake up to see my self
Discovered beyond thought" (p.97).

His poetry includes complete sentences that serve as a means to a true form of poetry. In an age of instant telecommunication and metropolitan life, his poetry attempts to accommodate the overwhelming diversity of messages. His language is transparent where the reader hinges upon the variety of knowledge by realizing the perspectives of the poem. It suggests an ongoing reinterpretation of the self that exists outside and beyond the

desire of organization in presenting a technological person divorced from an environment that he attempts to manage or condition in this modern world. His poems are anchoring the truth or identity that offers through its very inception the possibility of transformation. He initiates an encoded structure or network that builds personal order, mediation between the minds that takes its shape from the diverse ways in which the ideas come together. This series of poems are the product of his chain of imagination with a combination that produces meanings forming a new subject in a determinate order claiming the evolution of intellectual authority to personal decision. Nature had been imagined as a part of the human universe and in sympathy with the human heart as in his poem 'Aquarium' he exclaims:

“..You

Think of beauty

Breathing

In the desert of waters

And bubbles” (p.70)

His views deal more radically and profoundly human problems that beset human happiness and innocence. His seriousness here is unquestionable and bears out the depth of his thought as a poet. They deal with all the facts of contemporary modern life and thus depict the reality of life in today's world. He had concentrated mainly on the depiction of the eternal reality. Life is presented with detached accuracy, regardless of moral or ideological considerations. This modern age is an era of disintegration and interrogation where the poet presents realistically the doubts, the conflicts and the frustrations of the modern world and he had grappled with the modern problem of reality in his own way. There is a large scale of criticism in the condemnation of contemporary values and civilization bringing a note of disillusionment in its wake. The rapid growth of technology had made modern men aimless and purposeless and they are frustrated, depressed and dispirited. A number of social problems had gripped modern life and life seemed to be useless. The poet had concentrated his attention on the social problems and had made this as an instrument of social propaganda. His poems had a definite social purpose and aimed at the solution of modern social problems arising out of stress and storm of economic life. “Life is a hollow word for him and he finds it equal to an absurd play. Same feelings are expressed in The Final Act. Striking imagery, captivating metaphors and subtle use of other figures of speech add a fresh glory and grace to his poems. The first half of the book is devoted to concepts such as versification, poetic language, and tradition, the second half is organized along genre lines and examines, nature

poetry, sociological experience” (Dixit, Dr. Kalyani. "Colossal Range Of Experiences And Philosophical Vision Of Vihang A. Naik In Poetry Manifesto: New And Selected Poems, Research Scholar 1.4, 2013: 1-4)

The second part of his poem 'Poetry Manifesto' is about the process of poetic creation in the journey of the poet from his childhood phase to an adult person showing his manifestations of feeling and emotion. The poet's creativity is centered on the life of human beings on this earth and this creation remains permanent. According to the poet, expressing oneself should be the primary concern of the poet and poetry is nothing but life itself with sorrows and pain on one hand and the happiness in the other and he very well held this view of poetic creation in his poem as he exclaims:

“How about making a poem within

A poem? You smell the ocean and

The sand

A life within a poem” (p.61)

To him poetry frees the mind from the clutches of subjectivity and broadens the mind and widens the range of thought and perceptions and lends universality to the characteristic views and opinion about various aspects related to life. Poetry develops personality and refines and purifies thought and view. Therefore the poet states that poetry enriches the mind and stimulates imagination perfecting rationalization in expression. Love constitutes an important aspect in his poetry. For him it is the highest form of human values. He takes a realistic view of love and presents the tragedy of love rather than its triumph in his treatment of love in his poem 'Love song of a journeyman':

“How long

Can our hands

Keep the distance

Bound

Look ahead-

The journey is short” (p.86)

In this poem, he states that life is a journey where there is mixture of happiness and sadness, success and failure, comfort and pain, encouragement and frustration, love and hatred, relief and sorrow with a unique step in every way. Each moment on journey of life are presented with an opportunity to react differently. He talks about the problems of materialistic craze for possession in this modern life, the

problem of love and the human predicament, the futility and meaninglessness and loneliness of the human lives. These harrowing experiences of humanity are objectively put into words in his poetry. They present a criticism of material values and there is a note of disillusionment raised with the obsession with material values of life portraying realistically the sordidness of life. His poetry focused the attention on the presentation of a man's life from infancy to old age. He speaks about his varied experiences of life and love. His appreciation of art and literature equipped his mind and prepared him for selecting poetry as a form of art. Poetry is an art and that preserves the world in its form accordingly. Literature and especially poetry is based on imagination and this is somewhat experienced by the poet. Sudhir K. Arora very aptly writes: "From the technical aspects, the poet in Vihang Naik seems to be rich enough to create interest in the reader who enjoys the music as well as ponders over the thought expression. His short lines attract with images and phrases that speak themselves to the reader and all the poems of this collection are specimen of his unparalleled poetic adroitness" (Arora, Sudhir K. Book Review: Poetry Manifesto, in Dialogue: A Journal Devoted to Literary 6.2,2012)

His poem 'Reader response theory' recognizes the reader as an active agent who imparts real existence to the work and completes its meaning through interpretation as he states:

"...unending

Meanings seductively

Reveal themselves

From a potent poem" (p.46)

In the poet's view poetry should be viewed as a performing act in which each reader creates their own possibly unique text related performance. He involves a transaction between the text's inferred meaning and the individual interpretation influenced by the personal emotions and knowledge. The poet perceives life in a different way and so it is interpreted differently from the introductory stage that is the growth stage as in his poem 'After Innocence' he describes:

"You find yourself

Strange in the fog

Of knowledge

Enter

The world" (p.111).

The poet had a frustrated acceptance of modern life as colorless and joyless. He becomes pre-occupied with the psychic manifestations more than anything external and concrete. His poetry is a progress from the obvious to the subtle form of life moving from a biological reality to the spiritual idealism. Thus, we find a social realism that indicates a sort of technical progress. The social trend expands and there is a considerable increase in the magnitude of the perspective of life. The artistic consciousness to fascinate a reader takes birth in his poetry. He draws the multiple aspects of human personality revealing the themes of direct experiences and the problems of human life and human nature with varying attitudes to modern life. He had presented an unvarnished picture of life, laying special emphasis or forces that are the result of frustration to modern life springing from human passions upon the working of society. As a poet, he is mainly objective in his attitude towards modern city life and he had exploited certain incidents of his life in the form of the expression of human nature that becomes the gist for his mill of poetry writing. His view of life is formed by his own perception, observation and experience of life showing a realistic conception of life where misery and destruction is clearly reflected in his poem.

CONCLUSION:

There is no difficulty in understanding the poet's views of life and the process of poetic creation. His poems can also be seen as an example of the depressed soul of the poet, as he revolves on the basic concept of the purpose to life. His poetry responds to the condition of the modern world. He was keenly aware of the contradictions and frustrations of life and his poetry studies modern life marked by sorrows and miseries. His observation or views of life is guided by his deep interest in human nature and he discovers the situations that are responsible for the frustrations of modern life. It centers on reality of worldly life which leads to disillusionment forming the gamut of the whole of human nature-the physical, mental and spiritual. The poet tackles the theme of human life embroiled in so many bondages-natural, emotional and economic lives and the wisdom that comes from his personal experiences serves to mature his thoughts. He seems to be concerned with the purpose of living in the thesis of modern human life. Certainly he is unique as he forms an enclave of his own design. His philosophy of life is based on matters and methods related to common sense that bears a stamp of originality. As a thinker, he is original and provoking and his greatness lies in his thought about thinking of the modern life and its problems. Hence in this way an attempt had been made to hold the poet's contemplated view of life on the realistic lines showing the artistic representation of his experiences

of the poetic creation and the realities of life with the diversities of human nature.

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