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RURAL LIFE IN GULZAR'S POETRY

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores rural scenario in Gulzar's poetry who has won international recognition. Gulzar covers a vast range of poetry touching almost all the aspects. He has portrayed rural life in an excellent manner. Being born in a village he does not ignore even minor things regarding rural life. He loves rural life and likes the temperament of people who are kind, affectionate, brotherly, hospitable, harmonious etc.

Keywords: Contemporary, progressive, hospitality, grievances, embedded, portray and treasure

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In the contemporary period writers mainly discuss about urban life. In literature there are few stories depicting villages. However, some writers are still engaged in villages discussing. So far as poetry is considered only a few writers have paid attention towards discussing rural life in their poetry.

Writers involved with Progressive writer's movement focused to some extent on this aspect as majority of them belonged to villages. It was suggested by Ali Sardar Jafri not to ignore common masses in their writings. Among those writers Gulzar is one who is famous for his versatility and got international recognition due to his unique style and expression. Gulzar's poetry too is filled with rural aspects like almost all films under his direction. As a keen observer of villages, Gulzar never turns his eyes away from the rural life as he himself was born in a village 'Dina' which is now in Pakistan. He is aware of all the rural aspects including culture, tradition, language, dealings etc. In his poetry one can find how excellently Gulzar has portrayed the picture of rural life. Gulzar depicts the picture like fruits growing, flowers blossoming, taste of baked corn cakes in a poem which runs like this:

*Aur tandoor pa maki ke kuch motay motay roat pakaye
Potli mein mehman mere
Pechelay salon ki fasal ka gur laye the
"Dustak"*

And we baked some corn cakes on oven
The guests had brought in bundles
Jaggery of the last season

"Knock"

He has magnificently used the timber in his poetry which he used to burn the oven and keep it hot for a long time like as:

*Din ka keekar kat kat ka kulhadi se
Raat ka eedhan jamah kiya ha!
Seeli lakdi, kadway dhuwey mein
Choole ki kuch saans chali ha!*

“Aak Aur Din”

By cutting the day “kekker” with an axe
I stored fuel of night!
The damp wood amidst bitter smoke in the
clay oven for a while!

“One More Day”

His poetry is filled with scenic beauty of villages which is described by giving the example of mustard fields with full charm that he observed during childhood. We have a line from a poem which goes like this:

Dekhayi thi thumhe woh khetiyansarsu ki

“Agar Asa Bhee Hota”

I had shown you those mustard crops

“Would That Happen”

Gulzar in his poetry throws light on the world of joy and happiness of children who play with cow dung cakes as described in these lines:

*Hasta hasta suraj roaz sawere akar
Gobar ka aplu par khela karta ha
Raat ko angan ma jub chulha jalta tha*

“Eedhan”

The smiling sun appeared every day
To play with cow dung cakes
When the oven was kindled in the night

“Fuel”

Gulzar portrays the innocence and simplicity of a villager in one of his best poems “Tagore” with these lines:

*Aak dehati sar pa gur ki bheli bandhe,
Lambe choude ek maidan se guzar raha tha
Gur ki kshuboo sun ke bin bin karti
Aek chaatri sar par madlati thi
Dhoop chadti aur suraj ki gurmi puhunchi to
Gur ki bheli behne lagi
Mausoom dehati hairan tha*

“Tagore”

A villager was passing through a vast field
Carving a lump of jaggery over his head
An umbrella of flies swarmed over his head
Attracted by the jaggery smell
As the sun rose higher and heated it
Jaggery began to melt flowing down
The innocent villager got surprised

“Tagore”

Villagers are known for their hospitality, honesty, love, brotherhood, harmony, kindness etc. One cannot find any other better example of mutual cooperation than theirs. If after a long period a friend meets other friend

suddenly in a valley, they do not only inquire about their near and dear ones, but going on discussing about all the happenings in the village. This is nicely depicted by Gulzar in these lines:

*Itna ooncha ooncha bolta ha doo jharne apas mein
Jaise ek dehat ke doost achanak mil kar wadi mein
Gaon bhar ka poochete hein...*

“Raat Pahadoo Pa Kuch Aur He Hoti Ha”

Two waterfalls converse so loudly
As two village friends who meet suddenly in the valley
Go on inquiring a lot about village...

“Night on the Mountains Appear Different”

Gulzar, being a sensitive man, has also thrown light on the, down trodden people of the society, especially on the miserable conditions of the farmers, who under the burden of debt end their lives. Government least bothers about their miserable plights and grievances. Thus they get depressed and ultimately end their lives by committing suicide. Such a sketch is drawn by Gulzar in poem which goes like this:

*Zara Allama ko khabar kar de
Ki jin kheton se dehkan ko mayasar na hoyi rozi
Kisi ne khet mein jakar jalay bhee nahin
Gundum ke khoshu ko...
Kahin koyi nahin utha, na koyi inqilab aya!
Jinaze uth rahe hain gaon gaon se
Ya sub ke sub jinaze hain kisanon ke
Jinhona qarz ki mitti chaba kar khudkhushi kar li!*

“Zara Allama Ko Khabar Kar Da”

*Jis khat sa dehkan ko mayasar na ho rooti
Aus khaat ka her khoshaya gundum ko jala doo!*

*Allama Iqbal

Somebody tell Allama
The fields which do not provide bread to a farmer
No one has burnt wheat's crop...
Nor any one rose, neither any revolution begin
From every village we see funerals
These all belong to farmers
Who commit suicide due to burden of debt!
“Somebody Tell Allama”

.....
*In response to Allama Iqbal's line:

Burn the crop of the field
Which will not provide bread to a farmer!

(Allama Iqbal)

In a nutshell we can say that in Gulzar's poetry rural aspects are found in abundance. He has not ignored depicting rural life in his writings as rural environment has been inherited by him. It is only the poetic genius of Gulzar to describe rural aspects in such an excellent manner. In the contemporary writers one cannot find any writer in handling rural aspects so competently. His poetry is really a precious treasure of literature.

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