

SERVICE- THE ETERNAL NURTURE

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Abstract: Rabindranath Tagore's 'Gitanjali' underlines the significance of role of God, humanity, Nature, devotion and other things through the selfless service to all living beings. Similarly, His Holiness Dr. SharanabaswappaAppa recorded his mystic experience in his twenty-one Mahadasoha Sutras and these sutras have unique resemblance to the very tune of 'Gitanjali' (1912).The prime endeavor of the article is to bring forth the human values, particularly service in both the Sutras and one of the poems of 'Gitanjali' (1912)

Key words; grieve, nourishing, ripening, cease and others.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) is the product of the ancient Indian culture and rich heritage, in the modern time. He has multifaceted talent and the same is reflected in his all forms of literature like poems, plays, novels, articles and others. He is the first Asian litterateur and the Indian poet who was awarded Nobel Prize for his English "Gitanjali" (1912) in 1913. He gives importance to humanity, service, devotion, God's existence, nature and others. Since it is Herculean task to focus on all of his thoughts, the present article concentrates only on service in one of his poems in his 'Gitanjali'(1912) and the same is essayed to trace out in the Mahadasoha Sutras composed by his Holiness Poojya Dr.SharanabaswappaAppa ,Chancellor, Sharnbasva University, President, Sharanbasaveshwar Vidya Vardhak Sangha, Kalaburagi. His Holiness Poojya Dr. SharanabaswappaAppa is the eighth MahadashaPeethadhipati of the Sharanabasaveshwar Samsthan, Kalaburagi. His Holiness composed twenty-one Mahadasoha Sutras in Kannada and propounded the concept of mahadasoha.These Sutras were rendered into English and passed their comments on them by the renowned Kannada scholar Prof. L.Basavaraju of the Mysore university and the American poetess Judith Croll in 1988. Later, forty-day lecturing was arranged on each of these sutras by eminent scholars and professors of different universities and colleges in the Shrawana (Aug/Sept.) month special lecturing series. Great scholars like M.V.Kamath, former chairman of Prasar Bharati, also translated and wrote his comments on these twenty one sutras. The universal giving spirit is found in the process of multiple transcreation across the whole world. Let us understand first the following Tagore's poem in 'Gitanjali'

"On many an idle day have I grieved over lost time. But it is never lost, my lord. Thou hast taken every moment of my life in thine own hands.

Hidden in the heart of things thou art nourishing seeds into sprouts, buds into blossoms, and ripening flowers into fruitfulness.

I was tired and sleeping on my idle bed and imagined all work had ceased. In the morning I woke up and found my garden full with wonders of flowers”.

Rabindranath Tagore describes the immanence and immeasurable faith in God. God is ever caring and fulfilling the dreams of His creation. The poet is unhappy over his idle and fruitless life. He has regrets for his futile life. But truth dawns on him and he starts to feel that everything is going on with the direction of God. Because, God being Omnipresent and hidden in the heart of things, nourishes seeds into sprouts, buds into blossoms and ripening flowers into sweet fruits. One could see God’s service in the process of change

The poet in the last stage is feeling tired and sleeps on an idle bed thinking that all activities in his life have come to an end. But when the poet wakes up on the next morning, he finds that his life is full of significance and he is being looked after by God’s pervasive influence. Because he finds himself optimistic; this reflects in his garden that is full of flowers. Finally, he comes to realize that human labor never goes waste.

The poet says that he is ‘grieved over lost time. But it is never lost, my lord. Thou hast taken every moment of my life in thine own hands’. This is reflected in the Fifth Sutra: ‘to experience God by worship and offerings of *all times* in a collective form is the essence of Dasoha. Yesterday is history, today is experience and tomorrow is hope. Experiencing God day by day is Shivanubhava (Divine experience)’. God being ‘Hidden in the heart of things thou art nourishing seeds into sprouts, buds into blossoms, and ripening flowers into fruitfulness’. The Sixteenth Sutra underlines the presence of God in one’s heart only: ‘When that sharana spouse’s devotion to dasoha fuses with linga husband, then he is Aikya. Since here doer and God are same, Taken together, practised all at once’. Thus everyone will be lifted to divinity like ‘the seeds into sprouts, buds into blossoms, and ripening flowers into fruitfulness’. The Second Sutra includes a devotee’s humble and selfless feelings so as to deserve the divinity: ‘Withdraw yourself, put forward God and God will make you Himself, Mahadasohi Sharnbasva’. Further the Sixth sutra presents positive outlook as in the poem, ‘In the morning I woke up and found my garden full with wonders of flowers’. It means the poet understands in the light of morning; ‘Kayaka is that which you offer to God in prayer in an act of selflessness. Where the self is subjugated to the Lord, where you labour, O friend, with zeal and devotion, there dwells Lakshmi in her splendour. Where labour is performed in the spirit of dasoha; there, O friend, your offerings are worthy of acceptance by the Lord, ... doing work not only for oneself but also for others as an offering to God, that is Kayaka Dasoha, the best way of life, says Mahadasohi Sharnbasava’.

The Mahadasoha concept is found in the change of seeds into sprouts, buds blossoming into flowers and further ripening into delectable and delicious fruits. This is all just in the service of human beings, birds and beasts and all living beings. The selfless service is the essence of the poem and the same is the soul of the Mahadasoha.

The universal service is Mahadasoha and the same is the Eternal Nurturing of all the living and non-living of the universe to run its system most fruitfully.

Reference:

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