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CELEBRATION OF FOOD AND FEAST IN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Literature is a part which mirrors human life with liveliness of love, emotion, thought, desire, resilience, civility, growth, discipline and more. Food is playing an immense role in human civilization and the theme food and feast elevated by writers of various literatures. Human can have desire on pleasures of Universe and one among them is food. Literature deals about the theme food and food stick in human civilization for thousands of years before. Food elevates the feeling of human in different situations. Numerous writers used food and feast in different perspectives. In literature we can find lots of food feast in extensive emotional situations like last supper of Jesus Christ. This paper aims to evolve the essentiality of understanding on food in literature and it pours the essence of the taste of food from the olden days to the younger generation.

Key Words: Food and Feast, Food in human civilization

CELEBRATION OF FOOD AND FEAST IN LITERATURE

Literature is a part which mirrors human life with liveliness of love, emotion, thought, desire, resilience, civility, growth, discipline and more. Food is playing an immense role in human civilization and the theme food and feast elevated by writers of various literatures. Human can have a desire for pleasures of the Universe and one among them is food. Literature deals about the theme food and food stick in human civilization for thousands of years before. Food elevates the feeling of human in different situations. Numerous writers used food and feast in different perspectives. In literature we can find lots of food and feast in extensive emotional situations like the last supper of Jesus Christ. This paper aims to evolve the essentiality of understanding on food in literature and it pours the essence of the taste of food from the days to the younger generation.

Literature Exhibits the human psychology along with emotion, feelings and thought emotion. It is a pleasure which projects the world and its elements in front of the eyes. Human emotions have cravings for many things, among them food is one the strongest desire and emotion. Anything in this world has a role in literature which includes all kinds like poetry, drama, fiction, one act play and short stories. In such cases the theme of food and the feast cannot be skipped. This paper aims to promote the theme of food and feast in different perspectives. Literature exhibits major themes such as tragedy, comedy, love, friendship and many. World without food is unimaginable and the living beings of the world cannot live without food. It is essential and the basic need required for human life. Food and feast plays a pivotal role in human life. There are many cultures which begin human life with food and end the same with food. Paople are celebrating the birth of the child by feasting the relatives, friends and family members. Food plays a major role as is the ultimate source for human life. There are three major things in the world for humans to live: food, cloth shelter. Since it is a fact, food cannot be separated from human life, society and literature. There are many authors in literature dealing with the theme of food and feast. In the greater destination of Human civilization food crossed numerous millstones, developments and transformations.

George Bernard Shaw is a famous English writer who has praised food as follows: “ There is no sincere love than the love of Food” The words are the emotion and experience of human and it shows that

food is playing the ultimate role. Charles Lamp is a well known writer who has taken an attempt on the experiences of human. He is an essayist, critic, poet and a playwright. He is a famous writer for his '*Essays of Elia*' published in 1823. It is well known for its charm, humor, and perception and laced with idiosyncrasies, these essays appear to be modest in scope, but their soundings are deep, and their ripples extend to embrace much of human life particularly the life of the imagination. 'Dissertation upon a Roasted Pig' is one of the famous essays. In this essay he has written about the human experience in cooked food for the first time in their life and showed the evolution of the taste of pig before and burnt after. This is an experience of a father and son in an accidental case of a burnt hut. There is no culture of cooking food among the people and this essay has given a historical twist on the habit of eating raw meat. The essay is evident that there were no cooking habits among the people till that time in china. The accidental burning of the hut leads the human to taste the delicious taste of roasted pig. The essayist recorded the incident as the story of an innocent little boy. The boy was carelessly the reason for the fire accident in their own hut. The fire burnt the pigs and they were roasted by the fire. Bo-bo was the son of swineherd Ho-ti was playing with fire one day, unfortunately the fire spread over the hut and nine pigs were trapped in the firing hut as it was the shelter for those pigs which were burning in front of the boy. Immediately after the accident he tried to explain to the father but the smell of burnt pig tempted him like Satan towards eve. He touched the burnt pig and the heat was unbearable to him and suddenly he placed the finger in the tongue to reduce the burning pain. He had a heavenly taste in the finger. The angry father also touched the pig and the same thing happened to the father, tasted the burnt pig and became addicted to the taste especially the skin of the burnt pig when it sticks on the finger. Both the son and father got addicted to the taste and they started enjoying it. The taste became emotional and the father and son felt it was a great feast by its taste. There was no habit of cooking meat or food in their culture, but they had burnt the pigs secretly by burning the hut frequently and it became an addiction for them. They thought that if the people found this; it would be an offence and they would have filed the case on them. It happened then they were summoned for their act of burning the pig. The mystery found by the people. They explained what had happened. Everyone became angry when they revealed the truth. The judge was outraged but later let the father and son off. Few days later there was a mysterious fire at his house and it spread all around the town. The essayist had given in a comic way that humans are the being eating all the delicious foods in the

world. In another perspective this is the elevation of human life to the next level of living. In the life of human beings there are lots of accomplishments but none other can sooth like food and feast. The great epic Paradise Lost by Milton was centralized by the fruit which led the life of human to the next level.

Jonathan Swift (November 30, 1667 – October 19, 1745) was an Anglo –Irish Priest, essayist, political writer, and a poet considered the foremost satirist in the English language. He wrote many great works and became a famous writer. He took food as the theme in his poem 'Mutton' and started celebrating the preparation of the mutton and the taste of mutton till the end of the poem. Mutton is a meat which is very famous food in South Asia, Caribbean. It has a long history in literature. It has been domesticated in Mesopotamia about ten thousand years and it has become human diet for thousands of years. In Indian culture there are many ways in using mutton and in many tribal areas they use goats as scapegoats for gods and some goddesses and they share the meat with relatives, friends and known people and it becomes food in human culture. Many have written on goats, sheep and mutton. Jonathan Swift was a famous writer who wrote on it. People have lots of love for food , especially meat. As a human he had a desire to eat mutton and he shared his experience with the reader who read the poetry. Addiction for food is relatable in literature for long times

Jonathan Swift's Mutton is a simple poem which expresses his love of meat. He loves mutton very much and he had written it as a poem in order to show gratitude towards the food he loves. In this poem he expresses the way he eats mutton. The meat should be gently stirred and in the blown fire. There were ways to cook meat in the past. In this poem he explained that the meat should be laid down in the dresser which is used to cook the meat on fire. There was a role for dressers in English kitchens where they placed the cooked food. In between the poetry he has shown the love towards mutton.

His desire on mutton and the experience in eating are expressed through the beginning of the poem and in which he suggests the reader to experience the same he had in eating mutton. There is a way to respect food that should be cooked perfectly by the coal fire, during the cooking the meat sizzles and browns. The dripping from meat or the roasting made the fat liquidized and settled in the tray which carried the piece of mutton. The sheep are fed in pastures which are common in lands. He as a bachelor had maids to cook the mutton. He had

experienced the way of cooking and the tempting taste through the whiff of roasting meat. He had shown interest in salad, pickle, wine and ale which are combinations of the sine he experienced together.

Emotional personification of food in myth is memorable all the time, the Last supper of Jesus Christ who shared his last day of life with his disciples through the special supper. It was a great event that the son of god has given his flesh as bread and blood as wine to them. This is literally followed by all the Christians in their special occasion. Symbolization through this incident in myth and history is shown the essential of feast is knowledge of indication through food. In paradise lost there was a restriction for Eve and Adam to not eat the fruit, but the fruit was given by god to test the self control of the first human. It was disobeyed by the human and got cursed. Here the fruit is not cursed but the human who used it. In myth the fruit was the symbol of knowledge , Golden apple played a pivotal role in Greek mythology which led to Trojan War and symbolizes beauty and represents desire, apples are give the primary importance in Norse mythology which were the source for the beauty and the immortality of gods and when they were stolen the gods turned to aged, Apples are associated with many folktales as the symbol of birth and fertility and Food is being celebrated in literature in many situations and it was empowered to show notation on the situation, emotion, condition, feelings and celebration mood.

There was a poem 'Fame is a Fickle Food' by Emily Dickinson who very much cared about the emotion. She cares about the experience much as emotions, through the poetry she tried to convey the essence of fame was like food. One it would have been treated as a guest on the table and it shifted to another plate, cannot be stable and it cannot be a companion all the time. It has an uncertain nature which can be changed according to the needs of people. The people are not taking these in the same emotion when they often experience the same. Food can be a guest for the first time, cannot always be. The fame was compared with food in this poem. Through the following line "Whose table once a guest, but not The second time is set" the poetess tried to convey that the food can be celebrated as a guest on the table for the first time and it cannot be repeated for further times as the fame is uncertain, cannot be with one all the times. The poetess is a symbolist who always focused on the symbolic objects.

Le-Young Lee is an American poet, born on August 19, 1957 known for the theme of family, life, identity and cultural heritage. He was admired by his father who was a classical Chinese musician and a poet. His poem 'Eating Together' reflects the power and significance of sharing meals with the family. The poet wanted the reader to spend time with the family members and to share their love with each other. In this poem he particularly discussed the scene of a family member having their meal together along with sharing their love and cultural heritage. It is given beyond the physical aspect of eating, elves in the emotional bondage of the relationships with each other and spiritual dimensions of sharing with each other. The poem eating together tried to bring out the path to preserve the cultural traditions through sharing food and eating together. Families are celebrated for the unity across the countries. The main aim of the poem was to bring out the thought of uniting together for meals in all the families and also it is the reflection of the life of the poet who had faced difficulties in his early days during the Cultural Revolution.

Charles Baudelaire, a French poet, essayist, and art critic was best known for his groundbreaking collection of poems, "Les Fleurs du Mal". The poem The Pleasures of the Table was written by him to show his love and interest in food and the pleasure it gave him. He had a strong desire for the food, taste and the aroma of the foods on the table. It elevates the dining experience to a heavenly feel and it grasps the emotions of the spirit when desired to have food that we loved. He emphasizes the importance of taste and the flavors of the food. He tries to elevate the theme of food to make the people understand the richness of dining and the experience that can have when cooking food along with the transformation of raw aroma into flavored food. He believed that food has the power to awaken senses and can bring joy to life. He expresses the joy of tasting food with multiple tastes and flavors. This is how the food is celebrated in real life and literature.

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