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A Literary Political Allegory: Metaphors Of Captivity To Dravidian Identity, Consciousness And Tamil Cultural Assertion In Reflection By Muthamizh Arignar Kalaighnar Dr. Muthuvel Karunanidhi

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ABSTRACT

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaighnar Dr. M. Karunanidhi is a meritorious literary figure in Tamil Literature. His writings always possess deeper insights as Tamil and Dravidian ideology carry. Kalaighnar's writings discuss the concepts of Social Justice, Social Consciousness, Equality, and Dravidian ideas, as well as opposition to social inequality. This research paper gives a new perception of Liberty by comparing it with Nature. In the book Reflections (Essays and Speeches), Kalaighnar in English Translation, by Bharathiar University. The natural elements like the Moon, Aadi wind, Star, Night, Ocean, River, Dawn, Mountain, and the Green Parrot are compared to imprisonment and fighting for Liberty in the rest of their lives.

Keywords: Kalaigarnar M. Karunanidhi, Liberty, Dravidian ideology, Egocentrism, Equality, Social Justice, Tamil Culture, Identity

INTRODUCTION: PEN AND PEOPLE

“Reading books will give you Knowledge about the world, but if you read the world like a book, then you gain experience,” Dr. M. Karunanidhi

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaigarnar Dr. M. Karunanidhi is an inevitable Tamil personality in Indian politics. He is well-versed in prose, poetry, essays, history, speech, novels, and short stories. He is a multifaceted personality who infused his political ideas with a blend of literary elements, such as metaphor, simile, and personification, in his stage speeches. Additionally, he incorporated these literary elements into his screenwriting and regular daily columns in newspapers and magazines, including Murasoli.

LITERATURE AS RESISTANCE

Though he is busy with regular administrative work, he has a separate time allocation for literature-oriented work. He never stopped until nature stopped his breathing. To elevate his ideology and literary works in the stage of world literature with the permission of former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Kalaigarnar Dr. M. Karunanidhi, Bharathiar University took a massive effort to translate his work into English, without losing the originality of Kalaigarnar’s Tamil writings. The present source “Reflections (Essays and Speeches” had a comparison between the natural environment, where we live, and what we see in our day-to-day life, with the imprisonment of him and the Tamil People. People are struggling to get liberty from the power of dominance.

NATURE AS ALLY: THE DRAVIDIAN BOND WITH EARTH

The comparison between nature and humans in conveying the message of liberty is unique. Nature and humans are inseparable. The people have a bonded since Earth's existence. Humans started to live with nature in the primitive age. Nature has not lost its beauty. Since from the olden times, Dravidians have had an acquaintance with nature. Dravidian and nature are as old as the Stone Age.

FREEDOM IN SYMBOLS – DIALOGUES WITH THE MOON & WIND

The Moon is one of the natural phenomena on Earth. Muthamizh Arignar Kalaigarnar Dr. M. Karunanidhi is watched by the moon through the latticed window. Moon says you are a prisoner. He replied to it, You are also a prisoner surrounded by clouds like enemies surrounded me here. You are also unable to jump from the prison, and I, too, struggle to get out of these four bars. Both of them are prisoners. Freedom is indeed for everyone. “I am a prisoner! You, a prisoner too!” (Karunanidhi 2). Kalaigarnar questions Aadi wind. He asks who sent you inside the prison to disturb my peace. He says the Aadi wind has no reason as the government fails to answer him. He compares trees to people. Aadi wind shakes the tree vigorously. He

says the aadhi month will pass soon, and then the wind will blow like a melody song. The tree's branches will not be broken after the aadhi month passes.

Kalaignar says the ocean gives birth to the Sun and Moon. The foam comes from the ocean is like milk foam, which a mother gives to her Child. “The toiling worker, the flourishing capitalist, the savant dispensing truth, the poet sharing his lofty muse, sculptor, painter, intellectual – everyone gets rest, but why no respite for you?” (Karunanidhi 7). Freedom for the ocean has become questionable. He says all perishable trees grow on the banks of the river. Banana, Jack, mango, and sugarcane benefit from the river. The government is compared to the river. “The creation of humanity! If you run haywire, oh River, you’ll be tamed by a dam. A government in power also shares the same fate! As you take your course, chanting this refrain, Long live, River! Long Live” (Karunanidhi 10).

POET BEHIND BARS: THE VOICE, VISION, VIVID IMAGERY

He asks Dawn to not only open the doors of palaces but also to open doors for poor people. They who are toiling from early morning to late evening. “The day you don’t wake up, the poor man is not the day he has passed away? You don’t wake up corpses. You also don’t eat up the walking corpses of the mansions. I have now understood your meaningful ways. Dawn! Greetings to you! (Karunanidhi 11). Kalaignar says the mountain is a world benefactor. Without the mountain, the world-famous Ajantha and Egyptian sculptures are unavailable. All the valuable material in the world is found in mountains. Even a poet gets ideas from a mountain. His ideas flow like a brook that runs through a mountain. Mountain is a social worker. “But you’re nobler than the humans. Though man tramples up your crest, you’re greater than man” (Karunanidhi 15).

RELEASING THE PARROT – TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EMPATHY

Karunanidhi compares the Green parrot’s cage to a prison. He says those who are in prison are wielders of power today. “Oh parrot! I had cruelly trapped you in a cage. I seek your forgiveness. I have understood the trauma of imprisonment. With this newfound wisdom, I cannot wait to let you fly into freedom” (Karunanidhi 117).

CONCLUSION

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar Dr. M. Karunanidhi had the lens of nature to see how imprisonment is worldwide. To overcome and attain freedom to be on the path of Dravidian ideology and rational thinking will be helpful. Everyone should have social justice and equality to maintain their rich identity, as Tamil culture is carrying.

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