

Reflection of Russian Revolution in Subramaniam Bharati's Poem: An Intensive Lesson

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Subramaniam Bharati (1882-1921) was a pioneer of modern Tamil literature. He was a poet, writer, lyricist, journalist, social reformer and pioneer of the freedom movement in South India. Subramaniam Bharati is a pioneer in the rise of Tamil poetry in the twentieth century. He is known by various names such as Bharattiar, Subbaiya, Shaktidasan, Mahakavi etc. The personality and ideals of his age still influence the minds of the Tamil people. His literature gained an all-India context. It is not just that the all-India context received. Bharati also had a strong global outlook. Bharati always tried to relate his ideas to different events in the world. Therefore, his literature is certainly influenced by various world events. The 'Russian Revolution' of 1917 was one of the most important events in the world. Bharati's poems are the first to mention the Russian Revolution in India. After the Russian Revolution, the poet wrote the poem named as 'Pudiya Russia' which meaning is "new Russia" to welcome the new Russia. The poet hopes that the new environment of the new Russia will bring a message of equality, no-caste discrimination and orderly social life. In this paper we will try to discuss how the poet sees Russia in his poem Pudiya Russia.

The Russian Revolution: An Overview—

The Russian Revolution of 1917 is one of the most important events in world history of the twentieth century. This resulted in the end of the Tsarist dictatorship in Russia and the establishment of the Soviet Union. This revolution can be said to have taken place in two parts. One in March, 1917 and the other in October. The result of the First Revolution, the Emperor was forced to resign and a provisional government was formed there. The October Revolution dissolved the provisional government and formed a communist government. The French Revolution of 1789 profoundly influenced the lives of the people of Europe by promoting the ideas of freedom, equality and brotherhood. The scope of the Russian Revolution is far greater than the political events that have taken place so far. It not only ended the rule of the despotic, dictatorial and arbitrary Tsar, but also abolished the social and economic existence of zamindars, feudal lords, capitalists, etc. and established the existence of workers and peasants in the world for the first time. The Russian Revolution also established the ideology of scientific socialism as proposed by Marx for the first time. This judgment was so strongly established from 1917 until about 1950 that half of the world could not escape its influence. After the revolution, world history took such a dynamic turn that some supported it while others opposed its propaganda.

Background of the Revolution:

The Russian Revolution is an important event not only in European history but also in world history. At that time, Russia lacked social equality. The problems of Russia at this time were divided into three classes of society. They are the lower classes (with many rights from the state), the upper-middle class (including zamindars, capitalists) and the peasants and workers (who were inhumanly oppressed). At this time, there was no goodwill towards one another in Russian social life. They looked at each other from a perspective completely different from their own. Tsar Nicholas was an authoritarian ruler. He was not in favor of helping the people.

Causes of the Russian Revolution —

a. The Industrial Revolution and its consequences: Like other countries, the Industrial Revolution took also place in Russia. This led to the establishment of many factories in Russia. Industrialization led to millions of workers leaving the villages and coming to the cities. Their simple lives changed as they settled in the city. Instead of looking at each other separately, they begin to reason together. They formed labor organizations with innovative ideas.

b. The 1905 Revolution: The 1905 Revolution which took place in Russia; which attempted to establish a legitimate monarchy but was unsuccessful due to traditional disputes. As a result, the Tsar dominated again. As a clear consequence of this revolution, the general public learned about political rights. They knew what the vote meant. How are members of Parliament elected? They were aware that the government should set its policies according to public opinion and move forward in the public interest. Being familiar with their political rights, the people understood that Russia should definitely have a democratic government in which the power would be entrusted to the common people.

c. Western European influence: Russia was influenced by the democratic states of Western Europe. In Russia, the emperor tried unsuccessfully to prevent Western progressive judgement from spreading in Russia.

d. Changes in middle-class attitudes: Education had spreader among the middle-class in Russia. As a result, they began to study new books. He studied the jurisprudence of Western Europe and translated it into Russian and published it in book form. Even Asian writers express progressive views through their works. The educated class is become very attracted to new ideas. Especially the younger generation read new ideas and assumes that their country is far behind other countries. The only reason for this is the tyranny of the cold. They feel a sense of duty and commitment to improve their country.

e. Impact of the Great War: Russia joined the Great War on behalf of the Allies. After two years of continuous fighting, there was some relaxation. Although the Russian army was strong, they lacked patriotism and nationalism. As the days of World War II progressed, they saw no sign of victory. Russian employees were recruited to serve the country but had no specific goals. He dreamed of pleasing the emperor and rising to a high position. Bribery and corruption also reached their limits.

The events and consequences of the revolution—

A. The army's refusal to fire on the people: In March 1917, the condition of the people became very dire. The poor workers had nothing to eat or wear. Desperate for hunger and clothing, they finally wander like crazy on the streets of Petragradki. They started looting the market. The army was ordered to shoot but refused out of sympathy for the people. The workers were also encouraged to see the army showing sympathy towards them. This is how the idea of revolution is strengthened in everyone's mind.

B. Abdication of the Tsar: The workers launched a movement against the Tsar. Protests began across the country. The Tsar was forced to give up his rule. On March 14, 1917, a socialist government was formed under the chairmanship of liberal leader George Slav. It demanded that the Tsar abdicate on 14 March. Forced by circumstances, Tsar submitted his resignation. Thus, the workers succeeded in the revolution. However, they did not think it right to keep the reins of power in their own hands and handed over all the power to the middle class.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 shook the whole world. This revolution was able to influence everyone all over the world. This influence is also seen in literary work. Indian writers are also not immune to this influence. Many people tried to look at the Russian Revolution from different perspectives through their writings. This influence is also seen in the literature of various regional languages of India.

Subramanian Bharati's poem Pudiya Russia in the Tamil province of southern India represents social life in the new Russia after the Russian Revolution. In this poem, the great poet Bhartai makes a link between the Tsarist rule before the Russian Revolution and the social environment in Russia after the fall of the Tsarist Empire. When we think of the society ruled by the Tsar, we conjure up a picture of frightened people.

Again, the fall of the Tsar heralds a new day. The poet implores the people of the world to leave the dark world and move towards the light as he encourages them to break free from the Tsar's arbitrary rule. The poet is asking to instill hope in the minds of the people

Mahakali parasakti uruchiyantil
Kadaivan waittal
Anke Erundduppa Yukpurcchi
Kodunkolon Olri Wirandan

(Meaning- That is, a wonderful revolution has begun because the great mercury is staring at Russia. The demon gods are screaming and falling. The spirits of darkness are dying in sorrow and crying. Everyone's eyes will soon be blurred Observe.)

The great sinner Tsar betrayed humanity. He was proud of himself as the creator of the world. They were inhuman to the common people. The poet describes how the Tsar oppressed the people as follows:

Irnionpo Roniolpol
Rachandan Kodunkollon Zarenum
Paris Ronielpol Ind Pavi
Charninari Dabittittaran

(Meaning-That is, he ruled like the demon king Hiranyakasipu. The great foolish Tsar despised honesty. He persecuted the honest and faithful people. Like a snake in a deep forest, lies, deception, and evil forces surrounded the country.)

The Tsar's rule threw society into chaos. Untruth was sung between truth and untruth. No distinction between guilty, innocent was judged. There was just an inexplicable terrible atmosphere. To explain this, the poet says —

Urudu vidai pparu ku
Unwillai pinical palvundu
Kupoyii torudtimai
Cheywarukku Selwankulundu Cholworak

(Meaning-That is, those who worked in agriculture with their sweat on the ground did not get food. On the other hand, those who worshiped falsehood had abundant wealth. Those who spoke the truth had dark prison cells.)

Bharati had a strong sense of patriotism. He has deep faith and trust in the motherland. The same idea is beautifully reflected in the poem. The poet addresses the common people, assuming that the motherland is dying of grief for the people.

Kudiml chonndi kudiwarwu
Menmoiyur kudimainidi

Kadiyonri lerundupa kudiarchenru

Ulkari Kuri Vitta

(Meaning-That is, the heart and soul of the motherland is weeping at the injustices committed against her subjects. The mother who protects the devotees, saves those who show good courage.)

Finally, the poet speaks of the fall of the Tsarist regime. Fighting for justice and equal rights, the rule of the evil Tsar finally came to an end. The whole world was freed from slavery. As the poet thought, a new orderly social life began in Russia. That is what the poet says —

Himmaimlei Wiliddupol

Wilnduwittan Jar Arachan

Wilnduwittan Jar Arachan

Ivaneichulundu Chamaymul Padikellam

Poikuri Arankuru Chadikal Sayed

Charinditta

(That is, the cold fell and it felt like the huge Himalayas fell. With it, the opportunists of time, the liars, the conspirators, the killers of honesty, the people who pretended not to know fell like big trees in a storm. From now on, no one will be oppressed.)

Conclusion-

In the poem Pudiya Russia, the poet tries to paint a picture of the period before the Tsarist regime and the changes that took place during the revolution. Subramanian Bharathi's deep social inquiry is evident in his attempt to look at these new political developments in Russia from the Indian perspective during that period. At the same time, his compassion for the oppressed people is reflected in the poem.

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