
A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON “JOURNEY OF THE MAGI” AND “ENTERPRISE”

V.VISHNUVARDHAN

Abstract: The art work of “Journey of the Magi” and “Enterprise” are recognised with the noble works the author, T.S.Eliot and Nissim Ezekiel. These poems deals with pilgrimage and it shows upcoming difficulties in Nature. Even though the author belong to different culture but their ideas are same in certain aspects on pilgrimage. Mythical poems are recognised by various authors but these two poems, show us the concept of unity and patient, which seems to be a forceful concept to live when a human try himself or herself to unite themselves in a society (way of living). Both the personalities are interested in the basic theme “Tradition” as per the words of Nissim Ezekiel “Home is the Place where we earn our grace”. With this the Comparative study is made.

The term ‘Comparative literature’ was coined by the famous Victorian poet and literacy critic, Mathew Arnold. He used the term to refer to comparing literary works across languages, across cultures. Different people studied Comparative Literature for different purposes. The Germans studied their folk tales seriously, with special emphasis on their themes. They gave the ‘thematic universals’ and added thematology to Comparative Literary Studies. The poetic career of T.S.Eliot extends over a period of forty five years. He tried his hand in poetry, drama, social criticism, literary criticism and journalism. He was a spokesman of his age. He is not only a representative poet but also a critic of his age. In 1928, Eliot declared that his general point of view had become

“Classicist in Literature, royalist in Politics and Anglo Catholic in religion”.

In all his poems he reveals his aspiration for conventional classicism. He was the first to combine in his poetry the manner of Augustan with the purpose of Metaphysical wit. His admiration for the poetry of Dryden and the Metaphysical is an indication of his classical bent. He aimed exactness and precision in his poetry. His poetry reveals an intellectual rather than an instinctive emotional approach. Nissim Ezekiel belonged to Jewish background. He basically belonged to a Bene-Israeli sect, but he was born and brought up in India along with a long Jewish ancestry. He loves India with clarity of purpose which does not allow his skepticism to mar it in any way. He says,

“I love India, I expect nothing in return, because critical, sceptical love does not beget love”.

For him India is not merely the crowd of the noisy city but the innocent, Panacea a loving masses. His idea of the city now envelops the whole man of humanity regardless of boundaries and barriers. But he also learns that he is first and foremost committed to where he belongs.

“Home is where we have to gather grace” (30).

In “Journey of the Magi”, T S Eliot presented his ideas on pilgrimage. It deals with religious concept of

Christianity. The Pilgrimage started with three Wiseman from the East to Bethlehem in Israel. Their names are Balthazer, Melthior and Casper. It was a cold winter period while they started their Journey. When they started their journey, they had noble ideas and same motto but gradually it disappeared for certain reason. The poet uses the domestic animals for their journey. From our ancient days, animals serve as stand-ins for humans or human characteristic and in some legends, animal perform heroic deeds. Sometimes, they act as mediators between heaven and earth, and may also be the source of wisdom and power. Here Camels assist them to lead their goal and it shows that their journey has started from earth and it will be ended in heaven. But in Magi’s journey animals refused to obey their Master because their sores are developed. It shows to the readers that God creates this situation to test his disciples whether they have a faith in God or Not. The Camel Men cursed and ran away. The night fires went out. The Magi had no shelters. The people were unfriendly with them. The wise men heard voices singing in their ears saying that “this was all folly” (20). In “Enterprise” Nissim Ezekiel, clearly give a picture of travelers which show the unity and Discipline Concept in the first stanza but soon it will be disappeared. They started their journey with hope, courage and determination. While they start their journey they had a belief that they will lead their goal but it’s not what that exactly happened. Here Nature plays a vital role to test their disciple faith on journey. Its heat was intense and the travellers began to feel uncomfortable and uneasy. The difficulties of the journey and the enthusiasm of the travellers were equally balanced at this time. So this scene shows the concept of Testing by God for holy place. In “Journey of the Magi” God took a test for his disciples and in “Enterprise” Nature plays a vital role of God. In Hindi language, BHAGVAN is the translation word of God which means B- “Bhumi EARTH”, “G- Gagan SKY”, “V- Vayu AIR”, “A- Agni FIRE”, “N- Neer WATER” ---- - BHAGVAN. It shows Nature is God- God is Nature. It changes in the form of different religion and

Culture but its effects on human are same. In the Second Stage of Travellers in "Enterprise" reveals the hidden meaning of pilgrimage, went on gathering Knowledge and information about various matters and about the people and other living creatures whom they met in the course of their journey. The allegorical meaning of the word "Journey" is the intellectual pursuits by a community of men who undertake the enterprise for their own and for the sake of the people. In the second stage of

"Journey of the Magi"

Had only one hope to reach the birth place of Bethlehem where Jesus Christ was born. They didn't have any diversion in their noble ideas and thoughts on journey. From the beginning of Journey till their goal they confronted in various ways through animals, nature and hostility of villagers but they didn't forget their task. They are just like a thirsting crow who Know the value of Water which will cures the wounds of human beings so only for that reason they constantly continue their journey for Human beings. Here again "Water" term shows the part of nature which explores the hand of God on Wiseman. Both the Second Stage of "Journey of the Magi" and "Enterprise" shows if People focus on their task through single minded, they could reach their goal but in "Enterprise" Nissim Ezekiel states:

"We stood it very well, I thought.

Observed and put down copious notes
On things the peasants sold and bought.

The way of serpents and of goats,

Three cities where a sage had taught". (6-10)

People forgot their noble ideas of pilgrimage which shows in the second stage when people are gathering Knowledge and information about various matters, about the people and other living creatures. So maybe this is the cause of failure of journey by Nissim Ezekiel. In "Journey of the Magi", the pilgrims faced many difficulties. The night fires went out. They had no shelters. The people in the cities hated them and those who were in the towns were unfriendly. The villagers on the way were dirty and they charged high prices. It was really a hard time for them. At the end they preferred to travel at night to avoid staying at any place; perhaps the travel at least kept them warm. They slept now and then. They heard voices of doubts and misgivings about their own faith as well as the outcome of their journey. They wondered whether it was foolish to have undertaken it. Because they did not get any sign and symbols of God, they started having doubts about the usefulness of their journey to Bethlehem. Next day, in the morning, the wise men came to a temperate valley. They saw vegetation below the snowline, three trees and a white horse galloping away. These symbols show the significance of God in the form of different objects.

Examples are "Snow line" (22) a line on a mountain showing the height about which snow never melts. The wise men have left behind their old dead religion and now going to get a new religion.

"Smelling of vegetation" (22)

Magi can smell the nearness of the life-giving region.

"Running stream and a water-mill"(23)

Other signs of life and habitation

"The sound of the water mill drives away the darkness. "Three trees" (24).

This is a reference to the crucifixion of Christ. The three trees stand for three crosses on Calvary on which Christ and two thieves were crucified. These are the symbols showed to the sign of life, hope and their determination of Magi that's why they reached their goal and it was happened because they had unity and Patients. In "Enterprise" Nissim Ezekiel Says

"A Shadow falls on us and grows."(15),

The poet shows the difference of opinion among the travellers about crossing a sandy tract of land (Allegorically means a tough problem) One of the travellers parted the company. The parted man was a scholar who wrote excellent prose. So this was a great loss to others. A cloud seemed to have descended upon others. This cloud went on becoming bigger and bigger. This poem shows to the readers if the intellectual person tried to share his dominative ideas on journey then obviously their journey will lead into different directions. Example when they lost their way in utter confusion. They claimed to follow their own inclinations. They wanted to exercise their right of freedom and to part from the main group. The poet did not take sides. He tried to pray seek divine assistance and blessings. He felt that they had reached a dead end and had to go back. In "Enterprise", Pilgrims did not notice anything as they went. The remaining travellers continued their journey. They found themselves to be a small crowd. They had little hope of achieving any success in their enterprise. They paid no heed even to the roar of thunder which certainly possessed some significance. They could not understand the meaning of that, because some of the best scholars and seers among them had deserted them. They were dirty and shabby for they had been deprived of such common needs as soap. They were broken in spirit and bent down physically. Finally they reached the place. They could not understand the significance of their journey. The Journey had brought an expression of disappointment and frustration in their faces. They had achieved very little. Their enterprise had neither been great nor rare. It's better to stay on at home where grace may be found. There is no meaning in undertaking a long journey to reach a certain destination. In "Enterprise", the travellers were unable to identify the

signs and symbols of their pilgrimage. They were getting bemused by collecting Knowledge and information about various matters and about the people and other living creatures whom they met in the course of their journey. They forgot their noble ideas and for what purpose they had started their journey. Finally the poet states” Home is where we have to gather grace. It means Home is the Place where we earn our Grace, it means for people, not necessary to go to Holy place to Praise the Lord. They can Praise the God through Prayer which can be happened at home itself. The last line shows the concept of Jews Myth because As a Jews people do not believe in Jesus Christ so it clearly reveals that through “Enterprise” Poem he wanted to show his oppose to Jesus Christ. The reason is “Background casually” is the autobiography of Nissim Ezekiel where he mocked by the Christian community on Jesus Christ, that’s “You are the one who killed Jesus Christ” shows that the poet belongs to Jews group so for that reason may be he would have concluded this line----

“Home is where we have to gather grace”(30).

Many comparative elements are observed by the researcher. In the first stanza of the both poem shows the concept of Testing by God for holy place. In “Journey of the Magi” God took a test for his disciples and in “Enterprise” Nature plays a vital role of God.

In the second stage of “Journey of the Magi” had only one hope to reach the birth place of Bethlehem where Jesus Christ was born. In “Enterprise” People forgot their noble ideas of pilgrimage which shows in the second stage when people are gathering Knowledge and information about various matters, about the people and other living creatures. “Snow line”, “Smelling of vegetation”, “running stream and a water-mill” “Beating the darkness” are signs of life and habitation in “Journey of the Magi” but in “Enterprise”, pilgrimage did not get sign and symbol of life and hope because they did not have unity and patients in their journey. The art work of “Journey of the Magi” and “Enterprise” are recognised with the noble works the author, T.S.Eliot and Nissim Ezekiel. These poems deal with pilgrimage and it shows upcoming difficulties in Nature. Even though the authors belong to different culture but their ideas are same in certain aspects on pilgrimage. Mythical poems are recognised by various authors but both these poems, show the readers, the concept of unity and patience, which seems to be a forceful concept to live when a human try himself or herself to unite themselves in a society (way of living). Both the personalities are interested in the basic theme “Tradition” as per the words of Nissim Ezekiel.

“Home is the Place where we earn our grace”(30).

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Assistant Professor Of English
Valliammai Women’s College Ofarts And Science
Tirukoilur-605752, E: Mail Id: Delhivishnu@Gmail.Com