

**PEACE AND PROSPERITY THROUGH LITERATURE
IN MULTI CULTURAL SOCIETY
(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TELUGU POETRY
OF INDIAN MUSLIMS)**

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Literature is the reflection of the society and the society is the source of inspiration. Each absorbs acts and reacts Both are interdependent and each have impact on each other .The genuine literature promotes communal harmony that leads to establish peace in the multi cultural country like India. At times if it doesn't use properly that creates chaos and disturbance among the people which may not be estimated how it hurts and harms to the society. In a true spirit, it can be said that Literature can be used as a missile or patriotic missile too. It depends upon the person how he/she handles.

Literature, particularly poetry be considered as one of the fine arts. The purpose of the fine arts and the poetry (literature) is one and the same. Many poets and scholars either they may be Indians or foreigners advocated that the purpose of the poetry is pleasure and message, in other way it's delight and direction. It can be rightly ascertain that the literature should provide pleasure and lead to perform the duty of the human being with dignity. Welfare of the universe is the foremost purpose of the Kavya (literary work). Scholars are of opinion as '*Vishva shreyaha Kavya*' Such welfare oriented literary works will certainly develop cordial relations among the people of the universe.

India is abode for different religions, races, sects, casts, languages and cultures. It's a nation where unity in diversity prevails. Strong faith of the people in Secularism that strengthens love and harmony, unity and oneness, co-operation and co-existence, peace and prosperity among the people of India. This is the reason while at disturbances occurred in any part of the country due to external forces or internal forces, then every corner of the nation rises it's voice for the restoration of peace and harmony through their respective literatures. Different languages, literatures, arts have a vital role to strengthen peace among the people. Writers of different

religions and languages produce literary works to promote peace in the country. Since they have respect towards other religions and culture, they select themes from other than their religions. It highlights their respect and love towards other communities among themselves. As per my opinion a writer should be above to religion, race, cast, colour, creed etc; to whom all people of all religions are considered to be equal. Religious tolerance leads to develop communal harmony that establishes peace in the country. No doubt that all religions pave the way to bring peace and salvation in their own way. Ultimate goal is the same but ways are different to attain it. Many great souls strive hard in this direction to keep the society in peace and tranquility. No doubt writers too tried to fill up the gap through their writings. It is a continuous process. It is needless to point out why and how prophets of religions emerged then and there. If we understand the true spirit or meaning of the religions certainly there may not occur any disturbance in any part of the country or the world. We as the followers to them, it is our foremost duty to continue their mission which promotes and strengthens peace in the society. It is the duty of the every citizen of soil to follow the precious motto 'live and let live' which leads to establish Vasudhaiva kutumbakam, means Universal Family.

India experienced the suzerainty of many dynasties, both indigenous and foreign with quite different cultures that left their deep impression on Indian soil and soul that leads to flourish composite culture. Indian culture be known as composite culture because people belongs to different faiths with different cultures. They have respect towards the people of other than their own language, faith and culture that exposes through their involvement in activities in different arts. As mentioned earlier poetry is considered to be one of the fine arts. Here I would like to draw the attention that how far literature played its role to bring peace among the people in a multi cultural society. The major regional languages of India has rich literature. Love, affection, kind, compassion etc; may lead to promote peace among the people. To strengthen such noble feelings, India has adopted the secular democratic constitution that provides equal opportunities to all the people with equal respect to all religions in a multi cultural society. Many writers strive to bring peace through their writings.

Literature is one of the effective devices to bring peace in the society. In this paper an attempt is made to bring forth the role of the some of the Indian Muslim Telugu poets/writers in particular and others in general who tried to promote peace in multi cultural society. Despite their own cultural

identity some of them choose themes to their literary works from other religions along with cultures. So many poets expressed their notions and feelings to establish peace in the society through their writings.

Telugu, one of the major regional languages of India. It is the mother tongue to other than Muslims and the official Language of Andhra Pradesh, one of the Southern States of India. The long Muslim rule and British rule on India left it's impression on Indian culture. The fusion of the above cultures with native Indian Culture resulted to emerge a composite culture in India. Telugu literature is one of the richest literatures of India. Andhra Muslims, irrespective of their mother tongue, Urdu they are producing literary works in Telugu. This is not only in the case of Muslims of Andhra Pradesh but in any part of India, Muslims are acquiring that particular regional language and producing literary works in that particular language though their mother tongue is Urdu. But there are some regions where the regional language itself is the mother tongue to Muslims but not Urdu language because it has no roots there.

There is a large number of Muslim Telugu writers in India. Some of the Muslim Telugu writers composed their literary works based on the stories of Mahabharat Ramayan, Bhagavat etc; which are pious books of Hindus. Selecting themes from other faiths indicate the secular vision of the writers. Works like 'Anasuya devi', 'Mahabharata Kauravarangamu', of Umar Ali shah, 'Rayabaramu' of Mohd.Qasim saheb, 'Amba' of Papa saheb,etc; are belong to Mahabharat.Works like 'Uttara Rama charitra', 'Pratima',of Mohd. Qasim Saheb, 'Seetharama Satakam' of Syed Ali, 'Sreemadvalmiki Ramayanam of Umar Ali shah are from Ramayan. 'Danava Vadha' of Umar Alishah is from Bhagavat. There are some historical works which highlight the role of both Hindu and Muslim rulers. These works strengthen patriotism and integrity of the country. Such works are 'Chandra Gupta', 'Barhini Devi', and 'Mamatha' of Umar Ali Shah, 'Purushothamudu' of Shaik Dariya Hussain, 'Dasipanna' of Shaik Dawood Saheb, 'Ranisamyukta' of Papa Saheb, 'Jalalnama', 'Qutubnama' of Shaik Budan Saheb, 'Amrita murthi'of Dastagir etc; Some writers responded to the burning social issues like untouchability,dowry system,castism etc;Literary works like ' Madhu' of Syed Mastan, 'Samskara pranayam' Shaik Dawood Saheb, 'Aavedana' of Mohd.Yar, 'Vedanasaurabhamu' of Mohd Ali tried to root out the social evils inorder to establish peace in the society. Confining to the time and space I would like to give a few examples only along with the writers of other faiths too.

Shaik Budan Saheb described Muslims and Hindus as two wheels of a cart. If any harm happens to any one of the wheels, the cart cannot move. He also describes the relation between Muslims and Hindus during the time of Golkonda Sultans as under.....

*“ksheeramulo niramu vale
daaramu sudiyunu rendu davilina bhangin
guralalo karamu vale
kurimi Hindu –Muslimu kutamulamaren”*

Translation:

*“water in the milk
thread in the needle
chilli powder in curries
so flourished Hindus and Muslims”*

A.C.Dastagir in his work ‘Amritamurthi’ tried to promote religious harmony .He advocates for it as..

*“paalakundevandainanemi? Vaani mathama
deediaina nemi? Ee srishti lona
kulamathala vairudhyalagodava yela?
Maanavatha kante nuthama mathu galade?”*

Translation:

*“who ever may be the ruler,
what ever his religion may be
why worthless religious quarrels
Is there any religion than humanitarianism?”*

Papa Saheb’s one of his works ‘Rani Samyukta’ promotes patriotism among the people.He advocates this noble notion through one of the characters as

*“Parama pavitra maina mana Bharatha bhumi prathishta swardha tha
thparamathi dummulo galupu thandri ye kaadu marevvadainanun
stira karavala dharalanu nirdaya gonthulu gothu gorrelam
garani,dadusru gaartha sthitha khadgamu niccheda niiku gaankagaa”*

Translation:

*“India is a sacred land
who ever tries to defame
even father too can't be spared
my sharpen knife cuts their heads”*

When there was disaster due to religious conflict between Saivism and Vaishnavism, Thikkanna one of the translators of Mahabharat (Indian Epic) tried to bring people of said two faiths into one fold by advocating Hari (Vishnu) Hara (Siva) philosophy. Mohammad Hussain, a muslim Telugu poet produced a poetical work in which he tried to wipe out the different opinions of above said faiths as under....

*“Hari devundani kondaru
Harudee vibhudanchu kondaranduru; neevu
eruthagal kakhila mathakula
narigedu vaaralaku bathivi harihata natha”*

Translation:

*“ some people believe Hari (Vishnu) as God
some are of opinion Hara (Siva) as God
you ! God to both and for all
you are almighty O ! Hariharanatha”*

Gurajada Apparao, a renowned patriotic Telugu poet and social reformer aspires that universe should exist like a family. He advocates universal brotherhood which Islam religion promotes. He says in his poetry as

*“yella lokamu okkailai
varna bhedamulella kallai*

*annadammula valenu jaathulu
mathamulanni melagavalenoi”*

Translation:

*“ whole world becomes one home
all racial distinctions fade away
all religions and races behave like brothers
unitedly hand in hand, people should walk”*

Narayana Reddy, an ideal Telugu poet says to bring people of different faiths closer and closer.....

*“ningi lopala levu yellalu
neeradhini kanaraavu yellalu
yenduki dharani thalammuna
iruku vaadalu inupa godalu”*

Translation :

*“no boundaries in the sky
no borders in water(sea)
then why only on earth
narrow lanes and iron walls”*

further he says...

*“to which cast moon light belongs
to which cast wind belongs
humanisam is like that
which is the highest of all*

Mangipudi P Sarma, a Telugu poet depicts as.....

*“hindu musulmanulandaramu vachamu
boudha sikhulu yeeka bhavulai vachamu
brahmana panchamul balisi kalisochamu
mabheda bhava manta kalipeesamu
mammu mannimpavamma! Maathalli
mammadarimpa vamma”*

Translation:

*“Hindus, Muslims all arrived
Buddhists, Sikhs reached with
One will all differences left in
Bonfire pardon us o! mother
India make us feel happy”*

Syed Mujeer, a patriotic poet of Telugu suggests universal love to establish peace. He expresses as.....

*“samaramulu samadhi chesi
saanthi punadi veesi
viswamandiragramu pai
saanthi dhvajam nilpudaam”*

Translation:

*“bury the battles
lay foundation for peace
on the temple of universe
proclaim universal love
establish universal peace”*

He too fore casts as

*“maanavatha aikyathaku
mandirammu nirminchu
kaalamokati raavalani
kalapandi bhujam bhujam
maanavundu maanavundai
melagaalani aasisthu....”*

Translation;

*“for unity of humanity
time should come*

to construct a temple.

touch shoulder to shoulder

to live man as man”

Nazir Akbarabadi a noted Hindusthani/Hindi poet says as

*“Jhagra na kar millat-o-majhab ka koi yan
jis rah mein jo aan pade khush rahe har aan
zunnar gale ya ki bagal beech ho Quran
aashik to kalandar hai, na Hindu na Musalman”*

Translation:

*“do not quarrel for cast and creed
whatever path one comes across
let him follow happily
whether he be Hindu or Muslim”*

Kazi Nazrul Islam, a popular Bangla poet expressed his feelings as....

*“Of equality I sing
where all barriers and differences
between man and man have vanished,
where Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists
and Christians have mingled together.
Of equality I sing”*

Allhama Iqbal, a renowned Urdu poet says...

*“majhab nahi sikhatha
aapas me bhair rakhana”*

It means religion did not teach enmity among people

The above notions, feelings, messages etc; advocated through their respective literary works may certainly lead to enhance communal harmony among the people of different faiths which ultimately strengthens peace in multi cultural countries. It is obvious to be mentioned that religious tolerance, love and affection towards fellow being leads to strengthen communal harmony which leads to promote peace in the country. Literature

is one of the means to attain peace in multi cultural countries I do hope that the motto of 38th ICANAS “Peace at Home, Peace in the world” inspired by a famous phrase of great Turkish leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, a peace flag of 20th century may certainly be fulfilled and at certain point of time the World may achieve peace that may lead to establish *Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam* (Universal family) which Islam religion preaches.

‘Inshah Allah’, ‘Aameen’, ‘Thathastu’ ‘Allah Rakhe’.

