



International Journal of Research in Academic World



Received: 11/April/2023

IJRAW: 2023; 2(5):60-63

Accepted: 19/May/2023

Social Reality in the Selected Poems of Kabir Das

*¹Sanjna Bhat and ²Dr. Anil Adagale

¹MA English, Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, SB Road, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

²Associate Professor, Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, SB Road, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

Abstract

Poems of Kabir Das have always been full of emotion and exhilaration. The scintillating resonance generated in the minds of people when they read his poems is immense. His poems reflect his own views on various topics like religion, music, peace, nature and so on. There was a particular style of writing which he used which was called as Kabir's Dohe. This kind of writing was very distinctive and remarkable and the researcher will dwell more into it in this essay. This astounding lyricist and philosopher had always been unbiased in his approach towards religion and didn't favour any particular religion in the controversy of his life regarding which religion he belonged to. This impartial nature was seen in his writings too. Through this paper the researcher focusses to decipher how these poems convey the notion of social reality and how this theme is prevalent throughout his poems. This study will also uncover the metaphorical and deep meanings of it and how this aspect of social reality is portrayed through Kabir's works.

Keywords: Kabir, dohe, bhakti, social reality, Kabirpanthis

Introduction

This paper tries to bring to light the colossal significance of the analytical basis of societal realism conveyed through the translated poems of Kabir Das, especially his special couplets. This thesis will be of great value for all poem lovers and people who have an interest in the genre of art in general and also for the followers of Das. The researcher will also make us aware of the broad area of social reality conveyed through these poems. This article will decipher how knowing and dwelling more into the importance of such a field of art will give a great impetus into knowing much more about the wide world of this form of rhyming art composition and how they serve as a basis of understanding the utter truth of the reality which all have forgotten. Reflecting upon the varied usage of such a literary craft this research paper will enlighten us on how this idea brings about a sense of cognizance towards the huge revelation made by the famous personality on how the social conventions imposed by the community since ages have misguided us on the concept of the perceived notion about the reason for human existence as a society and how it has resulted in the loss of moralistic vision in the modern population. This dissertation will also make us know about this writing artist as a well-known sociologist who overcame all boundaries of stereotypical conventions and emerged as a saint with a unique persona and an independent form of thinking.

What is true reality in all aspects and how is it perceived by humans?

True reality is something which everyone doesn't yearn to understand or perceive by choice. It is something which stems from absolute and intense meditation and self-realization.

Moreover it is a feeling of entrancement which makes us go into a world of enchantment and also acquaints us with the bitter truth of the fake reality we all live in the present times.

There is no requirement of any tools or physical material to attain the sense of pure reality for any person who is truly and sincerely interested in this unique knowledge.

There have been highly revered saints who have embarked on the journey of establishing a true connection of the soul with the heavenly figures and their blessings. For example, Buddha, Sant Tukaram and so on. The concept of true reality lies in the aspect of deception and acceptance of the bitter truth and how it reflects in the inner mind of each person which leads to the final destination of its eternal essence. The research tries to give us a huge message that Bhakti or devotion is divine and keeping faith in oneself and God will make us become more confident and humane in nature. Another goal of this article is to make people know about the Kabirpanthis and what role they had played in popularizing Kabir's works across different parts of the world and how it was perceived worldwide.

Sometimes the thin line between the actual reality and perceived reality will feel seamless but one must always remember that whatever the difference is, it matters. It is this difference which brings about a sense of variedness and adaptability to the conventional school of thought with

reference to the age old convention of what reality is considered to be. Real truth conveys a sense of aesthetic pleasure which connotes to being satisfied with the sweet joys of life along with enduring the unpleasant and distressful aspects of it. There is a sense of authenticity and efficacy of such eminent reality which many fail to obtain or realize.

A lot of sacrifice has to be done in order to reach a level of superiority with relation to true reality. There are also various beliefs about certain gods which are ingrained in the minds of people since the past ages. The theories revolving around such Gods are falsely implicated by the believers who don't know much about the correct meaning and symbolism behind the ideologies of the eminent deities which produces a mentality of a wrongful notion of these conceptualizations. The abstraction under discussion here can also be debated whether the notion can be conferred or disregarded with respect to its utility for human mankind. One can also go in deep depth of this and decipher how this can also be correlated to the moralistic convention which it brings with it. Another unsolved question is that of the existence of a supernatural force or God. Some people believe that this being exists whereas some believe that it doesn't and think it as an entire entity of fiction created by mankind to make profit.

Reality can be categorized as two types-concrete reality and non-materialistic reality.

The reality that categorizes under the rules and regulations is concrete reality whereas the one that doesn't connote to the realms of structure and the standardized norms is non-materialistic reality. The interrelation between these two aspects is another puzzle to solve. There is a similarity and dissimilarity in the way people think and the reality they perceive. The common factor is that the reality which all humans perceive is mostly the same due to the constructed notion set by the society, government, other humans and religion. The difference is that within these realities that all humans share there is a sense of diversification and variance between the thinking of each different person.

What forms as a part of our world also connects with the individualistic ideas and personality we have within us. This actuality can also be varied according to the particular time frame and setting of the place where it is observed. The medium of expression also changes the entire set-up of the system created of the existing prevalence. The enlightened Sants who have attained the feeling of pure and blissful true reality have done so by receiving seismic vibrations and external stimuli to resonate with the eternal creator. Although there are a lot of positives about this realization, there are negative factors as well. This being for example, detachment from the self, friends, family and the entire world. Moreover, the people who want to reach to this height have to give up a lot of pleasures like comforting food, a lavish lifestyle and many more and also have to put a lot of dedication into their mission.

Furthermore the planet (metaphor for world) of true reality is very expansive and wide. It is not bound by any kind of limitation or boundary.

"The truth is not always beautiful, nor beautiful words the truth." (Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching)

This quote tells us exactly how something which is perceived to be as ideal can also turn out to be very disheartening and saddening. The unanswered questions of life drive the narrative of the ultimate that is the true reality.

There are also some symbols which denote the aspect under study here-

1. **Ying-Yang Symbol:** It is a symbol of two snakes which represents the wholeness of true reality.
2. **The Reality Monster:** This symbol tells us how we should always do a reality check on ourselves on whether we are doing the right thing in life and it gives us an idea of what reality is and what the real world connotes to.
3. The Garden of Eden is a biblical symbol of the true reality of the existence of humans and the curse given to them for disobeying God.

The exact reality is sometimes difficult to comprehend and it can be a daunting task to separate the facts from the myths and bring out a sense of trueness in the reality we are adhering to. There are certain factors reality depends on, that is context, perception and history, beliefs and so on. Reality is a kind of knowledge that can spread from one person to another and ultimately to the entire world. Reality can be agreed upon by people or may be disagreed upon by few. It has a cause and effect kind of aspect. Whatever the cause, it has a direct effect on the psyche of the people. Being clear of the reality can make one more confident and powerful (mentally) than others and make one less doubtful about the things of life.

Kabir's Dohe (Translated to English) and their hidden and connotative meaning-

Sant Kabir was an eminent poet and philosopher of the 15th century who also wrote his poems and writings along with music with reference to spreading a message to the world. If one really goes deep into the realm of his poetry one finds a certain resonance with the underlying message of peace and positivity he wishes to convey through his poems.

Another speciality of his works is that in the previous times it was mostly passed on to the next generation orally. He also wanted to influence people to do good, be honest, think right and be kind and helpful towards the needy and other humans in general. His poems and Dohe (special couplets of Kabir) are unique in nature and aimed to spread these messages.

They also had a unique and connotative meaning other than the superficial message they showcase. He also had a dislike towards religious disharmony and wanted the people of the world to always showcase humanity as their priority over boundations of caste, class, religion and so on. These factors influenced his writings as well. Moreover, his poems were like a game changer for the society. His poems mostly focussed on the theme of devotion to God and how it can help humans to prosper in life.

Social Reality and Kabir

The influence of Kabir and his poems on the society and its reality was immense. There was a sense of internal satisfaction when one read his poems. It awakened all senses and made one connect with God in a better way. The reality one measures according to the society and what one perceives from it forms as a part of social reality. Sant Kabir had certain ideals about the standardized social reality which was prevalent since ages. According to him, the age old traditions were outdated and required a different outlook if the society needed to progress in various factors. He also believed that the standard of religious traditions should be improvised and built up for the same. He wanted to be the pioneer for change in the societal reformation. He wanted to inspire people to do better and improve in their ideologies and mind-set. With reference to his philosophy, he wanted everyone to focus on the calibre rather than following the preordained regulations. Moreover, he thought that this notion will instil the quality of dedication and allegiance towards God and also towards the

main task one is doing and concentrating on. In addition, the other problems in the society with respect to this Sant's perspective are bias, enslavement and domination, greed for power and money, caste issues and many other internal problems. Another aspect he dwelled on is the change in the socially accepted behaviour projected as ideal by the society.

Psychological Aspect of Kabir Das's Poems

Along with inducing a soothing effect and devotion towards God and life, the poems of Kabir Das also produce a sense of a psychological aspect towards the nature of the person who is reading the poem. The mind-set of the person reading these poems completely changes and it develops into the inner conscience of that person. Moreover, the existential conflict in the minds of the people gets resolved when they read these poems. The notion of the worldly conflicts gets diminished when one takes respite in these poems. It also makes us think whether the problems of the present world are really required and what should one do to negate it and navigate the world into a positive place to thrive. Communal disharmony forms the basis of all the problems of the current world. The solution to these problems lies in spreading the message of peace and humanity throughout the world. One of the ways of doing this is through awakening the conscience of the people which can be done by these poems. In these poems a lot of symbolism and metaphorical language has been used which connotes to how one can lead a simple life and live it in such a way that one can be the one with God. One can do this and subsequently inspire the entire mankind to do this similarly.

The Prevalent theme of Social Reality in the Selected Poems of Kabir Das

Social reality has been a prevalent theme recurring in the poems of Kabir Das which will be explored here. These poems were very much valued and circled around the theme of how society can be improved through the eyes of the reality it produced.

For example, in the poem named the Abode of the beloved, which is a translated poem of Kabir Das the lines given below showcase certain elements of social reality.

“No Truth or Untruth
Neither Sin Nor Virtue.
There Is No Day or Night, No Moon or Sun,
There Is Radiance Without Light.”

We can decipher that these lines showcase social reality as it talks about the essence of truth in our lives and how one can bring light in one's life if we always tread the path of truth. Without truth the life of a human is like a body without a soul and a river without a destination. Truth is the only driving force which can bring about a positive change in the person following it and also to all if this good thinking is spread by that person to the entire world.

In the same poem there are other lines too which showcase the same theme which are-

“There Is No Knowledge or Meditation
No Repetition of Mantra or Austerities,
Neither Speech Coming From Vedas or Books.
Doing, Not-Doing, Holding, Leaving
All These Are All Lost Too In This Place.”

These lines also refer to social reality as they discuss about how no extra effort or information is required to attain the

eternal nirvana state or to be close to God. True seeking is what is key to attain this blissful condition.

The poem Between the Poles of the Conscious by Kabir also has certain aspects of social reality-

“BETWEEN the poles of the conscious and the unconscious,
there has the mind made a swing:
Thereon hang all beings and all worlds, and that swing never
ceases its sway.
Millions of beings are there: the sun and the moon in their
courses are there:
Millions of ages pass, and the swing goes on.
All swing! the sky and the earth and the air and the water; and
the Lord Himself taking form:
And the sight of this has made Kabir a servant.”

This poem dwells about how one can awaken one's conscience from deep inside and reach the epitome of happiness and success which one wants to achieve using the right path and right mind-set. Moreover, this is also a message for the society to brush past all its fakeness and strict rules which are dictated by it to create a false impression as a traditional ideal. It tries to tell the society to be more accepting and adjust to the ever-changing world.

Interesting unknown facts about this Saint-

Although certain facts of Sant Kabir are widely known there are some facts that are unknown to the whole world. Firstly the exact details of his arrival into the world is uncertain. Moreover, the information available about his family is also contradictory and controversial in nature. There is a lot of misunderstanding around Kabir Saheb's birth. Nobody is truly certain of his parents' names or the exact year of his birth. A Muslim couple discovered Kabir Das as an infant, and they nurtured him as their son. This is the one thing that a small number of experts unwillingly concur with. He was never truly born, which is the real cause of this misconception. In the appearance of a child, he came to Earth from his eternal home Satlok. In the Lahartara Pond in Kashi, where the Muslim weavers Noor Ali and Niyamat discovered Kabir Saheb as a child on a lotus blossom, Sage Ashtanand, a follower of Swami Ramananda, saw Kabir Saheb descend to earth.

Also, it is also not known whether he got married or not and also there is a myth that his wife was Loi but this fact is not validated with substantial proof. There is a rumour that he had two children Kamaal and Kamaali but this information is also not verified. There are various stories about how he begot his offsprings without actually giving birth to them. One of the tales is that both Kamaal and Kamaali became Kabir's children when he was challenged by a foe to resurrect these two dead children. At the first attempt he wasn't able to bring them back to life but after a lot of trial in the third attempt he was able to do the task perfectly. This led to them accepting him as their father and becoming incorporated as his children.

Conclusion

Through this article we have realized the essence and meaning of few translated poems of Kabir Das and what exactly it connotes to. In addition, we also saw what social reality is and how it correlates as a common theme of his poems. We also deciphered some unknown facts about this Sant which are based on some myths and stories from the old generation. Great mystic poet Kabir Das gave a sincere lesson on ethics, humanity, and spirituality. He travelled the path to prosperity by adhering to the advice of his Guru Ramananda.

Through his sermons, poetry, books, and religious convictions, the saint helped open people's eyes.

References

1. Studen, Greg. "What Is The Nature of Reality?" *Philosophy Now*, Issue 61, https://philosophynow.org/issues/61/What_Is_The_Nature_Of_Reality
2. Murugesu, Jason Arunn. Howgego, Joshua and Amit, Gilead. *The Economic times*, English edition, 29 January 2020, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>
3. Writes, Kal. "The True Nature of Reality" Moments-of-passion, April 23rd, 2020, <https://medium.com/moments-of-passion/the-true-nature-of-reality-8b6d86412eae>.
4. Anonymous. "Myths About Kabir Saheb's Family & the Reality", SA News, June 17, 2021, <https://news.jagatgururampalji.org/kabir-saheb-family-details/>
5. Agrawal, Pravin. "Shocking 18 facts about Kabir", OCT 31, 2014, 20:56 IST, <https://www.speakingtree.in/allslides/shocking-facts-about-kabir>
6. NC, guest. "Sant Kabir Das: know unknown facts related to the life of Sant Kabir Das", News Crab, Mon, 13 Feb, 2023, <https://www.news crab.com/lifestyle/sant-kabir-das-know-unknown-facts-related-to-the-life-of/cid9972348.htm>.