

## **TIME AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS IN EMILY DICKINSON AND RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S POEMS**

Muzeeb S A, Research Scholar, Department of English, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

Email-id- [Samuzeeb@gmail.com](mailto:Samuzeeb@gmail.com)

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Supervisor, Department of English, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

### **ABSTRACT**

Literature reflects the inner feelings of a person and their interaction with the socio-economic environment. Literature is like a musical instrument, playing different tunes. Over the world, the ancient forms of literature exist in the form of poetry. The characteristics of poetry include rhythm, sound pattern, imagery, etc. The innate and deepest emotions are expressed in the form of poetry, ranging from the conscious feelings to the sub-conscious feelings concealed in the depths of the heart. Thus, poetry has an extraordinary ability to bring out the deepest human feelings at various levels of the human consciousness. One of the highly known poets, Shelley, in his „Defense of Poetry’, has defined poetry as “in a general sense may be defined as the expression of the imagination”. (William 64) Thus, imagination is a quintessential feature of poetry. Wordsworth expresses his views on poetry, “is the breath and fine spirit of all knowledge; it is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all science.” (Oscar 19)

Horace Peters thinks that poetry is the blending of thoughts and language. According to him, “Poetry is beautiful thought, expressed in appropriate language.” (21) The beauty inherent in God, nature, events, people and objects may be viewed by a person. However, only a poet has the extraordinary skill to bring out the meaning in the form of words. Robert Frost has said that, “Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words”. Poetry comprises thoughts and ideas. Again, Horace remarks that, “In poetry the imagination goes into the world of ideas, gathers the beautiful, and arranges them into poems, as the artist selects his colors and applies them to produce his picture. The ideas must be beautiful, though the objects may be common; for common ideas about the most beautiful objects cannot be poetical, while beautiful ideas about the most objects are true poetry. Thus all see the beauties of creation alike, yet but few can express more than the common thoughts concerning them: and all see the common things of life by the same light, while only the poet can clothe them in new and beautiful ideas” (21).

**KEYWORD:** Socio-Economic, Skill, Imagination, Emotion, Emily Dickinasion

### **INTRODUCTION**

Emily Dickinson thinks that poetry can be felt and enjoyed rather than analyzed and defined. She defines poetry in the term of experience and writes to Higginson, “I if I read a book [and] it makes my whole body so cold no fire ever can warm me I know that is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry.” (L 474) Poetry emanates from the heart and soul, and therefore, it has purity in expression. Literature in general and poetry in particular, has great scope for expression of the spiritual and temporal. The word „Temporal is derived from the Latin „tempus“, which means „Time“ or „material existence“.

The first-time use of this word can be traced back to Middle English between 1300-1350 A.D. The Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary defines the word „Temporal“ as „connected with real physical world or limited by time: a universe which has spatial and temporal dimension“. (1548) According to Wikipedia: „Temporal can refer to time or to material existence and secularity.“(1) Temporal means worldly existence.

There is a contradiction of temporal with stability or permanence. Traditionally temporal follows a linear progression from the past to the present and to the future. Whatever we are experienced in present, it will affect by the past and related to the forecast of the future. “The mystery is that we have a present; and even more, that we have our future also because we anticipate it in the present; and that we have our past also, because we remember it in the present. In the present, our future and our past are our.... This is possible because every moment of time reaches into the eternal.... It is the eternal “now” which provides for us a temporal “now”.” (Lucaites, Louis John 299) Nothing is permanent in this world except change. Time is ticking away by the second. Time stops for none. All life, including that of human beings, is running with time. All life is mortal. There is no stability or permanence or immortality in this world. People are born and they die, however, only our soul is infinite. In our ancient Indian scriptures, we find this view embedded very strongly. For instance, in the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, where there is a dialogue between Lord Shri Krishna and Arjun, Lord Krishna advises Arjun:

### **THEMATIC CONTENTS**

Theme is an essential part of any artistic creation. It becomes the expression of the views of the writer on a particular subject. A text deals with some crucial issues i.e. themes. It is divided into two categories. The one is Thematic Concept and other is the Thematic Statement. Thematic Concept tells us about the dealing subject or issue in the text and gives an idea of what the work is about. Whereas Thematic Statement lets us know what the work says regarding the subjects. It reveals the perception of the writer. Poet is a creator of his universe and thus he can choose any symbol to express his literary theme. He has full liberty to utilize various techniques of poetic craft as symbols, imagery, and metaphor and so on.

The present chapter deals with the thematic aspects of the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore and Emily Dickinson. Rabindranath Tagore was Asia's first Nobel Prize winner. He is the most versatile, eminent, and original poet in Literature. His vast poetic outcome is represented by variety of theme and originality, both in thoughts and expressions as well. W. B. Yeats wrote in Gitanjali's introduction, “I read Rabindranath every day, to read one line of his is to forget all the troubles of the world.” (5) Every line of his creation creates a sensitive impact on state of mind; in which we forget all the things of mundane World. He has written two thousand odd songs on various themes like Nature, God, Love, Death etc. Nature is one of the prominent subjects in his bulk of poetry.

He adopted a quite romantic attitude towards nature. He frequently used various objects of nature like flowers, trees, honey bees, cloud, dark night, and the songs of birds. He enjoyed the beauties and glories of nature from his boyhood. His perception with growing age, he learnt to see deeper meaning in pervading Nature. He looked at the earth and sky, the sun and the moon, the stars and the mystery of nocturnal sky, trees and hills, birds and flowers, river and stream,

the deep sea, and the day and the night with a feeling of wonder as a boy. He writes about his early love of nature in Lectures and Addresses:

I had a deep sense, almost from infancy, of the beauty of nature, and intimate feeling of companionship with the trees and the clouds, and felt in tune with the musical touch of the seasons in the air. At the same time I had a peculiar susceptibility to human kindness.

Tagore was very sensitive for nature from his Childhood. He expressed his boundless love in his unique lyrics. He is surprised by glories of nature in morning. He always feels that every fresh morning gives a new hope like fresh flowers. Every aspect of nature has its own value and wonder. He reveals his immense love for nature and is in complete harmony with nature. He says in Crossing:

I REMEMBER my childhood when the sunrise, like my play – fellow, would burst in to my bedside with its daily surprise of morning; when the faith in the marvellous is bloomed like fresh flowers in my heart every day, looking into the face of the world in simple gladness; (LXXI)

### **NATURE AS MYSTERY**

Rabindranath Tagore is very eminent poet in Indian Literature. He often describes world, universe or earth rather than nature alone, but generally, he takes these to have a similar meaning. For him, every single creature is the message of Almighty. He is extremely sensitive to nature. He expresses his tremendous interest in nature. He writes about his love of nature in Lectures and Addresses:

Most of the members of my family had some gifts – some were artists, some poets, some musician – and the

whole atmosphere of our home was permeated with the spirit

of creation. I had deep sense, almost from infancy, of the beauty

of nature, and intimate feeling of companionship with the trees and the clouds, and felt in tune with the musical touch of the seasons in the air. At the same time I had a peculiar susceptibility to human kindness.

His family atmosphere also inspired him toward nature. He defines that Nature is the ensign of the eternal power. Ganjendra Kumar says that, —Poetry leads us to higher and healthier ways than those of the world and provides the message of Nature and the mystery of God and of divine bliss. Tagore's mind itself is a kingdom, where diverse streams crossed, flowed, and merged into the land. Being a man of moods with many masks, he interprets poetry as an embodiment of truth which is coloured by emotions and passion. (118) He adores every aspect of Nature as a poet. We can trace his love for nature in his boyish days. When he writes in Lectures and Addresses:

I remember the day in my childhood when, after

The painful process of learning my Bengali alphabet,

I unexpectedly come to the first simple combination of

letters which gave me the words: it rains, the leaves tremble.'

## CONCLUSION

The Present study has brought out many significant details regarding Rabindranath Tagore and Emily Dickinson. They have created a new and rich world of ideas in the most artistic way. Their poetic output has a close resemblance in spite of the fact that these poets were born and brought up in two different cultural ethos. Their family background and upbringing have a close resemblance: the loneliness of childhood, strict father, tragic events of their life, creative nature. Rabindranath Tagore is one of the greatest poets of the Modern age. He is one of the most renowned personality. When India was facing the condition of imprisonment in the British era, many changes were making our Indian helpless. In similar time, he achieved the highest place in the realm poetry in the west with the help of his English version of Gitanjali.

Similarly, Emily Dickinson is now an eminent name in the of poetry world. Her talent was not duly recognized till she was alive, but now critics have found her extremely talented and mysterious. Rabindranath Tagore began his life in an extremely literary and artistic atmosphere. His family was well known for the patronage of music, art, poetry, and culture. Similarly, Emily Dickinson was born and brought in a well-educated and artistic family. She tries to find the truth about life in her own particular way. She was very private poet. The thrust area of their writing is human life. They have written regarding of human experiences through their poems. They have given more importance to intuition and imagination than to the logic and analysis in their poetry. Like Tagore, Emily Dickinson also understands the value of human beings emotions. The themes of their poetry reflect the human emotions, and intimacy with nature, divine love, and unveiling the mysticism of life and death and beyond. The mystery of human life is the center point of their poetry.

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