

Aurobindo's Poetic Vision in Savitri

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Abstract

Sri Aurobindo, the great philosopher of modern India, had ushered the poetic world of Indo Anglican poetry and his unbeatable poetic genius made all his successors and contemporaries to realize his extraordinary vision of mysticism, symbolism and philosophy of superamental mind in his poetic creations. He represents a new poetic consciousness which proved like the touchstone for successors. His poetic achievements have flowed spontaneously from his yogic experiences, as if his yogic life and his poetic career have moved together in the process of gradual entwined evolution. His poetic genius born as the spontaneous lyrical impulse, grew and matured in narrative and dramatic poetry and reached to perfection in the epic 'Savitri'. This article exposes how Sri Aurobindo dedicated himself and created his poetic world. His writing never intended to draw the attention towards the poetic pleasure. The purpose ever stands the elevation of human mind that finally culminates at the mingling with Super mind. He was the master of mysticism and rejuvenated the importance of Legend in the life of human being. Generally poets touched one of the specific trends of writing and reflected a particular idea. But in context of Savitri it is found that his poetry is inculcating all the basic ideas together. The great epic poem 'Savitri' is the best example of his talent. Savitri is the vision of Sri Aurobindo. He strives for the wellbeing of human beings. Savitri is the future dream of the world. The symbolic epic is important for the fidelity of conjugal life and strengthens the concept that everything can be attained even though immortality is conquered if the determination and devotion for the work are perfect towards the goal. This paper concentrates on the vision of Sri Aurobindo in Savitri and poetic genius

Key Words: Poetic genius, mysticism, symbolism, supramental, Savitri

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Introduction

Sri Aurobindo was recognized as the poet of poets and the master of masters, since he assimilated a new idea in his poetic works that was absolutely distinct from that of other poets. During his phase of poetic flow, he established himself as a poet of rare achievement and versatility. His prime rose of poetic genius blossomed in his masterpiece epic poem named 'Savitri'. Every word of this poem hides a mystic sense and symbolic that brightens the life of human being. This epic poetry successfully illuminated the darkness of human life that was surrounded by the shadow of ignorance. It ventures the judgment that it is the comprehensive, integrated, beautiful and perfect cosmic poem ever composed symbolically. This poem widens its area symbolically from a primordial cosmic void, through earth's darkness and struggles to the highest realms of superamental spiritual existence, illumines every important concern of man, through verse of unparalleled massiveness, magnificence and metaphorical brilliance.

Sri Aurobindo's poetic achievement is of higher order than that of his fellow poets of the older generation. The poetic aim of poet is sublime and his intention is highly spiritual that would ever go in favor of evolution of mankind. Like an ordinary poet he was not composing poems for his personal expression of emotions. His poetic works are the combination of all the best tenets of poetic qualities. It cannot be concluded that the poem gives the notion of certain ideas whereas at the same time after going through the work it is found as the assimilation of several mystic and symbolical ideas. His unflinching power to defeat his contemporaries with his poetic genius has made him immortal in literary world. As the reader takes a dip into the ceaseless idea of Savitri, many more symbolic hidden thoughts start to flow in reader's mind. The sublimity of his later poetry especially 'Savitri' is strongly reminiscent of the epic grandeur of the Miltonic handling of lofty themes. His lyrics have a rare mystical glow of the poetry. His stature was much more elevated than Tagore's whose gifts were somewhat similar. Many more Indian writers enriched the repertoire of Indian Anglican poetry. Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini and Harin ushered the poetic world but they could not contribute as much as he did for the welfare of humanity. An outstanding characteristic of his poetical achievement is that he was equally at home in lyric, drama, epic, and narrative. In contrast, Sarojini Naidu, highly praised by many, wrote in only one form -lyric of all the poets, he alone attained proficiency in the use of blank verse whose

resilience, richness and resonance can be seen in poems like Baji Prabhu, Savitri and his five poetic dramas. Sri Aurobindo was the master of his own poetic style. People tried to follow his poetic style but it was difficult to understand the fundamental techniques of mysticism and symbolism. In Baji Prabhu, a metrical tale of Maratha Chivalry, the measured dignity of the blank verse lends an added grace to the saga of courage. The dexterity with which the poet balances the stately rhythm through the gradual unfolding of the story, its development, and point of crisis is reminiscent of the best passages in Milton's Paradise Lost. Sri Aurobindo's power of power of poetry is reflected in his masterpiece work 'Savitri'.

Sri Aurobindo was a poet –critic and aesthetician who made an intensive and extensive study of the west and India. He was a seer poet and a yogi. But what is meant by the term '*Seer –Poet*'? One of the disciples of Sri Aurobindo, Nolini Kanta Gupta describes: 'The vision of the Truth breaks out of the sense of delight, while the sense of delight finds its foundation in the truth – vision .Thus the poet and the seer become united and the delightful and the good stand identified' (Collected Works 7: 100). His experience, his thoughts, his mysticism all got the place in his poetic works and decided his own vocabulary to express his vision clearly. His integration of thoughts has made his work matchless. In some important treatises, his poetic talents was compared and assessed in the light of the talents and genius of other poets such as Sri Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu, and Walt Whitman etc. He never criticized other poets' writing trend and style, he wanted to find out the basic specialty and quality of poets .He found many poets like William Blake, S.T. Coleridge, Keats, Milton, Sarojini Naidu, Toru Dutt, Keats, Walt Whitman touching the one vision of poetry and dragging the attention of readers to the single moral or idea. If the poetic work of Sri Aurobindo is analyzed, that would be found incorporating varied ideas with lofty goal of human life. He merged mysticism with spirituality, symbolism with mysticism, patriotism with idea of the super vision of mankind. That is deduced that this rare poetic quality is found in him. Sri Aurobindo's vision was advanced and he thought that the poems should be composed for the elevation and development of young generation. Since there would not be a sense to be more imaginative, romantic, instead of that individual poet should think how to benefit the mankind through their poetic creations. Poetry is the tool for progression of mind and that should be proved as the harbinger of new changes in the world. He coined the new modern idea of mysticism and symbolism to attract the readers for the elevation of their mental level. Savitri is Sri Aurobindo's greatest odyssey of spirit. It is an unparalleled vision in modern times. It is in the Mother's words 'The prophetic vision of the world history'. Nowadays, most modern scholars say that epic poetry is worthless. Why is it? If you ask they say that epic poetry has gone out of style, has disappeared in our own day and age. Sri Aurobindo gives the statement that epic poetry comes when a seer appears for us. Sri Aurobindo himself is a seer and Savitri is his vision and philosophy of time and eternity. Savitri is the Agenda of the New Age embodying the highest aspiration and the hope of a Humanity that is emerging from the past which is crumbling and moving towards a future that is to be born.

'It was the hour before the gods awake
Across the path of the Divine event'

Savitri is split into twelve chapters and it was composed in blank verse scheme of writing .The theme which is the base of the poem is simple and small but the genius began to write this epic poem and modified the poem several times. Every chapter is hiding the unique truth of human life. The entire poem is the embodiment of mysticism and symbolism.

Aswapati who is lord of Force, lord of Spiritual power, strength and light was sad because he was childless and to receive the boon of God he practiced austere penance and Goddess Gayatri bestowed him the boon. Now she herself took the form of Savitri and relieved the world from miseries and pangs of mortality. Now, how did Savitri come to be born? Sri Aurobindo says:

‘A world desire compelled her mortal birth’

She was not born just for the normal issue of the world but she ascended on the earth to teach the vision towards the life and to suffice the aspiration of immortality for mankind. Her birth is the combined need and aspiration of the Earth. The Divine grace manifests on different planes whereas this Goddess birth was the genius plan of God and she was brought down to solve the issues of mortality and immortality. The black cloud of ignorance was hovering over the mind of human beings. To let them realize the distinguished meaning of darkness of ignorance and the light of knowledge that opens the path of spiritual elevation of soul and thorough evolution of mind and body Goddess planned to descend on the earth. But the real liberator of the world is Aswapati who deserves the credits to bring her down. He was the spiritual soul who engaged his daughter to attain the divine goal for the terrestrial beings.

The divine grace descended on earth, fighting the battle for humanity. Sri Aurobindo converts a simple legend into colossal sublime work with lofty thoughts of life philosophy of conjugal fidelity, concept of progression of human mind towards the process of evolution. This is the story of the conquest of death and victory of mortality over immortality. The sage Sri Aurobindo describes his own spiritual odyssey and the saga of the Mother’s spiritual adventure in working for the evolution of a new step in consciousness beyond the mind.

Sri Aurobindo tries to touch the root cause of the sufferings and he tends to reveal the absolute truth of human life. His contribution for the humanity in the form of the great epic Savitri is marvelous and unforgettable .He proves this epic is the solution of world misery. His concentration and studies are not limited to the certain spheres of analysis of knowledge and philosophy for the sake of humanity. Savitri is the vision of his basic findings of his analysis and tireless journey of the different philosophies of life and soul, body and mind, progression of different stages of mind towards the ultimate stage of superamental mind. He studied a large canvas of history, geography, poetry, science, philosophy. He deals with the origin of man, birth of the gods –from different angles from religious angle, from the mythological, the scientific, the philosophical and the yogic. He takes up the same theme but from different stand points. Savitri is the bundle of stupendous, innumerable fundamentals of all religions, philosophies and yogic practices. Sri Aurobindo describes the cosmogony of the universe and the secrecy of the different levels of the elevated mind. He narrates how man has grown up, he asserts that holistic evolution

that mean soul, mind and body finally become the entity of Divine Power is the absolute meaning of human life. Savitri is the best example of mysticism, symbolism and spirituality. The solutions of complexities of life and miseries of death are found. So far the he himself is trying to reveal the life philosophy and gets confused. He discusses the various stages of evolution of mind, soul and body. Some important questions arise and are awaiting solution from him. Why life is maimed, why death enters to spoil the pleasure of worldly life, why if the *ananda* is the base, *anada* the sustenance and *ananda* is the goal, do we so much of pain .The symbolic Legend ‘Savitri’ presents the idea of the elevation of mind. The very first cover page on which the Lotus is inscribed that gives the notions of the incarnation of Divine Light and two triangles attached from opposite directions give the signal of decension of God and ascension of mind to touch the divinity. Sri Aurobindo exposes his vision of human life in the epic and stresses that merging with God head is the absolute truth.

Conclusion

Sri Aurobindo’s Savitri is found an excellent example of poetic style and the epic is unique in itself. That is concluded that very few try Blank verse, here it is found that this colossal epic follows blank-verse iambic pentameter and is counted among the largest poems of the world. Sri Aurobindo intends to rejuvenate the importance of consciousness of mind and soul. The small story proves a tool to awaken the world to let the world realize the fundamentals of mysticism and occultism. The paper presents that immortality is not unattainable but it depends upon the transcended mind and superamental thoughts.

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