

Robert Frost: The Voice of the World



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Hailed as the “Voice of America “ ,Robert Frost happens to be the Nobel laureate familiar in India for his Stopping by the woods on a snowy evening that happens to be a source of inspiration and motivation for the first prime minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru. The late Prime Minister had written with his own hand the often quoted lines

***‘The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep’***

These Lines were found written on a piece of paper on the office table of Pundit Nehru after his death 27th May 1964 and these lines do set the tone of the ideology of Frost reminding what has been said in *Bhagvat Geeta* :

“Do thou thy allotted task; for action is superior to inaction; with inaction ever life’s normal course is not possible.”

The poem which begins with a note of delight ends with wisdom, expressing the conflict we experience between the demands of everyday mundane life ,full of duties responsibilities which we are bound to discharge for the ongoing of our life at the same feel like fleeing into the land of the dreams . We wish to remain in the world of dreams for some respite from the crude realities of life. But then we cannot as reality will pull us back and dreams do shatter.

Frost believed art is related to life which he presented it as the gloomy side of his nature that may interpret him to be a pessimist but a deep thought may speak something else and that would

establish him as the poet who never remained hidden behind the cloud but the everyman who speak the harsh reality in Provide Provide:

***“Better to go down dignified
with bough ten friendships at your side
Than none at all. Provide, provide!”***

It is a harsh reality that we all need people at our side to take care of us even if we are independent. We are social animals and therefore if we at the time of our crises cannot manage to find our near and dear ones who might have deserted us must give our self the thought and the decision to purchase people at the cost of money to beget friendship for our help .This is very true although sad yet a hard core reality. To be very specific let us cite the examples of the maids who take care of the aged people in our society in terms of money to earn the daily living and the old generation rely on them though they have their children well settled in life yet have no time to take care of the ailing parents for they too have their professional life as well as family life where they are bound to their duties.

Fully aware of the imperfection of human life, Frost thought it was futile to seek explanations for the problems and difficulties which man faces .Life on earth is a trial and suffering is inherent in human lot .Nature to Frost can never offer any panacea as it did to William Wordsworth .So Frost can never dwell on the dark lovely woods but return to life to perform his duties before he breath his last.

Frost realized the agonies of modern man, the sense of alienation that resulted from the invention of modern technology. He writes in Mending Wall

***“I let my neighbor know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.”***

Here the poet is not against the modern solitariness as he never regrets only focuses the essential truth about human existence that must be understood and if possible be improved .The poet write thus

“Good fences make good neighbours.” Here one should respect each other’s private space by understanding the fellow human being with love and sympathy to maintain a healthy social life.

In Birches the poet speaks of his love for our planet earth He writes:

***“Earth’s the right place for love:
I don’t know where it’s likely to go better.”***

Frost in this poem focus himself as the philosopher who understood the philosophy of life and accepts it a very admirable manner He sings his love for the world despite of its shortcomings

And here he reminds of Rabind Nath Tagore who has written”

***Morite chahi na ami sundor bhubone...
Manober majhe ami bachibare chai..”***

The poet says he does not want to die leaving this beautiful world and would like to reside in the midst of the people, while Modern Bengali poet Jibanananda Das write:

“abar ashibo phire dhan shiritir tire ei banglai”

The poet would again like to come back in Bengal on the banks the paddy fields.

Frost never fumes or frets but very coolly and calmly accepts every situation we undergo to respect the chaos, the conflict, the differences and expect others too respect the boundaries. He does not shut his eyes to the hardness of human lot but suggests ways to and means for its amelioration.

The poets perspective bear resemblance to Indian Philosophy that emphasize on accepting both the good and evil with same ease in a detached manner .Here in the voice of America project himself to be a pragmatic person who voices the world.

References:

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3. Poem of Jivananda Das: www.google.com & song by folk singer Lop mudra
4. Poem of Rabindranath Tagore: www.google.com

Brief Profile

My greetings to all who like to know about me in the world of academics. I am Rimni,1970 born pursued my education from St.Joseph’s High School, Matigara, Darjeeling, graduated in English honors from Siliguri College ,Siliguri, post graduated from the University of North Bengal in English Literature and B.Ed from Siliguri B.Ed College .I began my professional career from 2002 and presently engaged in Siliguri Institute Of Technology ,a private engineering institute under Techno India Group since 2010 onwards. I am interested in reading, writing, composing poems, and music.