

Suppression to freedom: A Study on Tagore's "Kingdom of Cards"

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Abstract

Caste system plays a dominant role in Indian Society. Many of the reformers and preachers said about the caste system. They advocated the people that the caste is not a criteria to measure knowledge. There is a saying in Hindi "Jati na pucho sadhuki, puch liziye znan" never ask the name of the caste but ask him about knowledge. The study of Rabindranath Tagore's short story, "Kingdom of Cards" reveals that knowledge will convert people from slavery to freedom. The present paper titled: "Suppression to Freedom: A study on Tagore's short story "Kingdom of Cards" focuses on the caste ridden societies and coincides them with a few incidents in the form of allegory. This also focuses how the ritualistic pattern is encouraged by the people and how the society progresses towards development.

Key Words: caste system, reformers, advocate, knowledge, focus, allegory

Rabindranath Tagore is a famous prolific writer who has born on may 7, 1861 and died on august 7, 1941 in Kolkata.India has never produced a poet like Tagore.He is undoubtedly the greatest Indian poet after Kalidas.He was a poet, singer,a novelist,a patriot,story writer he was all in one.Hes subtle artistic sense,his wisdom,his wide experience of life and deep understanding of human character is reflected through his novels and short stories.

LOCATION AND SETTING OF THE STORY:

The story took place in a lonely Island,it is a far off Island where no one disturbs the peace and calmness of the people who were staying there.It is a great ocean which is singing its lullaby with one unceasing melody,lapped the island to sleep with a thousand of soft touches of wave's white hands.The vast sky,like the outspread of the sky wing of the brooding mother-bird,nestled the island round with its downy-plume.No sound of quarrel could

reach the Island of cards and break its calm.

SUMMARY OF THE STORY:

In this first part of the story the author says that there was a lonely Island with different castes.The higher caste people were Kings and Queens, Aces and Knives and lower caste people were Twos and Threes and they were not allowed to sit together with them.They were assigned with work but no was doing.They never thought to have occasion when they fell ill they made no noise and lay down.The remarkable stillness in this story is they completely satisfied with what they were having. They never made any roar or never have any excitement.For them the great ocean is like lullaby.No sound or quarrel could reach the Island of cards and break their calmness.In that faroff Island there lived a sorrowing queen with his son. The prince passed his childhood days by weaving net of his big desire with his mother.From the Son of Merchant he learnt the stories of far off kingdom and

from the Son of Kotwal he learnt the adventures of two genie camps. When the rain comes he sat with his mother and asked for the story and his mother explained the stories of far off Island which listened in her childhood days, then the three companions went to set out their travel to seek their future. The prince promised his mother that he will clear all their sorrows they were suffering. Four years passed away by doing the work by filling the ships with cloves, musk, ivory, once a day the ship sunk but the three companions were safe. Till now the Island was full of calm but now the real debate begins because of these three companions who were thrown by sea. Firstly they discussed which caste they belong to? Secondly, what the colour complexion indicates and what the regulation they follow? Thirdly, what the food they have? With whom these people live and sleep? These were the discussions going between them but these three companions didn't bother these all things and were eating like twos and threes. These twos and threes were thinking that "they are lower caste than us". The three companions were not following any rules and regulations, by seeing these great courtyards came to them and asked them why you all are not following any rules and regulations? Then they said it's their wish. By listening their words the people were inspired the people and they began to have some secret satisfaction in them. They were trying to move towards happiness. The Hitherto, The Queens of Spades and Clubs, Diamonds and heart had come little behind the curtain and the prince recognized the beauty of queens. From that day the queens were also coming outside everyday without listening the words of knaves. As many spring seasons come they never

changed but now they are changing. They were thinking of their own happiness, dressing style, and their appearance. Young men sitting under the tree were attracted towards the maidens who were dressed in blue. As the nature was also encouraging them, the feel of love has taken birth in them. But now there was a pause in them there was no outspoken words for them. The prince thought that it was going wrong and he had gathered everyone in Island and brought flutes and cymbals. They all played to gain the heart of queens, nines and tens, twos and threes were also began to play the drums madly. When this was happening the nature was also supporting them. The queens sat silently by closing their eyes and were dreaming about their life partner. When the queen opened her eyes the prince was seated on a ground before her by gazing up at her face. And after that in palace hall which was lighted with fairy lamps with flowers of spring. Slowly the queen of heart came with a jasmine garland in her hand and stood before a prince. The prince with the queen went to his mother and said every problem of us had been solved. After this the people of kingdom of cards were doing everything in their wish, they didn't thought either it is good or bad.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE:

The kingdom of cards is a perfect analogue for the caste ridden societies and Tagore makes much out of coincidence of number four in both castes and cards. He demonstrates about the culture they have. And the visitors in the kingdom of cards go on to encourage the ritualistic card society to embrace forward progression and management. Behalf of this he also explained the rank of cards. The prince had awakened the kingdom of cards by

bringing some feelings in them and all the castes equal to everything.

COMMENT ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE STORY:

Kingdom of cards has the capacity to develop something in the future and at the first the story was little boring. And after

sometime I have enjoyed a lot by their characters, it slowly indicates that it is simply one convert to freedom. The story also brings some feelings in them which they don't have before. The story is simply, happy, silly and it is also colourful with a half suppressed laugh at some places.