

Social Aspect with Reference to the Novel *Fakira* by Anna Bhau Sathe

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Abstract

Sociologists define society as a group of people who share common values and lifestyles. Social aspects are an important part of the foundation of the society. Anna Bhau Sathe has with scientific frame of mind. He interrogates faith, a way of life and sometimes a whole tradition. His criticism is blind adherence to religious dogmatic belief and ruthlessness of tradition. He presented the misery of his fellow men and women and a considerable part of his novel. He is dedicated to the real freedom of human being. Anna Bhau Sathe liked to portray in his writing the way we live and what we think about life. The people he wrote about in his work were those he had seen in real life and he portrayed the way those people lived with great simplicity. In his works there is an attempt to give strength and respect to people who were looked down upon by the society. All the characters in *Fakira* novel whether they are rural or urban, male or female were all other Dalits, tribal or the oppressed classes. Those people who were frowned upon by the Indian caste system. The male character in Anna Bhau's work also ensures that women are never treated with disrespect. They do not play with her dignity. When *Fakira* comes to loot the grains in the government store the manager locks womenfolk in a room and fearing that *Fakira* might molest them. *Fakira* asks the manager to open the door of the room and when he sees the womenfolk looked there in a frightened condition. He tells them "Mother I have come to take the grains and the money. I am not here to molest you. Starving people do not feed their empty stomach by looting dignity of women". Anna Bhau's heroines offer an inspiration to the mind and also motivation in life while his hero's inspire us for patriot, love for society and struggle. They are valiant in their struggle to achieve the goal.

Key Words: Freedom, human relationship, dream, existence, motivation, struggle

Ancient Indian society:

Indian caste system is among the world's oldest forms of surviving social stratification. The system which divides Hindus into rigid hierarchical groups based on their Karma (work) and dharma (duty) is generally accepted to be more. The caste system divides Hindus into four main categories: Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras. Many believe that the group

originated from Brahmin, the Hindu God of creation.

At the top level of the hierarchy were the Brahmins who were mainly teachers and intellectuals and are believed to have come from the Kshatriyas, or the warriors and rulers, supposedly from his arms. The third slot went to the Vaishyas, or his thighs. At the bottom came from the Shudras, who came from Brahmins' feet and did all the meaningful jobs. Rural communities have

long been arranged on the basis of castes-the upper and lower castes almost always lived in segregated colonies, the water well were not shared Brahmins would not accept food of drink from the Shudras, and one could marry only within one's caste.

Independent India's constitution banned discrimination on the basis of caste, and in an attempt to correct historical injustices and provide a level playing field to the tradition disadvantaged the authorities announced quotas in government job and educational institutions for schedule castes and tribes, the lowest in the cast hierarchy, in 1950.

Despite the obstacles, however some Dalit's and other low caste Indians, such as Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who authored the Indian constitution and K.R. Narayanan he became the nation first Dalit president, have risen to hold prestigious positions in the country.

Anna Bhau Sathe as born in the village of Wategaon near Sangli in the family belonging to the Dalit community. Poverty has prevented Sathe from obtaining formal education. Despite lack of formal education, Anna Bhau wrote in Marathi 35 novels, one among which Fakira (1959). Fakira which is currently in the 19th edition received a state government award (1961) Vaijanta is the remarkable one.

There are 15 collection of Sathe's short stories. A large number of his short stories have been translated into many Indian and as many as 27 non-Indian languages. Besides novels and short stories Sathe wrote a play, a travelogue on Russia, 12 screenplay, and directly from his experiences in life and his novel celebrate the fighting spirit in their character who works against all odds in life.

The novel Fakira shows how the downtrodden community participated in freedom fighting movement in their own way. During the pre-independence India the downtrodden, middle class community on trifles and sometimes without any cause whatever from both side one from social discrimination another from injustices of British government.

Fakira the prize winning novel of Anna Bhau depicts the social reality of how historically Dalit's occupied the social periphery, and have been excluded from core of politics and economy. It is the most encouraging, moving, realistic delineation of the Dalit life, troubles, tortures, the exploitations by the upper caste so called authorities in the villages and yet the intact moral values among Dalit's the strong favor to live life and not to give up hopes are the aspects of the novel Fakira. Though the upper castes here have piled up infliction, exploitation and torture. Anna Bhau's character love their country. India is the notable aspect of Fakira. The story Fakira locates in Wategaon and has a rural setting. The people in Wategaon strongly believe and practice the tradition.

The story begins with a tradition of 'Jogini' meaning a small yellow colour bowl possession of which means a matter of great pride and an honour of hosting the Jatra a religious fest in the village. A hamlet Shigaon has the possession of 'Jogini' and with great delight, they are organizing the fest. Dhankarrao Patil of the Wategaon is highly restless with fest and thought that there is no single tradition programme in Wategaon who could strongly fight against Shigaon and bring the Jogin in Wategaon.

He exposes this secret to Ranoji, the young active angry young Mang. Ranoji seriously thoughts over Jogins and wants to take risk to snatch out the Jogini to his village among all the people of Shigaon. It was dangerous task as breaking the tradition of Jogini. In the Fest all alert villagers would be ready with weapon and as per the traditional consensus if any outsider dares to take away the Jogini, and is caught within the boundary of the village, he would be beheaded, but would earn great respect and glory if turns out to be victory in taking away the Jogini successfully. Hence arriving at any conclusion was an intricate for Ranoji, he reflects on the worse thing if caught brutal death but glory, proud and happiness for the whole village of Wategaon if he turns out to fight and die rather than just think and leave it. Without informing his father Daulat, wife Radha, his sons Fakira and Saddhu. On the day of Yatra the religious fest Ranoji alone with great courage and perfect plan of taking Jogini away rides towards Shigoan. There he entails a responsibility to inform Shankar Patil and Vishnupant Kulkarni form his village to march towards Shigoan to receive Ranoji with Jogini. He deploy the people walking with Jogini and in the vicinity of the on narrow passage, he dives in the Flocks of the people and killed the most powerful person and taking advantage of the night disappear from the spot and with the speed of lightening move towards Wategaon meanwhile, getting the clue of Ranoji, a huge mob of Shigoan villagers run with weapons ready to kill him. Ranoji by faraway goes beyond the boundary of Shigoan and enters the Wategaon area. But breaking the rule Shigoan villagers chase him, kill his faithful horse 'Gabrya' and

beheaded Ranoji: the warrior, violating the traditional rule.

Generally unaware and sloppy about manmade, the place where Mang community resides with their poverty stricken life, the entire village with great respect for Ranoji decides to take revenge of this incident. Ranoji's death, people are united. But after an apology and getting Ranoji's head back the matter is closed down, and Ranoji cremated by the Wategaon villagers. Later Fakira the elder son of Ranoji a young man having superior skills than his father, muscular, sympathetic towards every troubled person, hence becomes the leader of the Dalit and the village. After the ten years the Shigoan's youth plans to attack and get back the Jogini, Fakira had an inclination of the possible attack and he not successfully retaliate the attack but let the youth go out of Wategaon and then chasing him successfully cuts his hands from the wrist and completes the vengeance of his Father's murder yet spares the youth, though legally Fakira could slain him. He chose to teach him lesson by cutting his hand from wrist and earns reverence of his magnanimity for granting life to youth. As Alexander pope says: 'to err is human to forgive is divine'. Anna Bhau's character Fakira here teaches Humanity and values like forgive by awarding life to the youth, sacrificing his rightful pray and vengeance of his father's murder.

The novel also attempts to demonstrate the path towards the communal harmony and strength of the unity. How Vishnupant Kulkarni the upper caste senior of the village support the Dalit's and closely

associated with the feeling and up and down in the life of Dalit's. But Patil family made politics to make survive their life. . Fakira was against the law which declared the innocent Dalit community as criminal. It is clear reflection of the internal politics of upper caste community in the village towards Dalit. Fakira dares to challenge it

Baburao Bagul a senior Dalit writer has contributed to Dalit literature his excellent stories, novels, poems editorials etc. He depicted real life Dalit from 'Jeva mi Jat Chorali Hoti'. (When I steal caste).

Overall the novel Fakira is the finest example of Dalit society and great lesson and model reflecting the rarest grit to live even in an utmost adversity. The Mang-Mahar unity is one of the most salient features of Anna Bhau Sathes's masterpiece. Novel Fakira deals with Dalit expression, misfortunes, looted wealth, murder morally upright and ideal individual. It would be in the interest of knowledge of Indian society, Dalit's and history to hold Anna Bhau Sathe's literature to inspect the class-caste dimension in Maharashtra.

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