



September, 2011



* Dr. Archana Bobade

Nehru as a Prose Writer

* Assot. Prof. Dept. of English Shri Shivaji Arts & Commerce College Amravati.

Nehru was one of the greatest figures of our generation, said Dr. Radhakrishnan. His personality had the rare combination of writer and a fighter. Through his entire writings, he has tried to understand and analyse the human dignity. His search for social justice and society without exploitation can be seen in his monumental writings. In his "My Autobiography" "Discovery of India" and "Glimpses of World History" he has tried to ascertain the main stream of human civilization. The birth growth and decline of many human civilizations have attracted Nehru and he has tried to understand the distant voice of human civilization. As a writer he was capable of expressing in English at ease and spontaneity. Frank Moraes assesses Nehru's personality in these words "He was the last European who ruled India". In his writings we can see him as a philosopher visionary and a writer who is dedicated for the amelioration of human dignity. In his own words - "I shall continue my struggle till the last man is emancipated from this unhappy earth."

Nehru has lived literature. For him, it is not merely a mode of entertainment but the mirror of human dilemma and suffering. Nehru's writings have the depth of historical analysis, philosophical insight and the clarity of political views. In his writings, India is presented on a vast canvas. For him "India is a vision, a dream and a symbol - faith and worship". Nehru becomes a philosopher when he thinks of the unbroken link of Indian civilization. Indian culture is unique in its character. "Unity in diversity" is the life blood of our civilization. Nehru is proud of India's spirit of tolerance and adaptability. Spiritual strength is the inspiring face which has kept the Indian civilization evergreen. Lust for power and greed for material achievements have never been the motto of Indian psyche. Despite many ups and downs, Indian civilization is even now growing with the same spirit.

Nehru's poetic expression is capable of inspiring the readers. Most of his writings are in the form of his letter writings which was addressed to Indira Gandhi when she was below fifteen years. Some of the critics are of this opinion that these writings were prepared for educating his daughter. But this is a superfluous assessment of the situation. Nehru has a

message for the entire humanity. As a democrat he had advocated for the propagation of universal brotherhood and equality. He becomes very uneasy whenever any description of human exploitation comes in his writings. This speaks of his sensibility. For him literature is a part of his sensitive life. He has lived literature and his writings are based on his personal experiences and readings. He has openly admitted that as a writer he had the western outlook because of his western education. Despite this confession Nehru has understood the Indian ethos.

In his historical assessment he is not confined to the crude facts and figures of traditional history. He is not interested in the victory and defeat of an empire or rise and fall of any kingdom of course he has kept these facts in his mind but his interest was more in understanding the fate of humanity. For him history is not merely an account of the past. He is interested in seeing that unbroken flow of human civilization even in the present and future.

Nehru's writings are the testimony of his faith in humanity and democratic order for the entire world. He had studied Buddha and found solace in his doctrine of "Peaceful Co-existence, world peace and democratic ideals". He was the statesman of the 20th century where science and technology have to play a very decisive role. For him literature means as Alexander Pope says - "The proper study of mankind is man." Nehru has analysed the destiny of mankind in a very scientific way. Sometimes he becomes sentimental and we can get the proof of the missing links of his analysis even in his emotional approach, Nehru has the literary horizon of scientific outlook.

As a peace lover, Nehru comes as a prophet and his preachings are very deep and tempting in presentation and analysis. Nehru's writings are full of transparent honesty. While analyzing the fact he has not spared any ugly looking facts. He is proud of India's past but at the same time he has exemplary courage to criticise the sensitive facts of blind faith or superstition. His scientific bent of mind has made him a great rationalist at the same time his philosophical learnings are full of emotional touch and human aspirations. He is a lover of words and phrases and he has

tried to use them at appropriate time. Literature is born out from the behaviour, human psychology. His writings have a muscular quality free from sentimentality and his outlook is essentially realistic. What he studied, preached, written in literature he practised in personal life. Owing to the depth and clarity of writings, Nehru has achieved world recognition as a writer. He is a philosopher, historian and statesman of the best order. He wanted to remove the unwanted barriers of narrow outlook and prejudice against anybody. His writings are the monuments of human dignity and aspirations for the glorious future of mankind.

Nehru was the world citizen. His philosophy and visions are the foundations of global dignity. In his writings Nehru has presented these facts with understanding and clear insight. His language and logic makes Nehru the writer of global repute. Jinnah, the first president of Pakistan has said - "If Nehru would not have joined politics he would have been a well established writer of English". He was a writer and statesman of the best order. In both the roles he succeeded. His writings are the mirror of his intention and capacities.