

DEATH'S MESSAGE THROUGH WALT WHITMAN AND KEKI N. DARUWALL'S POEMS

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Abstract

Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla felt death was inevitable. Death can be caused due to diseases, natural calamity or murder etc. Keki N. Daruwalla felt that sometimes he felt helpless and could not help people who were dying. He was a mere observer. If riots took place or war took place many people died. Innocent people become victim of the same. Women and children are worst victims of the same. Natural calamity like flood and draught are also the causes of many people's death. Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla have tried to show their concern about people's death and how they die. Walt Whitman feels that there is life after death too.

Key Words: Diseases, Natural Calamity, Murder, Flood, Draught etc.

Introduction

Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla believed in death and felt it is a part of life. The world exists due to the same. Walt Whitman felt that like people change clothes they also change their bodies when they die and one should not feel scared of death. He wanted to embrace death. Keki N. Daruwalla felt that death can happen due to many reasons. It can be either man-made or due to natural calamity. The common masses they have to suffer a lot during war time or violence taking place in the country. Due to the spread of diseases also many people die.

Keki N. Daruwalla:

Keki N. Daruwalla came all over from Lahore to India. He had been witness to India Pakistan partition. He saw many people dying on the way. He then became IPS officer and there also he was a great observer and he saw many people dying due to diseases or communal riots. He couldn't stop crying and felt helpless many a times looking at the dire situation of the people. He has expressed the pathetic plight of the people and how do they suffer through his poems.

On Death:

In Fire Hymn: This poem is about the fire. The poet was told in his childhood that fire sometimes doesn't do its work properly. It doesn't burn the body fully after a person is dead and one can see half body parts were lying unburnt. He saw all this near the Ganga Ghat of Benares. He thought that fire was his God but sometimes it didn't do its work fully. But he never knew it's going to be his own son whom he had to burn. Though according to his religion he had to put his son on the Tower of silence where vultures can someday eat it but he couldn't go there as it was too far from the place. So he got him burnt but he felt that the fire had committed the sin again because it was against his religion to burn his child on fire.

In The King Speaks To His Scribe: In this poem the poet tries to express feelings of Asoka after Kalinga was that he is very sad and in grief after the war. He asked his messenger to spread the message peace and non-violence. He also says that he never knew about the consequences of war he felt it was all futile. He felt that one should try to conquer themselves. He felt that his message should be engraved on stones so that generations to come should read his message. Message was engraved on the stupas.

He was deeply hurt when he saw people were dead. They were lying here and there some were unburnt because people didn't have enough money to burn them. They were poor. The King here feels that war is futile. The king feels that war should not take place because innocent people become the victims. There is bloodshed everywhere.

One can only listen to the wails of ladies and children. King Asoka regretted for this deadly war. He felt there was a river of flood flowing between him and the common masses. He wanted to come near the common masses but he felt that there was a river of blood flowing between him and the common masses.

Due to communal riots also people die- Many people they die due to communal riots. They kill each other for no reason. Buses are burnt. Houses and shops all are put on fire. People are thirsty of each other blood. Situation is grave. Policemen try to control the situation but for no vain. Sometimes they have to shoot at the mob to gain control over them. It seems as though even they are burning. Young people they also put buses and shops on fire. Bottles are thrown on each other. Innocent people become the victim of the circumstance.

People die due to curfew - Many people die during the time of curfew as many people are inside their homes only. Those suffering from disease can't be taken to the hospital. Those children who are hungry can't get milk to drink as mothers can't go outside to get it. People are dead and their dead bodies are lying inside their homes only they can't be taken for the last funeral rites but for how long.

Due to migration and war- People during the time of migration that time also they die. During war time also they die-Due to migration people have to shift from one place to the other. Many old and weak people are there and they die on the way. They have to leave all their property and go and settle at new place. They have to start from the scratch many people die on the way therefore poet doesn't want any kind of war or partition in future where the innocent people have to suffer. During migration many girls are raped and taken away by the bandits. In fear many girls also suicide or their family members kill them. Many dead bodies were found on the train coming from Pakistan to India and train which reached India to Pakistan.

Due to flood and draught also people are dead-Due to flood everything is washed away. Many animals as well as human beings they die. Crops, shops and homes are washed away. People they die as they don't have anything to eat. Food packets are thrown by the rescue agents but not everyone gets it.

Even good leaders have to die: Good leaders they die as they have to sacrifice their life for the people. They are also murdered as they speak against violence, against exploitation, for the upliftment of women. Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Abraham Lincoln were murdered.

Due to diseases also people die- Many people they die due to cholera. Doctors call it Gastro Enteritis. Many people are killed because of this disease. Doctors and nurses look at them coldly.

Walt Whitman:

Walt Whitman believed in death and also life after death. Being born in America he took great interest in Indian philosophies. He believed in Vedas. He felt everyone should learn about yoga and meditation from India. He was very much influenced by Bhagwad Gita and that can be seen in his poems. He felt that as only the body dies but the soul is eternal. Soul never dies. It is part of the Universe and nothing goes out of the universe. Everything remains inside the universe even the soul. He felt death is part of life. In his poems Leaves of Grass when a child asks what is this, he says, this is a grass. Dark grass is the beard of the old person who was buried in the graveyard and light grass is the beard of the young person. Thus we can say that Walt Whitman believed that people are born again after death in different form.

Walt Whitman

Only body dies but soul is eternal: Walt Whitman feels that death is inevitable. People they die one day but they are born again as leaf. As we change clothes like that we change the bodies too. Only the body dies but soul is eternal. We are part of same energy that is the supreme energy our soul remains in this universe only nothing goes out of it. Walt Whitman says that when old person dies he is born again as dark green leaf and if a young man is dead he is born again as light green leaf. Rebirth takes place. Therefore we can say that Walt Whitman believed in reincarnation- Life after death.

Conclusion

Both the poets feel that death is inevitable and that some steps should be taken by the government to stop early death. Government should take active steps during the time of flood and draught. Government should analyze the situation and prepare from before which action can be taken during the time of famine. Better medical facilities should be provided in hospitals. One should not fear from death because only the body dies and soul is eternal.

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