
**The Theme of Superstition in the Poem “*Night of the Scorpion*” by
Nissim Ezekiel**

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Abstract:

A superstition is a conviction or work on coming about because of obliviousness. It is a feeling of dread toward the obscure. It is a conviction believed by non-specialists to be unreasonable. A conviction did not depend on human explanation or logical information yet is associated with old thoughts regarding wizardry. People in a group occasionally hold irrational views because of fear, occasionally out of helplessness, and occasionally out of coincidence. Since the first human was made, these ideas have persisted. Many have no connection to any kind of rationale, contemporary thought, or religious belief. We live in a world where superstitions are still practiced today, despite the fact that they have nothing to do with intelligence and reason. Superstition is still prevalent in society. In the modern era, we also see many people who still adhere to superstition. They have their own beliefs. They have their own kind of norms, values and even traditions. They believe in superstitions of God and Satan as well. The methodology of superstition notion depends on the power that there exist in the universe two sorts of powers, to be specific the powers of goodness headed by God and the powers of evil headed by Satan, and that to counter

the powers of maliciousness we really want the assistance of God and his decency.

Keywords: Superstition, norms, values, traditions, helplessness, unreasonable, powers.

Introduction:

Nissim Ezekiel was an Indian artist. He was a primary figure in Indian poetry in English. Ezekiel enhanced and laid out the Indian English language poetry with his pioneer developments and procedures which broadened Indian English writing moving it past simply otherworldly and orientalist subjects, to incorporate a more extensive scope of interests, including familial occasions, individual tension and incredulous cultural thoughtfulness. His major works include Time to Change, Sixty Poems, The Third, The Unfinished Man, The Exact Name, Hymns in Darkness, Latter-day Psalms, etc.

The poem is soaked in a provincial foundation reflecting high rustic offbeat convictions and ceremonial practices. The

poem Night of the Scorpion by Nissim Ezekiel is an occurrence that the artist has not failed to remember in his life. He says:
“I remember the night my mother
Was stung by a scorpion. Ten hours
Of steady rain had driven him
To crawl beneath a sack of rice”.

It was a night when a scorpion nibbled his mom and every one of the odd residents did silly things instead of aiding her. The poem exposes the superstitions that dominate the minds of Indians and also the motherhood of a lady who is just one of her children even in the worst condition. The writer says that he recalls well the night when a scorpion stung her mom. It was a rainy night. A scorpion had taken cover under a sack of rice. At the point when his mom went to get rice from the silo, the scorpion messed with her and vanished in the downpour. He says:

“With candles and with lanterns
Throwing giant scorpion shadows
On the mud-baked walls
They searched for him: he was not found”.

The neighbors came in enormous numbers with candles and lamps. They recited the name of God to deaden the insidious one, they needed to prevent the scorpion from moving. They accept the impact of the toxic substance would increase with the development of the scorpion. They needed to kill it, yet it wasn't found anyplace. The writer's mom was in extraordinary agony. Individuals asked that every one of the wrongdoings of her past birth be signed. They trusted the world to be incredible and maintained that agony should pardon every one of her wrongdoings and abate the

sufferings of the following birth. The writer's mom proceeded to endure and was in extraordinary agony. He says:
“My father, sceptic, rationalist,
trying every curse and blessing,
powder, mixture, herb and hybrid.

The locals were odd however, the writer's dad was a doubter, and he questioned the cases of religion. He was a level-headed individual. His perspectives depended on reason and rationale. He attempted each powder, the combination of spices and petitions. He poured a little paraffin upon the chomped toe and put a match to it. He says:
“I watched the holy man perform his rites to tame the Poison with an incantation”.

The writer watched the fire benefiting from his mom, he, additionally watched the sacred man attempting to control the impact of toxic substance with words in petition or enchantment and played out his rituals. He says:

“After twenty hours
It lost its sting.
My mother only said
Thank God the scorpion picked on me
And spared my children”.

Following 20 hours the injury was lost and the toxic substance became weak and the mother recuperated. She failed to remember every one of her sufferings and her aggravation. She said thanks to God and was appreciative that the scorpion had saved her kids. The poem is based on superstition which is still prevalent in society. At the point when the residents come to the writer's home he isn't content with them. He calls them:

“The peasants came like swarms of flies

and buzzed the name of God a hundred times

to paralyze the evil one”.

According to him, the residents started looking for the scorpion and their shadows themselves appeared to resemble a goliath scorpion on the mud-prepared walls. They start looking for the scorpion since they accept that the toxin spreads across the body with the development of the scorpion so assuming the last option is halted and deadened, the toxic substance impact can likewise be controlled. It mirrors the old convictions individuals stuck to. He says:

“With every movement that the scorpion made his poison

moved in Mother’s blood, they said”.

There is a notion that Nissim likewise knows. To this end, he abhors the approaching of residents to his home. Having flopped in finding the notion, they start giving their own translation of the gnawing of the scorpion which shows the Indianness that is common in the public arena. Every one of them appears to be in harmony due to their viewpoints. The mother cried in torment yet nobody really focused on her. It portrays the superstition which is reflected through individuals who have faith in silly measures to fix an individual. Through his poem, the poet shows the superstitious beliefs of people which are still prevalent in Indian society. It is not only in previous times but these beliefs are still followed in present times. The poet depicts the beliefs of the Indian Society in which we live. The workers buzz the name of God multiple times to deaden the detestable one. This approach depends on the mysticism that there exist in the universe two sorts of

powers, in particular, the powers of goodness headed by God and the powers of evil headed by Satan. Also, to counter the powers of insidious we want the assistance of God and his integrity. The laborer's desire that the woman's transgressions of the past life be consumed with smoldering heat shows that as per them the woman's having been stung by a scorpion is a discipline given to her for some wrongdoing in the current life or in her previous life. The Sacred Man's spell and playing out his rituals show their eccentric convictions that it might recuperate the lady. They are doing old practices as in ancient times mantras were utilized to fix the evil ones. Nissim Ezekiel portrays the theme of superstition in the poem. The poem deals with the old beliefs of Indian people. Rational thinking is also shown in the poem from the father’s viewpoint as he uses herbs to cure his wife. Indian convictions are passed down from one age to another. Therefore, they take their place from age to age. The people of the village are superstitious. They believe in superstition which leads them to make such comments. They hold illogical views. These views hold a dilemma that may prevent them from evil spirits.

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