



Vision of Blue Sky: Hopeful Prospect of Hierarchy

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Abstract

The vision of developed nation provides opportunity to every citizen to envisage towards the country they want to see in the future at the completion of hundred years of freedom from colonization. Development and nourishment of family is dependent on the positive aim of each member and maintenance of equality among them. It demands for social and communal responsibility and civic engagement. There had been great writers who have tried to bring awareness through their writings about the negative aspects of social inequality. The novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell aptly tells about the consequence of absolute power, loss of ideology and corruption in the society. The consequence of class difference and the dominancy of the hierarchy, where Napoleon and the other pigs represented the ruling class while other animals of the farm represent the lower class, finally it lead to demolition of Animal Farm. This in fact portrays the political condition of the present time. Few upper class people are ruling and making the lower class feel inferior. This condition continues till the lower class is suppressed to an extent of being de motivated and visionless. In the novel *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee also reflects the social impartiality on the ground of color and race. Where a black man (Tom Robinson) was accused of raping a white girl, which actually he did not and when Atticus Finch, a white man took his case and tried to defend him, then people of Maycomb, South America stood against him and it became



difficult for the judge to give any judgment as the case became a matter of racial prejudice. It brings the deeply rooted racism in not only among the people but even within the legal system in the Deep South community where the story is set. When racial hatred runs so deep in a community then the imagination of blossoming country becomes a dream of every individual. The main protagonist in the whole situation was a small nine years old girl child Scout and her brother Tom. This scenario brings the real picture of the society that the children who are considered to be the future of a nation are being engrossed with the evil thought of people. This upbringing can never make them feel motivated towards a bright future.

Keywords: Vision, Responsibility, society, race, impartiality, class

Introduction

Creation of mankind has been the greatest innovation of God. It brought not only an empowering creature as well as a leader to rule the planet and organize it in proper manner for every individual inhabitant. Every creature has a general phenomenon of residing in colonies and group. This behavior of creating community also brings the formation of society. The association of people has been a greatest reason for the formation of different societal norms and culture. It also brings social responsibility and civic engagement of people in this institution. Society and social issues has always been a matter of concern. Different issues have been spotted by the literary writers through their work. Among which are Harper Lee (To kill a mocking bird) and George Orwell (Animal Farm) who always try to bring in lime light the problems of society in hope to get rectification and give the foundation of better definable community sharing similar culture.

As a young child one believes that they learn everything from their parents or teachers, but in reality life's lessons are taught by experiences and the people around us. "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee is a novel that enriches the reader and informs a lot about American history and also gives various life lessons which is an useful as it goes unrecognized by them. The protagonists of this novel are mainly the two children, Jem and Scout who get the rude life lessons which basically takes away the innocence of the two. This



was not only from their intelligent and practical father, Atticus but also from the society which did not hesitate to show its cruel face to them. The novel “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee portrays that one can learn valuable life lessons about courage, optimistic and empathetic from anyone they come across. The story of Jem and Scout clearly states the development of the characters through their various life experiences.

Social Issues highlighted in *To Kill a Mocking Bird*

Through the novel ‘To Kill a Mocking Bird’ by Harper Lee the racial prejudice and social justice has been clearly portrayed. The title of the novel itself suggests that the humbleness and innocence of a person should not be destroyed in any condition. The good existing in the society has the power to maintain humanity on the planet. Harper Lee wrote the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* when people were extremely affected by social and economic downfall. The Great depression was an economic disaster that occurred in North America, Europe, and other parts of the world. It commenced in 1929 and proceeded till 1939. It had considerable effects on the life of People throughout the world. The devastating effects dispersed in America and affected their life. It somewhere frames the themes of the novel, racial discrimination and loss of innocence. In this book, the two kids Scout and Jem encountered a loss of innocence as their consciousness and participation in the ugly sides of life in the group forever changed their perspectives on community, values of ultimately right and wrong as well as good and evil, virtue and vices.

That’s what I thought, too..... when I was your age. If there’s just one kind of folks, why can’t they get along with each other? If they’ re all alike, why do they go out of their way to despise each other? Scout, I think I’m beginning to understand something. I think I’m beginning to understand why Boo Radley’s stayed shut up in his house all this time.... It’s because he *wants* to stay inside. (Lee, 2001, 240)

This clearly brings in lime light that the development of mind of small child, who is unable to understand his likes and dislikes but is trying to understand social norms. It is also clearly evident that division in society has devastating negative effect on people and mostly children. Scout, a nine years, tomboy, free flying girl loses her innocence and faces humiliation herself



and experiences the insult of her father whom she respected a lot and the reason that worked towards all these were just the decision of Attens (her father) to fight the case of a negro in the society of white men.

Nigger- lover!” he yelled.

When stalking one’s prey, it is best to take one’s time. Say nothing, and as sure as eggs he will become curious and emerge. Francois appeared at the kitchen door. “You still mad, Jean Louise?” he asked tentatively.

“Nothing to speak of,” I said.

Francois came out on the catwalk.

“You gonna take it back, Fra- ancis?”

This time I split my knuckle to the bone on his front teeth. My left impaired, I sailed in with my right, but not for long. Uncle Jack pinned my arms to my sides and said, “Stand Still!” (Lee, 2001: 112)

Child who remained unaware towards these social cultures and considered each other brother and sister was being forced to involve itself in the discrimination and to involve in the culture of racial inequality.

“Well if we came out durin’ the Old Testament it’s too long ago to matter.”

“That’s what I though,” said Jem. “but around here once you have a drop of Negro blood, that makes you all black. Hey look-”(Lee, 2001, 216)

It shows clearly that the judgment sense of people is so that all people who have black blood line make the society all black and still they are unacceptable in the society.

The protagonist of the novel Scout is a young nine years old, tomboy girl. She breaks the social norm of wearing proper clothes such as dresses that was meant for white women of the town, Maycomb. The social norms of the place were different for whites to separate them



from African Americans, women were classified by dressing in certain way and men dressing in another. But being a tomboy by nature she loved to wear trousers and the dresses meant for boys but for this she was humiliated by people of his neighborhood. Such incidences obviously makes the situation worst and children like Scout absorbs a negative feeling for the society.

“And let’s not leave out the whole ‘Scout is a love whore’ issue.” Talley tilted her face up. “What is a love whore exactly?” “You know, some reckless person who goes around falling in love with every attractive guy she comes across. Charlie, Alex, Liam. I’m all ‘Oh! Pretty boy!’ and the next thing you know I’m ruining everyone’s lives because I want to curl up inside them and live forever”

“That is quite possibly the most bizarre and creepy description of what it feels like to fall in love I’ve ever heard”

“Falling in love is bizarre and creepy”.

“I could not possibly hope to breathe; when I said I can’t do nothing in a dress, she said I wasn’t supposed to be doing things that required pants” (Lee, 2001, 108)

These statement said by Scout is regarding Aunt Alexandra who is the one to follow the social norms while Scout does not. Scout Finch is also a person of thought; she has her own opinion and perception towards the society and herself. When it comes to dressing herself she has a different wardrobe than all of the women in the town. She likes to wear pants and the clothes which are not accepted in Maycomb, Alabama. This again brings out as a rebellion thought which is against the social norms. Through this Lee has focused on bringing forth the reality that these social norms don’t just exist in fictional place Maycom rather they are also in the real world. An example of Ellen DeGeneres, an American comedian and television host can be taken who in the real world breaks those social norms. She has her own way of styling herself, the way she likes to dress into. That is wearing suit and blazers instead of gowns and dresses. This is accepted by few in the society while others don’t but since she is mature



enough to understand the society and social culture it hardly affects her. With her own thought and behavior she is successful in herself.

Social Issues highlighted in *Animal Farm*

Even the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell highlights upon the social responsibility of living being aptly and states that it is the only way to combat the greed of humankind. The novel reflects the story of class struggle, the wrong use of power, and the ideas of freedom. These themes are very much relevant in the context of present time. It is not about the real battle and war that takes place rather about our everyday life that we have taken for granted. Animal farm is the story that brings out the story of rebellion of the animals to get them free from human tyranny. Once they kicked out the humans, the pigs began to take control because they are considered to be the smartest animals among the animals of the farm. After the revolt, the animals felt happy and satisfied because they had one thing in mind that they are working for the benefits of themselves. Though they knew little about their own benefits and ways to improve their life they gave total authority with complete trust to their leader pig, Napoleon. But Napoleon, who was shrewd, ended up exploiting the animals through his force and fright. In the end, Napoleon misuses his power, and the animals are not better than as were before the revolt. Max Weber, a German Sociologist in his book 'Economy and Society' defines Power as the probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out his own will despite resistance.

In the novel Orwell has brought out the real picture of politics where Snowball is chased out of the farm by Napoleon so that farm animals do not have any alternative leader to follow. In this way the pigs got complete right and were even able to keep decision making to a particular committee who were in his favor.

“In future all questions relating to the working of the farm would be settled by a special committee of pigs, presided over by himself. These would meet in private and afterwards communicate their decisions to the others” (Orwell, Ch. 3)



Napoleon applied one more policy, which was the ‘ideological Power’ as named by Steven Lukes, a Political Scientist, in which it did not work towards limiting one’s options, but through changing their belief system. Animals did not realise that they were being controlled so were happily doing the work for others. This sort of manipulation is generally done through proper formulation of planning and propaganda.

Ignorance is an effective and efficient instrument indeed, which is why education is often said to be an important aspect of democracy. This also teaches us a great lesson for leading a proper, unbiased society that if we allow one person to possess this type of power, they can turn democracy to dictatorship easily, this can never be considered as a productive and healthy means of leading life. Similar thing happened in the story Animal Farm too, where Napoleon used similar strategy and animals were always hopeful in fact they felt pride in being the member of this farm.

“And yet the animals never gave up hope. More, they never lost, even for an instant, their sense of honour and privilege in being members of Animal Farm. They were still the only farm in the whole county — in all England! — owned and operated by animals....Their hearts swelled with imperishable pride”

“We can’t fight back if we don’t know what we are fighting for” (Orwell, Ch3)

Portrayal of Inequality and class

Animals had a motto and seven commandments to follow in the beginning that mainly framed to maintain equality among animals. The motto goes as “Four legs good, two legs bad”, it was followed by the commandments as:

- “1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.



5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal.” (Orwell, Ch. 2)

Towards the end of the story, the seven commandments that had guided the life of the animals were changed into a single commandment.

“All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than other”

It is captivating to know how simple inequality and the partition among different classes were created. It does not start with intrinsic discrepancy, but it begins with small little changes that are built over time. For instance, it began when the pigs started to take advantage of other animals.

“So it was agreed without further argument that the milk and the windfall apples ... should be reserved for the pigs alone”

And started to exploit their power and create the make-believe differences that slowly turned into reality.

“Squaler the pig explain that higher level creatures have endless work in the supervision and organisation of the farm, much of this work was of a kind that the other animals were too ignorant to understand.”

“Neither pigs or dogs produced any food by their own labour....Lower animals on Animal Farm did more work and received less food than any animals in the country.”

When it comes to understand truth then there is no single universal truth. The only truth is whatever one chooses to believe and feel comfortable in, even the novel suggests the same thing, the seven commandments were initially considered to be the one and only truth. But as the story progressed the truth is easily altered. By the end of the story, all commandments have been converted to new ones that suit the interest of those in power. The change in the last commandment about equality says as.



“Four legs good, two legs BETTER”

“No animal shall drink alcohol TO EXCESS”

“No animals shall kill any other animal *WITHOUT CAUSE*” (Orwell, ch. 2)

This clearly focuses on the political system of the nation as how efficiently the political leaders change their verdict and the truth is manipulated. It does not mean that citizen are fool or unintelligent rather it is how people are made to believe deliberately and repeatedly that finally is accepted as ultimate truth.

This concept has been followed and observed since history. The reality of the past incidences remains as it is but still people believe on the thing that they choose to be convinced by. In the novel, Napoleon kept framing new story upon history with a plan to make the animals against Snowball whom they respected a lot. As we know even if lie is said thousand times then that also becomes truth similarly after the initial resistance from the other animals, later he succeeded and animals also believed on a framed story as the truth.

“Our Leader, Comrade Napoleon,” announced Squealer, speaking very slowly and firmly, “has stated categorically — categorically, comrade — that Snowball was Jones’s agent from the very beginning — yes, and from long before the Rebellion was ever thought of.”

“Ah, that is different!” said Boxer. “If Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right.”

This also brings out the fact that people see everything, understand everything but they believe only what they want to.

Conclusion

Both these novels have clearly portrayed the need of proper maintenance of hierarchy in the society so that equality can be maintained in class. Even biasness on the name of race or color will not affect the judgment. Then only a proper nation can be visualized. The aim of the conference that caters towards the imagination of developed Bharat can be achieved through



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the administered hierarchy by every individual and the maintenance of civil obedience. The novel *To Kill the Mockingbird* as well as the novel *Animal Farm* clearly brings the need of proper hierarchy in the society. It is important to have a vision of bright future with clear blue sky then only a developed nation with proper administration as well as happy individuals can be achieved.



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