

## **SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE POEMS OF WALT WHITMAN AND KEKI N. DARUWALLA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This Research Paper tells about the similarities between Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla's poems. Walt Whitman is American and Keki N. Daruwalla is an Indian poet. They talk about universal brotherhood, fraternity and comradeship. They want one world without boundaries. They believe in democratic world. They wrote about wars. They wrote about the common masses, their struggles and hardships. They tried to spread the message of peace through their poems. They wanted to bring the revolution through their poems. They stood up for the rights of women and downtrodden people. They spoke about spirituality too. Walt Whitman speaks of life after death about the cosmos in his poems. Keki N. Daruwalla speaks about things happening in present scenario. Poems like King Speaks to his Scribe, Darius, Graft written by Keki N. Daruwalla is taken into consideration. Whereas, poems written by Walt Whitman like Pestilence, O Captain! My Captain! is also taken for further research work in this research paper.

**KEYWORDS:** Universal Brotherhood, Fraternity, Comradeship, Revolution & Spirituality Democratic World

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla they feel that every generation should bring revolution as it their moral responsibility. They can bring it through anyway even like writing. They felt people should be able to speak up if they see anything wrong taking place in the society. Therefore Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla though belonging to different countries tried to make people aware about the things happening in society so that people can come together and take action against the same and save themselves as well as others. They believed in a peaceful world, a world without discrimination or boundaries. They have been able to achieve through their poems though they do have some similarities and differences which we will be able to learn in this research paper.

### **2. KEKI N. DARUWALLA AND WALT WHITMAN'S WORK**

#### **2.1 On War**

Walt Whitman talks about American Civil War, where Abraham Lincoln is the hero, whereas Keki N. Daruwalla speaks about Kalinga War where Asoka is the hero. Walt Whitman supported democratic world, peaceful world, non-violence and secularism he wrote about Abraham Lincoln who wanted to save people, his country and therefore he laid down his life for it.

##### **2.1.1 Asoka-Kalinga War**

Keki N. Daruwalla -Asoka had won the war but at the cost of humanity, though it was a time to be happy, but there was no one to even welcome. He had won the greatest victory, but for that millions of lives were sacrificed. All women were found wailing crying, and they had no one to put their heads on any shoulder or to rely upon fathers, brothers, husbands all were dead.

### 2.1.2 Consequences of War

Children lost their father, they were half burnt dead bodies lying all over the scene was pathetic. Millions were deported and taken away as prisoners. In this war, even the women had joined in war; they also fought and it had been one of the greatest in the world history. King Asoka then felt sad, he spoke to his messenger that through service to humanity only I can come close to common masses. He wanted that teachers should be given respect. There should be hospitality all over. Stupas should be built all over India and even in some foreign countries, so that message of peace can be sent worldwide and for the centuries to come, and people may know the importance of it, he thus gave orders.

### 2.1.3 Adopted Buddhism

Asoka never knew the consequences of war; therefore he realized what he had done and felt remorseful and thus turned towards Buddhism, and followed the path of righteousness. He built roads, universities, planted trees both side of the road that's why trees were also named after his name. Asoka sent his message all over the world for spreading the message of love, truth and non-violence, as only peace should prevail. He asked to build Stupa and asked to engrave so deeply, as deeply he was hurt after seeing the consequences of war.

### 2.1.4 Message of Peace-Built Stupas

Asoka built **Stupas** so that the coming generations would know the consequences of war and would not dare to do war again.

Asoka then thought of giving everyone their right and spreading humanity following righteous path, he thought there was river of blood flowing between him and the common masses. He wanted to come close to the common masses, but he couldn't come close to them because he found people sad, the women were crying as their brothers fathers and son were dead, they had no one to rely upon no family.

### 2.1.5 Partition

Keki N. Daruwalla talk about Hindustan and Pakistan war; what he saw, and the partition which took place as he was born in Lahore, so therefore that left great an impression on his mind temples and mosques were burnt. Girls were the victims, mainly they were raped and killed, they jumped into the well to save their lives and they chose death. The scenes were horrific. Many old people were dead on the way during migrations, people were killed on the way. They were looted, their houses were burnt, and they had to leave all their belongings and their property and had to leave for new place, which was very difficult. Many of them died due to diseases. Train came, which were filled with dead bodies, the scene was horrifying and pathetic. These people, who migrated, had to start new beginning. They had to find place to stay, food, employment etc.

### 2.2 Exploitation in America

Walt also talks about how black women were sold, and how white people big businessmen made money out of that. Both are against partition, war, segregation violence etc. They both talk of war, violence they are against it.

### 2.3 Socio and Political Life

Keki N. Daruwalla writes about what he observed, he too feels very much connected with the socio and political life of the country. He is aware about his duties towards the nation as well as society.

## **2.4 First World War and Second World War**

He talks about the contemporary life; current life like Walt Whitman. He talks about the loss as well as hope in the dying millennium. In this, he tells about the achievement made by the human beings like factories being built at fast pace, he talks about the hospitals, airplanes, industries, roads, trucks, buses, trains, ships, houses being build which would definitely make lives of human beings easier, but the attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki created havoc and proved to be disastrous for the human society. India also became globalized, liberalized after 1991; export and import started taking place. There was employment, there was no more starvation. People got employment, and it was the gift of the civilization. Economy improved. Books on all subjects were published. Technical and professional institutes were built. More emphasis on education was given. But he even talks of the curfew, riots, corruption taking place. Local people became aware about the happenings taking place throughout the world. He talks about Mahatma Gandhi- how he fought for the nation in love truth and non –violence manner.

## **2.5 Technological Development**

They regarded the century as of make believe and of mask. It was a period of growing imperialism and colonialism. Nazis and Fascist wanted dictatorship. They wanted to conquer areas through men through arms. Americans and Britishers pretended to be supporters of democracy, but they wanted to spread their business in Asia. He feels that even America wants to be friendly with the underdeveloped nations, because they want to sell weapons in small nations that are why they wear a pleasing personality. If they had made friendly relation, why they didn't help in removing poverty and starvation as well as employment problem? He says that new leaves appear on the trees and the old ones fall and die; just like that new inventions are also taking place as we can see different flowers on the pot. Everyone has learnt from the past and no one wants war. People are moving towards new better world, which is based on harmony. World won't die the old traditional way of living and thinking has undergone change. There is industrialization and globalization. It's a new era; therefore we should now welcome the new millennium. There is globalization and liberalization, it's a new era, therefore we should now welcome the new era with open arms.

## **2.6 Great Leaders**

Dr. B. K. Das feels that Keki N. Daruwalla is well aware about the contemporary situation. Gandhi worked in South Africa, worked for the masses there, then he came to India and then he worked for the people, made them educated fought for their rights he brought revolution in love, truth and non-violence manner these were his weapons. First, he made farmers aware about if their problems were sought or not. They had to be educated to fight for their rights. He therefore, moved towards civil disobedience movement. Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Ram Vismil followed him, but when the revolution became violent, he backed and gave up. Lal Bahadur, Pt. Nehru, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, all revolutionaries, who fought for the independence in their own manner. Some were extremist and some were moderate. So, revolution is very important if we want to fight for the right and bring changes. One should always fight for the human rights, but through love and non-violent manner, that's better. Mahatma Gandhi came up with Swaraj. People celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, but are they really following his ideals; are they wearing Khadi, are they following the path of love, truth and non-violence.

## **2.7 Against Tyranny**

Keki N. Daruwalla talks about Stalin and his dictatorship; people didn't have their say, they were not allowed to express

themselves. Writers and poets, who had liberal thoughts were asked to leave the country, they left for Germany. There, they wrote what was on their mind. There, the people were made to work hard in farms and factories; even if they died their family members were not given any compensation. He writes about Stalin that, during his reign, laborers were considered only as hands and not as human beings, and no emotions were attached to them. No one could dare fight for the ignorant people; he thought that Russia was a frosted hell, where only brutality existed and no humanity. There was injustice prevailing. Prisoners were mainly executed; steel was produced to a great extent. He tells that Stalin controlled and directed all foreign affairs. All the policies of home and finance were directly dictated by him. People lived like puppets under him. They all worked day and night under him, and especially the prisoners were executed. No one could dare fight for them, the ignorant people. Steel was produced to a great extent. Everyone worked day and night especially the prisoners. Stalin was not ready to control his political ambitions; no annual budget was presented without his consent.

### **2.8 Keki N. Daruwalla's Poem-Against Corruption**

**Graft**-it's confirmed that even in India, bribe exist from lower level till higher level, it's passed and distributed amongst all. It's an evil devil done by the person, who accepts or gives bribe.

Materials are adulterated costly, with cheap oils and then they are sold in the market. Bribes are offered to the Supreme Court for their approval. Hospital doctors are bribed for issuing wrong report to the patients, if the people require it. Patients are ready to pay for it. To win any judgment, advocate is bribed and even the judge is bribed. Decent people offer bribe, and those who doesn't, suffer. Decent people are also corrupt, therefore Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla is also against them.

Bribe was given before independence, and it still prevails its evil practice. Bribe is taken for getting compensation money also, farmers have to offer graft and this practice is still continued after independence.

The bold language of Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla is admired, as they speak boldly about harsh realities of life Keki N. Daruwalla follows the pattern of George Orwell so as to make poems interesting.

### **2.9 On Animals**

Keki N. Daruwalla expresses how animals like snakes, lions and stags are killed and their skin is exported to foreign country. He includes Veerapan to make it interesting. He tries to describe how poacher tries to catch the stag tries to run to save his life, he hides himself behind the trees, he is helpless, he wants the help of other animals, but he can't show himself bold in front of other animals, though he feeling scared, the poet has beautifully expressed. Both are tensed. The poachers are scared of the ghost on the farms. Stag know his fate that there is no rescue, and he's going to die. Stag know he runs for his life, but at last he escapes.

### **2.10 On Democracy**

**Darius:** Earlier it was ruled by monarch, but now there was confusion that which kind of government they should have. Darius wanted democratic kind of government, but still it had war with Rome. After four hundred years of monarchy, democracy prevailed. Rome fought bravely. Persians needed help of Asians. Romans paraded arrogance of war. Keki N. Daruwalla condemns exhilaration of war. He tries to define horror of war as well as peace, which is so important for humanity.

The poet says that he wants to be in quiet and in solitude. He wants to be alone. He wants to admire nature. He

feels that there is dust all over his face and on his eyes, he can't do anything clearly. He wants to be in a place, where there is no dirt and clean place. He tries to see his reflection on the water, but he can't see his own face. He wants to relax and be far from the maddening crowd, where there is no noise of traffic or horn and factories.

Keki N. Daruwalla is trying to differentiate what is a reality and what is a dream; the two are one and the same. He can't differentiate between the two and he feels both of them as one and the same; how can he differentiate between the two, between evil and good fake and real which is so important in this world. Some people are so fake and artificial, without a mask they move on this earth, but how to know about them.

### 2.11 On Spirituality

In the poem **Dream Log**, Keki N. Daruwalla can't find his reflection. He's trying to search it, but he's wondering where it's gone.

Keki N. Daruwalla talks about life after death that, even the soul exists after death; the soul is always alive even after the body is dead.

Keki N. Daruwalla talks of migration about how people from villages leave for the city in search of jobs as there is dearth of employment in villages. People come beg in cities as there is no food or shelter for them. Towns are also dirty and not well planned. Many come for job; they board the train, they even climb on the top of it and reach the cities, and then they start their struggle for living. There is no job, that's why they are attracted towards cities.

### 2.12 On Jealousy and Hatred

**Brutus and Borges:** Keki N. Daruwalla says that there would be Brutus in every century. Jealousy would always prevail, because that is human nature. He says that Brutus killed Julius Caesar, again the president or prime minister would be killed like this, by another Brutus and with a better weapon.

Those, who are in power, would be killed by someone known to them. Jealousy is a human tendency, which would always remain.

**In History:** Keki N. Daruwalla describes pathetic situation that how people invaded the areas, they abducted the women; they raped women and then killed them. Children were also killed. Swami of the village also raped women, who had a very pathetic state. They were treated badly in inhumane way, they even destroyed all crops, grains were stocked, girls were found in the brothel, but then everything goes normal. Cows are looked after by women, they give birth to babies and they forget all the miseries that took place, and they lead a happy life as though nothing happened.

### 2.13 Against Exploitation and Injustice

Keki N. Daruwalla talks about the glass factories that boys have to work there, and the temperature is too high. Boys working in glass factories are melted to prepare something else, the temperature is very high, and the boy has to keep on blowing the furnace. The technology has been changed, but still the laborers keep on working, the lightning can blind them but still the children work and don't go to school, and study their future is at stake. We have many glass factories around the world.

## 3. HARSH REALITY OF LIFE

We can say that, Keki N. Daruwalla and Walt Whitman both talk about the harsh realities of life. They talk about the

common masses. They are cities of socio political system. They want to fight for justice. They have painted in verses what they saw. They follow Mathew Arnold theory of poetry. They both express their love for universal civilization. They both talk about human nature animals etc., lust for power, jealousy and hatred which can't be changed. They both are talking about war, non-violence; they don't want any kind of violence, exploitation, corruption, artificiality - why is not man true and honest; history is the proof that the democracy triumphs at last and not dictatorship, violence or war. Women had been the worst sufferers; they both stood together in favor of democracy, fight for injustice against inhumanity. Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla talked about futility of war, why one race wants to dominate another race, why there is jealousy, hatred, competition, lust for power, greed etc., this is human nature, it was previously, and it would remain so always.

### 3.1 Similarities

- They depict very well the horrific consequences of war, and talk about the plight of women that they are worst sufferers. They are raped, sold, dominated. They both spoke about unity brotherhood. They both spoke about unity, brotherhood, the world as one. They didn't wanted war, exploitation, corruption, selling of human beings.
- They wanted that everyone should get their rights and respect, treating everyone with dignity. There should be love all over the world. There should be love, truth and non-violence. Universal brotherhood, world should become better place to live in, there should be no fights, wars, riots etc. no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or religion.
- They fought for women; their status in society as they were the most vulnerable part of society. They talk about common masses, their emotions, feelings, their struggles, animals, nature etc. They try to depict human nature, which is not changeable as they have the feeling of domination, lust for power greed, for power, ruling over others etc.
- They try to depict what our world has been through, and where we have reached till now, and what we should do to preserve peace and humanity.
- They stress on world peace.
- They are trying to make us aware about human beings; how they can be selfish, kill each other, or be worse than animals. There are political barriers.

### 3.2 Differences

Keki N. Daruwalla talks about what he observed as the harsh realities of life. Walt Whitman talks about life after death, about spirituality, about the supernatural powers. Keki N. Daruwalla doesn't want to change the things, because he feels that it is human nature, it was like this earlier and would always remain so, like this only in the coming future too, but Walt wants and he feels that the things would be changed and they should change. People should bring revolution, and make this world a better place to live in.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla tried to make people aware about the futility of war that, people never gain anything through war, we only loose precious lives. Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla have a vision for corruption free society. They want a country, where there is no violence as well as a disease free society. They want that everyone should be

responsible towards their duty as well as towards society. Everyone should be given their rights. Women and children are the worst victims of any kind of violence or natural calamity like flood or draught etc. Walt Whitman believes in transcendentalism. He believes in life after death, but Keki N. Daruwalla only talks of present harsh reality of life. Walt Whitman wants to bring changes in society, Keki N. Daruwalla doesn't want to bring changes in society; he feels that he is a mere spectator, sometimes very helpless. He feels that such kinds of situations existed earlier and exist today also, and will prevail in future too. They want to preserve world as well as nature. Both the poets want to make this world, a better place to live in.

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