

"The Tiger And The Deer"

By: - Sri Aurovindo

Sri Aurovindo was primarily a yogi, a philosopher. He meditated over the relation of matter and spirit. He emphasised the subjective element in poetry for him all criticism of poetry is bound to have a strong subjective element, because personal element is always inherent there. All was relative for him, art and beauty also. He thought that beauty is a creation of our minds, a construction of our ideas and our senses.

That is why he saw a great deal of beauty in tiger. The tiger to him, was splendid creation of nature. The tiger's eyes shone bright. The murderous paws of the tiger has a grandeur of its own because of its softness. The poet sees the tiger slouching and crawling in the dangerous heart of the green forest towards its aim. He jumps as death on the beautiful and innocent deer who was drinking water in a pool under the shadows of leaves. He killed the deer. The deer was not aware of such attack. He died remembering its mate who was left alone in the deep woodland.

The poet thinks over the happening. He was moved at the destruction of innocent beauty of nature by its cruel beauty. He thinks over it and is hopeful. He is optimist enough to be a visionary. The future to him has an element of hope and peace. He says that a day will come when such incidents will not happen. The deer

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will drink water peacefully. The cruelty will vanish. The innocent beauty will not be destroyed. It will survive. By saying this the poet tries to establish a sort of harmony. The innocent is more enduring than the cruel. Humanity is stronger than animality.

Essentially the poem is romantic. But it deals with the eternal philosophical question — who will survive? He is against the belief of the survival of the fittest! If such a philosophy does exist then the meaning of fittest should not be the traditional one. Sri Aurobindo seems to have a command over the rhythm and the words. The ideas are very beautifully conveyed. Though he composed poems in order to establish his philosophy yet the poetic element is a predominant thing in this poem. Though the importance of the philosophy can not be denied yet the subtlety of poetry can not be ignored.

Though it is not a symbolical poem yet the tiger and the deer stand for some ideas of the poet. The tiger signifies not only the splendour and might but also the cruelty of nature. It is the strong, cruel beauty of nature. On the other hand the deer stands not only for innocence, for softness; but also for harmlessness. It is the mild, harmless beauty of nature. These two things contrast each other. They signify the cruelty and the innocence of the world.

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Thus, the poet says, the innocent beauty of nature was destroyed by the cruel beauty of nature. The poet is hopeful that a day will come, when this order will be changed. The tiger will not slouch and crawl in the dreadful heart of the forest. When this will happen, the deer will peacefully drink the water from the pool. It is the faith of the poet that the very strength and might of the mighty creatures will cause their destruction. The mighty will perish. The killed will survive the killer. The poet points out that the tender forces are more enduring than the cruel forces of nature. It means that humanity is stronger than animality.

Sri Aurobindo was a visionary seer, a yogi, a philosopher. He thought that the future of mankind is a brighter one. The dominant cruelty will perish. In this poem he has described a better world than this. He sees the tiger killing an innocent deer. He says that a day will come when there will be a radical change in the existing order. The tiger will not crouch and slouch towards an innocent deer. The mammoth will not survive the plains of Asia. The deer will then peacefully drink water under the coolness of great pool in the shade of tree. The cruelty will vanish, only the regime of the innocents will be seen. The slain survive the slayer. The innocence the punity is more enduring than the

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cruelty, the might. The love is more rewarding than hate. The humanity is stronger than animality. Thus, the optimism of Sri Aurobindo finds a suitable expression by presenting a beautiful vision of the future.

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