Classic Poetry Series

Bhaskar Ramchandra Tambe - poems -

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Bhaskar Ramchandra Tambe(27 November 1874 - 7 December 1941)

Bhaskar Ramchandra Tambe (Devanagari: ?????? ??????? ?????), also known as B.R. Tambe, was a Marathi poet from Maharashtra, India.

Tambe was born on November 27, 1874 in the town of Mugawali near Gwalior.

In 1893, he passed his high school matriculation examination conducted by Allahabad University. He then started his college education in Agra; however, he terminated it without graduating in order to support his brother's education by accepting a position as a teacher in the princely state of Dewas. Subsequently, he acquired the position of the tutor for the young prince of Dewas. This appointment fortuitously provided him easy access to the ruler's personal library.

A few years later, he became the personal secretary for the Dewas ruler. Still later, he served for some years as a judge in a small town. In 1926, he settled in the princely state of Gwalior until his death on December 7, 1941.

In 1932, Tambe presided over the "poetry" section of Marathi Sahitya Sammelan which was held that year in Kolhapur. Tambe retired from active duty in 1937. The same year the rule of Gwalior honored him by naming him as the state's Princely Poet (??????).

During 1890-1941, Tambe wrote about 225 poems. Poet Vasudeo Govind Maydeo (??????? ?????? ??????) compiled in 1920 a collection of Tambe's 75 poems under the title "?????? ?????? ????? ?????". In 1935, Dr. Madhavrao Patwardhan published a more complete anthology, "????? ????? ????? ????? ?????". This has undergone several important revisions and remains in print, a tribute to the continued popularity of his poetry, many of whose poems have been made into still-popular songs sung by Bollywood playback singers Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle.

A majority of Tambe's poetry is about love, including conjugal love, though love of Nature is a close second. But among all Marathi poets of his generation, Tambe stands alone in displaying through his poetry enormous empathy toward women, especially toward child widows. These poems implicitly disparaged the social mores of his time whereby old men married teenaged girls who were sometimes left widowed and were essentially left to spend their entire adult lives without a partner.

Ajuni Lagalechi Daar

Bhagya Ujalale Tujhe

Dole He Julmi Gade

Ghan Tami Shukra Bagh

Ghat Ticha Rikama

Jan Palbhar Mhanatil

Kala Jyaa Lagalya Jeeva

Kashi Kaal Nagini

Kuni Kode Majhe Ukalil

Madhu Magasi Majhya

Mavalatya Dinkara

Nav Vadhu Priya Mi

Nijalya Tanhyavari Mauli

Pivale Tambus Oon Kovale

Re Hind Bandhava Thamb

Te Dudha Tujhya Tya

Tini Sanja Sakhe

Tujhya Gala Majhya Gala

Ya Balano Ya Re Ya