Classic Poetry Series

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

- poems -

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Ramdhari Singh Dinkar (23 September 1908 – 24 April 1974)

Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' (□□□□□□□ □□□□ '□□□□□')was an Indian Hindi poet, essayist and academic, who is considered as one of the most important modern Hindi poets. He remerged as a poet of rebellion as a consequence of his nationalist poetry written in the days before Indian independence. His poetry exuded veer rasa, and he has been hailed as a Rashtrakavi ("National poet") on account of his inspiring patriotic compositions.As a mark of respect for him, his portrait was unveiled in the Central Hall of Parliament of India by the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on his centenary year, 2008.

Dinkar initially supported the revolutionary movement during the Indian independence struggle, but later became a Gandhian.He was close to prominent nationalists of the time such as Rajendra Prasad, Anugrah Narayan Sinha and Braj Kishore Prasad. However, he used to call himself a 'Bad Gandhian' because he supported the feelings of indignation and revenge among the youth. In Kurukshetra, he accepted that war is destructive but argued that it is necessary for the protection of freedom.

Dinkar was three times elected to Rajya Sabha, and he was the member of this house from April 3, 1952 CE to January 26, 1964 CE, and was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1959.

During The Emergency, Jayaprakash Narayan had attracted a gathering of one lakh people at the Ramlila Grounds and recited Rashtrakavi Dinkar's poetry: Singhasan Khaali Karo Ke Janata Aaati Hai.

Biography

He was born to a poor Bhumihar Brahmin family in Simariya village, in the Begusarai district of Bihar. As a student, his favorite subjects were history, politics and philosophy. He studied Hindi, Sanskrit, Maithili, Bengali, Urdu and English literature. Dinkar was greatly influenced by Iqbal, Rabindranath Tagore, Keats and Milton. He translated works of Rabindranath Tagore from Bengali to Hindi.

Work

His works are mostly of 'Veer Rasa', or the 'brave mode', although Urvashi is an exception to this. Some of his greatest works are Rashmirathi and Parashuram ki Prateeksha. He is hailed as the greatest Hindi poet of 'Veer Rasa' since Bhushan.

Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi wrote that he was very popular among

people whose mother-tongue was not Hindi and he was a symbol of love for one's own mother-tongue. Harivansh Rai Bachchan wrote that for his proper respect he should get four Gyanpith Awards - for poetry, prose, languages and for his service to Hindi. Rambriksh Benipuri wrote that Dinkar is giving voice to the revolutionary movement in the country. Namvar Singh wrote that he was really the sun of his age.

Hindi writer Rajendra Yadav, whose novel 'Sara Akash' also carried a few lines of Dinkar's poetry, has said of him He was always very inspiring to read. His poetry was about reawakening. He often delved into Hindu mythology and referred to heroes of epics such as Karna. He was a poet of anti-imperialism and nationalism, says well-known Hindi writer Kashinath Singh.

He also wrote social and political satires aimed at socio-economic inequalities and exploitation of the underprivileged.

A progressive and humanist poet, he chose to approach history and reality directly and his verse combined oratorical vigour with a declamatory diction. The theme of Urvashi revolves round love, passion, and relationship of man and woman on a spiritual plane, distinct from their earthly relationship.

His Kurukshetra is a narrative poem based on the Santi Parva of the Mahabharata. It was written at a time when the memories of the Second World War were fresh in the mind of the poet. Krishna Ki Chaetavani is another poem composed on events that led to the Kurukshetra war in the Mahabharata. His Samdheni is a collection of poems reflecting the poet's social concern transcending the boundaries of the nation.

In his Sanskiti ke Chaar Adhyay he said that despite various cultures, languages and topography, India stands united, because "however different we may be, our thoughts are one and the same".

Awards and Honours

He received awards from Kashi Nagri Pracharini Sabha, Uttar Pradesh Government and also an award by the Government of India for his epic-poem Kurukshetra. He got the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1959 for his work Sanskriti ke Char Adhyay. He was also a recipient of Padma Bhushan in 1959 by the Government of India. He was awarded the LLD degree by Bhagalpur University. He was felicitated as Vidyavachaspati by Gurukul Mahavidyalaya. He was felicitated as Sahitya-Chudamaniby Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur on 8 November 1968. Dinkar was awarded the Jnanpith Award in 1972 for Urvashi. He also became a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha, in 1952. Dinkar's fans widely believe that he truly deserved the honour of "RashtraKavi" (poet of the nation).

Posthumous Recognitions

On September 30, 1987, to mark his 79th birth anniversary tributes were paid to him by the then President of India, Shankar Dayal Sharma.

In 1999, Dinkar was one of the Hindi writers featured on a set of commemorative postal stamps released by Government of India to celebrate the "Linguistic Harmony of India." marking the 50th anniversary since the Indian Union adopted Hindi as its official language.

The government released a book on Dinkar's birth centenary authored by Khagendra Thakur.

At the same time a statue of him was unveiled in Patna at the Dinkar Chowk, and a two-day national seminar was organised in Calicut University.

The Bihar government has declared that a Hindi University to come up at Begusarai named after him. The New University will be named as Rashtra Kavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar Hindi University.

Works:

Poetical Works

Vijay Sandesh (1928), Pranbhang (1929), Renuka (1935), Hunkar (epic poem) (1938), Rasavanti (1939), Dvandvageet (1940), Kurukshetra (1946), Dhoop Chhah (1946), Saamdheni (1947), Baapu (1947), Itihas ke Aansoo (1951), Dhup aur Dhuan (1951), Mirch ka Mazaa (1951), Rashmirathi (1952), Dilli (1954), Neem ke Patte (1954), Suraj ka Byaah (1955), Neel Kusum (1954), Chakravaal (1956), Kavishri (1957), Seepee aur Shankh (1957), Naye Subhaashit (1957), Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar', Urvashi (1961), Parashuram ki Pratiksha (1963), Koylaa aur Kavitva (1964), Mritti Tilak (1964), Atmaa ki Ankhe (1964), Haare ko Harinaam (1970).

Poetic Anthologies

Lokpriya Kavi Dinkar (1960), Dinkar ki Suktiyan (1964), Dinkar ke Geet (1973), Sanchayita (1973), Rashmilok (1974), Urvashi tatha anya shringarik kavitayen (1974), Amrit Manthan, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008; Bhagn Vina, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008; Sapnon ka Dhuan, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008; Samanantar, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008; Rashmimala, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.

Prose

Mitti ki Or (1946), Chittaur ka Saakaa (1948), Ardhanaarishwar (1952), Reti ki Phool (1954), Hamaari Saanskritik Ekta (1954), Bhaarat ki Saanskritik Kahaani (1955), Raashtrabhaasha aur Raashtriya Ekta (1955), Ujli Aag (1956), Sanskriti ke Chaar Adhyaay (1956), Kaavya ki Bhumikaa (1958), Pant, Prasad aur Maithilisharan (1958), Venu Van (1958), Dharma, Naitikataa aur Vigyan (1959), Vat-Peepal (1961), Lokdev Nehru (1965), Shuddh Kavitaa ki Khoj (1966), Saahityamukhi (1968), He Ram! (1968), Samsmaran aur Shraddhaanjaliyan (1970), Meri Yatrayen (1971), Bhaaratiya Ekta (1971), Dinkar ki Daayri (1973), Chetana ki Shilaa (1973), Vivah ki Musibaten (1973) and Aadhunik Bodh (1973).

Literary Criticism

Sahitya aur Samaj, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.
Chintan ke Aayam, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.
Kavi aur Kavita, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.
Sanskriti Bhasha aur Rashtra, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.
Kavita aur Shuddh Kavita, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.

Biographies

Sri Aurobindo: Meri Drishti Mein, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.
Pandit Nehru aur anya mahapurush, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.
Smarnanjali, Lokbharti Prakashan, New Delhi, 2008.

Translations

Meghduta translated by Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. In Rabindra Rachna Sanchayan, edited by Asit Kumar Bandopadhyaya, Sahitya Akademi, Delhi.
Rabindranath ki kavitayen (101 selected poems of Tagore) translated by Ramdhari Singh Dinkar along with Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Hans Kumar Tiwari, and Bhawani Prasad Mishra, Sahitya Akademi.

Aag Ki Bheek

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

Kalam Aaj Unki Jai Bol

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

Kisko Naman Karu Mein Bharat?

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

Parichay

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

Raat Yo Kahne Laga Mujse Gagan ka Chaand

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

Vijayi Ke Sadrish Jiyo Re

Ramdhari Singh Dinkar