



## CARICATURES IN THE POETRY OF DR. S. R. PATIL

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### ABSTRACT

*Principal ground of writing literature is to correct the vices of the human beings and society. Humor lots time is used by many writers for this. Some have used satires in all forms of literature viz. drama, novel and poetry. Dr. S.R. Patil composed his anthology of poetry entitled 'Songs of Soul and Soil'. The book contains variety of poems. He deals with various aspects of human society, nature and animals in this anthology. He sees the world from the sight of his typical eyes. Being a sensible and rational human being, his approach towards society, nature and animals is purely progressive. He mocks at the follies and foibles of the society and an individual for their eccentric behavior in his poetry. The chief intention of the paper is to study the caricatures in the selected poetry of Dr. S.R. Patil.*

### INTRODUCTION:

Dr. S. R. Patil is presently working as the Principal of Arts and Science College, Mhasadi Tal- Sakri Dist- Dhule. In the era of blank verse almost all of his poems are written in meter. He is a recipient of World Human Rights Educators Award to be conferred by Indian Institute of Human Rights, New Delhi. His collection of poems 'Songs of Soul and Soil' includes more than two hundred poems. One of the striking features of his poetry is the progressiveness. In today's world of turbulence his poetry reminds us the importance of values in life.

His poems A Businessman, , A Politician, A Single Woman, A cleaning of Mind, and Democracy are noticeable for poet's mild attack on society and its people. The poems are written to make the faults appear in front of society for correction. First three poems are entitled singularly and the next two are in plural. The former ones are representative of a particular group while the latter is related to soul and mind of the human beings.

### A BUSINESSMAN:

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This poem is a pathetic story of a businessman. The world has its own way. People are people if you listen them you will not be able complete your work. They give us advices when there is no need of it. The poem highlights that how one reaches at the peak of success in his life. The world doesn't let you die when you are hungry but when you get few morsels to chew they envy you. In the poem lazy Lala sets up a business by selling all of his forefather's estate. He works hard to become successful businessman. Prosperity and popularity started to gather around him. It creates feeling of jealousy amongst his rivals. As soon as he proves himself as victorious, troubles start to hover around him. The poet says, the world exploits you in need and tries to create obstacle on your way to victory. How Lala within few years raises himself, the poet says,

*"Within a few years he raised to top  
But terrible troubles started to hop" (13-14)*

A series of critical junctures fills his life with problems. The poet mocks at the thinking of the society. It doesn't help the one who is in problem, it just watches and laughs at that thorny moment in one's life. Even our own people do not come for help. The poet describes the pathetic situation in which Lala has been caught in very simple manner:

*A lonely son kidnapped by a goon  
He demanded a ransom very soon  
The daughter eloped with a loafer lover  
Employees' demands started to shower  
A strike declared for an unlimited time  
The union n the owner couldn't rhyme (15-20)*

The successive three couplets delineate the tragic end of his business and eventually his life. Even his daughter leaves him at this critical moment. The speaker in the poem criticizes this selfish behavior of the people. This selfishness is criticized here by the poet.

### **A CLEANING OF MIND:**

Though the anthology comprises poems ranging from Nature to Human being, the poems can be grouped according to its themes. A Cleaning of Mind is one of such poems which is based on the purity of mind. For the betterment of the society every human being should develop the sense of unity. But unfortunately in the world of materialism nobody has time to pay hid to human values. Everybody wants to be looked beautiful, and hence uses ornaments and cosmetics. It seems people are paying more attention to external beauty than internal beauty in present day. The poet mocks at this eccentric ideology of the modern day people. The poet describes the hustle-bustle of the people to earn unimportant things. They use scented bath

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soap for external cleaning. They expect their external world beautiful forgetting all about internal beauty. The poet feels sorry for this. He mock at this situation:

*“Everything in place nothing missing  
But my mind mourns, always hissing  
Outer Universe blossoms with beauty  
But, inward universe odorous n dirty” (9-12)*

The lines show poet’s disappointment and angst towards the society. The poet mocks at the situation. People are taking care for their miniature materialistic world and they don’t have time for cleaning of their minds. The minds are wandering somewhere from its place. He looks forward that the dirt and bad smell must be cleaned. All evils and vices must be weaned. Meditation is the best medication to pour out all evil. He further asserts that genius and talent dwells in the internally cleaned universe of mind.

#### **A POLITICIAN:**

Satirical notes also discover in A Politician. The tone of the poem is sarcastic and humorous. The opening of the poem is abrupt, full of horror. The picture of dark night creates supernatural effect. It makes a common man to afraid of. The atmosphere is full of horror because wicked wind is blowing making sounds; the dogs are also barking. The wind and dogs are breaking the silence of night. In that dark night the ghosts are gathered. Various ghosts like Vetat, hotspur, ghoul, kelpie and goblin are present for that meeting. They were enjoying the darkness of night. The poet describes,

*“Vetel presided ghostly, ghoulish meet  
Each one took one’s own selected seat  
Wily witches giggled gleefully hi..hi..hi..  
Ghouls grinned voraciously chi.. chi.. chi..  
All hotspurs danced with fire on high head  
No children to drown, so kelpies tears shed” (9-14)*

All of sudden the situation changed. All the dangerous ghosts dispersed when they saw a politician. This sudden change in the last cuoplet changes the tone of the poem from ghosts to a politician. He writes,

*“As the meeting started a politician appeared  
The Ghost community feared n disappeared” (19-20)*

Vetel, the king of ghosts also fears of the politician. The poet sees the politician more dangerous than the ghosts. In India politicians are found guilty of involving in scams. The

poet criticizes the politician as more fearful person whom even ghosts are afraid of. The ghosts give up their meeting by the sight of a politician. This is enough to expose the involvement of the politicians in wrong things. The dead whom all afraid started to run at the appearance of the politician as they have seen ghost.

### A SINGLE WOMAN:

In present day woman empowerment is the most discussed issues in our society. Woman had been suppressed more than two thousand years. She wasn't permitted to cross the threshold of her house to enter in public life. She had no voice of her own. But Indian constitution has offered her all types of rights. This liberty is being used by some of the women from extremist point of view. She is going against the law of Nature. Will Nature forgive her? That's a question which is raised here in this poem by the poet.

The poem is a picture of a single woman who is haunted by the idea of singleness. Nature has created man and woman; they will be incomplete without each other. The single woman in the poem, Sally is educated, elite and global minded. She has decided to be single throughout her life though she is beautiful. The Lady Shalott in Tennyson's poem was cursed and hence she weaves her web steadily. This woman isn't like her yet she prefers her single status. The poet mocks at her by calling her male phobic. He writes,

*"She was possessed by male phobia  
To live single was her monomania" (15-16)*

Can anybody live by going against Nature? Will not nature punish him/her by changing the time? Lady Shalott being aware about curse falls in love with Sir Lancelot. When she sees the lately wedded lovers in the night, she says:

*"I am half sick of shadows," said  
The Lady of Shalott." (71-72)*

The single woman in the poem is not cursed yet she longs for loneliness. The result of it naturally comes in the latter part of her life as the poet goes on telling us her life story. While walking on the beach she comes across a united and unique happy couple. Now she realizes that her idea of living singly was her blunder. Again she expects a child which was impossible without man. She started to find it but it's too late because in her old days nobody will be ready to marry her. The poet criticizes the idea of singleness as ghastly and illegal, against to nature. The last couplet in the poem the poet underlines the message:

*"Single! Impossible! For Any creature  
Is Ghastly against the law of Nature!"*

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Human beings have developed their own philosophy illogically and they are going against the law of Nature. It punishes to the law breakers. The poet mocks at the first immature thought of the lady who decides to remain single throughout her life. But she comes to know that her decision of living all alone was wrong.

### **DEMOCRACY:**

It is one of the finest satirical poems from the same anthology, Songs of Soul and Soil. The poet feels sorry for the current condition of the people in India and their mentality. He criticizes the political leaders who are making use of their votes to rule over people for their own benefits. They are playing with democracy by taking advantages of people's ignorance. People generally expect noble and exalted minds in politics. But in fact the politicians are turned out to be very fearful jugglers. The poet describes the expectations of the people,

*"People hopefully look at politicians  
But they are really fearful magicians" (5-6)*

The present picture and inactiveness of the politicians is making disappointed to common man in the country. They are looking hopefully for helping hands to acquire their daily bread and butter. The politicians are playing with the feelings of the countrymen like magicians. In order to amuse people the magician use different tricks. But these politicians are 'really fearful magician.'

The elected representatives of the countrymen don't speak for the betterment of the people. They enjoy their share in power. They use power for the betterment of their generations. They have proved the saying 'Democracy dwells in parliament' as myth. The poet underlines the law of nature that,

*"One day, goddess Democracy will awake  
Ya! She will kill the Demons for our sake." (13-14)*

To conclude, the satires composed by Dr S.R. Patil are based on day to day subjects. He sarcastically comments on the problems, he faces in the society. He wants a rational society and it seems he attacks the unbalanced. He expects corrections in the vices by exposing and criticizing them in publically in his poetry. As it seems he followed Dryden's advice while composing his satires in this anthology. Dryden writes, "True end of satire is the amendment of vices by correction." The poetry goes in tune with the general agreement about satire i.e. 'satire is criticism of life.' These few poems taken here for discussion show that Dr. S. R. Patil is a satirist.



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