

NEHRU AS AN UNRIVALLED HISTORIAN AND AN ELOQUENT ORATOR REVEALING RICHLY SOUND IDEALISM AND PROFOUND OUTLOOK

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims at highlighting the historical perspective and attitude of Pandith Jawaharlal Nehru who is gifted with the extraordinary power of oratory and historical outlook focusing attention on the fusion of profound thinking and sound idealism in all aspects related to history, oratory and political idealism and also proves him to be an excellent and profound thinker in all respects

Keywords : *political ideology, oratory, historic outlook, profound thinking, human vision*

INTRODUCTION

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, inspite of being an Indian, inspite of being a man of the East, has earned love and regards, popularity and adoration from all countries, nationalities, races, communities and sects of the world. This is definitely because “Nehru was above all distinctions of caste or creed, race or colour, rank or position and not because Nehru was the Prime Minister of a great country or because he was a great diplomat or because had his education in England or because he went round the world and met most of the Presidents, Prime Ministers, Kings and Queens of the various countries...” (Dutt, 4). No doubt, Nehru was the diplomat who possessed enlightenment, culture, moral courage, generosity, breadth of outlook and compromising spirit and he was out and out “against war, armament, violence, hatred, prejudice and every other kind of petitions of the human mind or heart that breeds international conflicts or class or communal or social or sectarian or any other form of strife and misunderstanding in the human world” (P.5)

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1P a g e

Nehru, the maker of Modern India, was said to be the one being endowed with a visionary and poetic temperament, artistic and literary sensibility. He was born at "Allahabad on November 11, 1889. His father Motilal Nehru, a lawyer by profession was a Kashmiri Brahmin with aristocratic and westernized Temperament and his mother, Swarup Rani, was a noble, gentle and generous lady. He spent his early life in affluence and luxury. In may 1905, Jawaharlal Nehru sailed for England with his father, mother and sister. He spent two years at Harrow but he could not make any great academic distinction there. His interest in Science which Brooks had nursed and nurtured remained. He did not lag behind in his studies and once or twice topped his from. He also received prizes. One such prize was Trevelyan's biography of Garibaldi. Young Nehru was so much fascinated by this work that he obtained the other two volumes in the series. He writes about its influence in his **Autobiography**:

"Visions of similar deeds in India came before me, of a gallant fight for freedom and in my mind India and Italy got strongly mixed together"
(Autobiography, 19).

Jawaharlal Nehru enjoys an enviable position in Indian English prose. In the foreword to **A Study of Nehru**, Dr. Rajendra Prasad writes:

"Jawaharlal Nehru is a man of culture in the widest and best sense of the expression. He is a man with ideas born of study of books and widespread contact with men, Indian and foreign. His emotional nature and his innate independence of thought have helped him in developing a style of expression which is direct and captivating. He is a gifted writer wielding the pen as an artist" (Forward, pp.vi-vii)

Truly speaking, all his writings are an immaculate expression of his active life and deep emotion, soaring imagination, limitless urges and boundless humanity. He skillfully presents an artist's vision in what all he speaks and writes. As a historian, Nehru remains unrivalled, for he puts the facts and events of history under the transforming vision of a literary artist. Facts and fiction commingle and the dry bones of history are filled with living personalities who play both comic and tragic roles. Explaining his own conception of history, Nehru writes:

"History, if we are to learn anything from it, must be a succession of vivid images in our mind, so that we read it. We can almost see events, happenings. It should be a fascinating play which grips, a comedy sometimes, more often a tragedy of which the stage is the word and the players are the great men or women of the past".
(Glimpses of World History, 31)

Besides being a historian, Nehru was an effective and eloquent orator. His speeches cover a long range and have numerous literary qualities. His broadcasts to the nation, especially the tryst with destiny speech and the funeral oration on Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom, are with deep feelings and emotions. They are poignant and poetical in tone. Nehru's parliamentary speeches do display a cool, passionate manner, weighing the pros and cons carefully, almost unemotionally. His academic and convocation addresses reveal his idealism, maturity of outlook and understanding. Nehru's speeches in international conferences are noticeable for a poetic strain, the wisdom of a great historian and the mature outlook of a Sober Statesman. Commenting on the literary significance of his speeches, K.R.S. Iyengar writes:

"..... he could speak as man to men, as a piece of humanity to all humanity, each word sending forth creepers of understanding and sympathy, each accent instinct with fellow feeling and unpossessive love... But always he could throw out words charged with purpose, words that have since gone into general currency" (p.310)

Nehru was admired as a great prose writer and stylist all over the world. As Walter Crocker has put it, "Nehru wrote better English than most of us born to the language" (p.14). His style is the expression of the whole man". The style is the man and medium which he had perfected with such cultivated sensibility is a prose as sensitive as his own personality" (p.27). Pandia Jawaharlal Nehru's message moved Gandhiji to leave. In words in which you feel the sparks of the live wire, he thus pours out his devotion:

"Your letter. What can I say about matters I do not understand? I feel lost in a strange country where you are the only familiar landmark, and I try to grope my way in all dark. But I stumble. Wherever happens, my love and thoughts are with you".
(Harijan, 84)

Nehru is the idol of our youth and the darling of our nation. There is something indefinable, something irresistible and even something elusive about his unique personality which instinctively draws crowds in hundreds and thousands around him not only in his own country but in other countries as well. "Why are people touched, as if by magic, wherever Jawaharlal goes?" asks Gandhiji. "They sometimes do not even know he has come, and yet they take sudden fire from the very thought that he is coming". Answering the question himself, he says:

"There is a subtle influence and it is unquestionably there, call it by what name you like people do not want to hear him, they simply want to see him. And that is natural. You cannot deal with millions in any other way".
(Preface- xi)

The supreme secret of Jawaharlal Nehru was that every cell of his soul was humanism writ large, every breath of his being was fragrant with the passion for human deliverance in every dimension and every moment of his life was charged with a compassionate concern for the fulfillment of humanity's tryst with destiny. He was, in short, "the sublime epitome of the Manifesto of Man" (Iyer, 2). Jawaharlal Nehru was a cosmic person but his deepest roots were Indian. So he wrote in his testament:

"I am proud of that great inheritance that has been and is ours, and am conscious that I too, like all of us, am a link in the unbroken chain which goes back to the dawn of history in the immemorial past of India". (p.3)

To conclude, it may be stated that Nehru – the first servant of the Indian people was a healing hope for the rising generation and founding faith in its future.

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