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SAROJINI NAIDU-THE NIGHTINGALE OF INDIA

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Abstract

Sarojini Naidu was known as The Nightingale of India. Her birthday is celebrated as National Women's Day in India. She had an exceptional talent. She was a great poet, patriot, politician, orator and an administrator. Naidu was born in 1879, in Hyderabad. Her father was a Principal in Nizam's college, Hyderabad. She got educated at King's college, London. She was married to Paidipati Govindrajulu Naidu. Sarojini started writing poetry at an age of twelve. She entered into politics with an inspiration from Gopal Krishna Gokhale. She became a member of Royal Literary Society London. She became the President of Indian National Congress. She played a vigorous role in Civil Disobedience Movement, Satyagraha Movement, Quit India Movement. She was imprisoned, several times for the same cause. Naidu had an exceptional abilities to embellish her poems. She wrote a Persian play named 'Maher Muner' which was extolled by the Nizam of Hyderabad. Her first collection of poetry 'The Golden Threshold' fetched her lot of fame. 'In The Bazaars of Hyderabad', she exquisitely sketched the images of a bazaar with her verses. She described the legacy of Qutub Shahi Dynasty in 'The

Royal Tombs of Golconda'. She gorgeously described the nightfall in Hyderabad with her poem, 'Nightfall In the City of Hyderabad'. Naidu delineated the Indian spirit in her poems. She beautifully described the weavers in 'Indian Weavers'. She carved for herself a niche in the archives of English poetry. She sang for the landscapes, women, life, love, ecstasy and death.

Keywords: Folklore, Imagery, Alliteration and Ecstasy

Sarojini Naidu (1879-1949)

Sarojini Naidu, prevalently known as The Nightingale of India or Bharat Kokila by Mahatma Gandhi. She was an Indian poet, political activist and a social worker. She was an active political leader. She was the first Governor of United Provinces, President of Indian National Congress and had a great literary career.

Her Life:

Sarojini Naidu was born in a Bengali Brahmin family, in Hyderabad. Sarojini Chattopadhyay was a daughter of Aghorenath Chattopadhyay. Her father was

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the Principal of the Nizam's college, Hyderabad. Her mother, Barada Sundari Devi was a Bengali poet. All her family members were regarded to be famous artists, at that time.

Sarojini Naidu studied in Chennai. Later, at King's college in London. She was married to Paidipati Govindarajulu Naidu. It was an Inter-caste marriage as both their families accepted for their marriage.

Role In Politics:

Sarojini Naidu was a dynamic political leader. She joined the politics in 1905. It was a phase of social and political chaos. She played a vibrant role in freedom struggle. She was stirred from various political leaders, Specially Mahatma Gandhi. She worked towards freedom struggle and became a social reformer. In 1916, she fought for the rights of farmers in Champaran, Bihar. She fought for the cause of women, social welfare and established 'Women's Indian Association in 1917. She worked with Annie Besant (President of Home Rule League) to extant Universal Suffrage in United Kingdom. She visited London in 1917 and 1919 to free India from British rule. She presided over the congress sessions in South Africa. In 1930, she joined Mahatma Gandhi in Salt Satyagraha Movement and was arrested with the other Indian political leaders. In 1931, she participated in the Second Round Table Conference. She was a contributor in Civil

Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement. She was repetitively arrested but never gave up her participation in political field. She functioned with prominent figures like Jawaharlal Nehru and Rabindranath Tagore. In 1947, Sarojini became the first woman Governor of the United Provinces. Sarojini Naidu was a great patriot, politician, orator and an administrator.

Writings:

Sarojini Naidu was proficient in five languages like Hindi, English, Persian, Urdu, Telugu and Bengali. Her father wanted her to be a Mathematician but she was interested in literary career. She started writing at an age of twelve. She wrote a long poem 'Lady of the Lake' which overwhelmed her father and he started inspiring her for writing. She wrote the play 'Maher Muner' which enthralled the Nizam of Hyderabad. Her first collection of poems, 'The Golden Threshold' gave her instant recognition.

Sarojini Naidu was a prodigious poet, as her poetical verse were often sung. Her poems were enriched with Indian majesty. Her poetry was venerated by Rabindranath Tagore, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahashree Arvind, Arthur Symons, W.B. Yeats and many prominent leaders.

Naidu's poems reflects Indian life, culture and fine delicacy of feelings. 'In

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The Bazaars of Hyderabad' (1912), the rich sensory images were used by her. Her fame reposed on her notable poems, 'The Village Song' (1912), 'The Sceptered Flute: Songs of India' (1943) and 'The Indian Weavers' (1971).

Theme:

Sarojini Naidu used exquisite melody and expression in her writings. She termed Indian life, culture and womanhood in a different perspective. Her writing style was simple and traditional. She used two literary devices, Imagery and Alliteration, in her poems. She wrote many folk songs with musical verses. She described Nature, religion, ecstasy and freedom in a beautiful way. She dealt with flora, fauna, festivals, legends of dynasties, overthrow of the tyrant, love, patriotism and beauty.

Works:

- Cradle Song
- Autumn Song
- A Love Song from the North
- Harvest Hymn
- Nightfall in the City of Hyderabad
- Song of a Dream
- Street Cries
- The Royal Tombs of Golconda
- To Youth
- Village Song

Awards and Achievements:

- Sarojini was awarded the 'Kaisar-i-Hind' medal by British Government

- She was the first woman President of Indian National Congress and the first Governor of Uttar Pradesh

- She was honored as 'The Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat kokila' by Mahatma Gandhi Sarojini Naidu's health deteriorated and she died of cardiac arrest in 1949. She would be remembered forever as a versatile lady, prolific poet, political leader, social activist and Bharat Kokila.

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