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LIFE IN SAHYADRI IN THE WONDROUS WORLD OF KARVALO BY K P POORNACHANDRA TEJASWI

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Abstract:

One of the reasonable thoughts that results the conscious upheaval of men is about the relationship between literature and environment. When we explore on this thought we observe the reality of environment with different shades that can be addressed in literature. Along with description of geographical sketches, we can also see life at its best as described by the writers. These type of literary works comprehend the very thought of men's consciousness and to fulfill the curiosity to know more. In addition to this it has played an important role in extending its scope to many dimensions. It explores on the imagined reality and observation of our social life in relation with our surrounding.

Some of such literary works include scientific tendency to correlate with life, yet they are not consider pure scientific fiction. It is because the appeal is more towards perception of life rather than learning about the facts of science. The appeal may of different kinds like romance, poverty, adventure and even to the changing trends of modern life. One such example is Karvalo, a novel by well known writer K P Poornchandra Tejaswi. The story is about the journey of a scientist Karvalo into the wondrous forest of Moodabidare, a forest region in the Western Ghats. It is also an attempt to know the truth of evolution of life. We can sense the creativity of the writer in blending the ordinary life of villagers with the adventure of scientist in search of a flying lizard. We aspire to know everything that is possible but ultimately fail to discover the vast knowledge and mysteries of life and nature. In the novel Karvalo the writer discusses many issues related to life and environment, he makes us to introspect ourselves towards our act of interruption in environment.

Keywords: Sahyadri, Evolution of life, Reflection of nature, Mystery of life, Wondrous world of nature, Western Ghats.

Karvalo is one of the widely read novels in Kannada literature. It has been translated into many languages. It provides a fresh thought, new taste of pleasure on every reading. The craftsmanship of the writer K P Poornchandra Tejaswi in presenting life of Malenadu, an exceptional forest region in the foothills of Sahyadri makes it one of the unforgettable novels in Kannada language. He glimpses us the different aspects of life with nature. We have upland life, art of bee-keeping, ego clash among the villagers, difference of thoughts, typical socio-political life and many more.

We rarely find such a wonderful description of Malenadu in the recent years. It is as fresh as it appears. We find ourselves in the characters which highlight day to day life. Life of ordinary villagers, their dreams, failures, aspirations and helplessness and many more in a simple and humorous manner makes this novel unique. This is the creativity of the writer which moves the reader effortlessly in the wondrous world of Karvalo. The story goes on introducing many new thoughts, incidents which enthralls as turning ordinary into spectacular one.

The saga of evolution is an interesting story of many complications. There were many ups and downs before we have come to the present world. It leads to the new venture as it progresses and it is never

ending process. This is the rule of nature to create, control and destroy. It is a much discussed topic with mere conclusion. Tejaswi dares to take such a challenge to write a novel on this topic. In an interview he reveals that many professors' complaint against prescribing the novel as text in a syllabus that it is difficult to convey message to the students. He explains we should open up ourselves to the topics which challenge our consciousness, which makes us to think beyond the conventional literary ideas of beauty, religion and philosophy etc. As the novel progresses we move on into the world of reason and imagination relevant to the questions of life and environment. Many questions left before us till today as mystery. We often fail to answer to these questions. Nobody has exact answer to the question of evolution of life. When Darwin's theory of evolution was advocated, it met with strong resistance. People started thinking rationally in the modern world keeping aside the deep rooted religious beliefs, and then many new thoughts have come forward. It is still mystery why life is like this on this earth. Nobody knows the origin of life. There is no end to the search of truth and Karvalo is behind such truth.

The narrator of the story is an educated farmer who is looking for new ventures in agriculture but struggling to find success under many challenging circumstances. The story begins with narrators visit to the Moodagere bee-keeping society with the intension to buy honey. He encounters with two important characters Laxman and Mandanna who later proved to be major link to the Karvalo's journey in search of human existence. Mandanna appears to be a village truant, whimsical in nature. Unknowingly Mandanna creates comic scenes throughout the novel. Laxman on the other hand being poor villagers gives advisable solutions to the narrator in his difficulties caused by Mandanna. Here we can notice the talent of Tejaswi in portraying simple characters yet evoking humorous incidents. The life in Malenadu has typical expression which is beautifully captured by the writer. The villagers are living in their own world of limitations. Mandanna's only dream is to get married. Prabhakar wants to be a good photographer. Yenhta does not know anything more than his daily accommodations. These characters are not taken from somewhere; these are from our social set up itself. These reflect common mistakes of all of us. Among these there is an interesting character Karvalo, a middle aged officer and a committed scholar who undertakes the journey into the forest of sahyadri to search the truth of human existence.

His use of simple language adds richness to the scenes when satirical views appear in between often. Above all his creation of humorous incidents is typical one. He tries to dilute the very serious subject of life and religion in his own manner. We could sense such type of humor expressed through the characters like Mandanna, Kariyappa and Yenhta. Centre of all these character is Madanna who appears to be an interesting fellow. He is living ignorant life without knowing his strength of keen observation of life in forest. The character Karvalo is a person of reputation for his abundant knowledge about life science. He seems dignified fellow committed to his research work. His encounter with Karvalo results a close ally with him. He gets valuable solution for his difficulties at the field. He surprises to know good opinion of Karvalo about Mandanna. The narrator wonders why Karvalo, a reputed scholar gives much importance to a village truant Mandanna. Later when narrator gets into the thoughts of Karvalo he comes know the importance of Mandanna in their task of searching a flying lizard. According to Karvalo Mandanna has got a special talent of observing the species of deep forest. It is because he has grown up there and forest is his life. He exhibits his knowledge of bee-keeping surprises the narrator.

As a writer Tejaswi is versatile in exhibiting his thoughts. He does not stick to any principle but the thought of harmony with life and nature. He is honest in explaining his point of view, even it is beyond our set conventions. He writes "sometimes to know the limits of his principles, reality, analysis, etc., a creative writer has to take those to edge of outrageous limits." The literary age he belongs to is the platform for many experiments. It has provided with freshness of thought to Kannada literature. At the same time revolutionary voices raised against the deep rooted stagnant conventions both in social life and literary world. His concern for social life appears in writing. He is honest in reflecting the real face of the social life.

He explores on the many matters related to environment, particularly agricultural life. The struggle of the farmers is expressed through the difficulties of an educated farmer. The narrator who wished to find his future in agriculture is disappointed to see the real difficulties at the ground level. It is not the profitable profession as opined by the narrator. Sometimes the crop was good but the returns was bad, sometimes it was shortage of rain and many a times excess, problem often faced by the farmers is inflation. He says

“As squalor and the noise of the town had bored me once, so the loneliness and rural poverty and monotony were getting on my nerves.... I had no alternative but to sell away the land and get out of the place once and for all.”

The destiny of the narrator is different. He is going to the part of massive task of Karvalo in search of truth of evolution of life.

The relationship between the narrator and scientist Karvalo gradually develops. Once he explains to Karvalo about the trouble caused by the honey bees and blames that they are not deserving of trust. Then Karvalo has made a statement which makes him to look with respect. Karvalo states that

“No no...! Only species which does not deserve of trust is homosapien, you have to learn much about insects.”

Then Karvalo shows a special kind of insects which emerges light that is Glowworm. He discovered it with the help of Mandanna in his native Norvegy forest. He explains to the narrator that every creation of nature is unique. We cannot even interpret the smallest secret of the nature throughout the ages.

Tejaswi goes on giving description of life in Sahyadri side by side. He presents beautiful picture of dense forest, its flora and fauna. He surprises to know that bee-keeping is not new science but it has been practiced from ancient time in this region.

One of the best humorous plots is Madanna's wedding incident. The specialty of the writer in framing comic character and use of language are master class. Characters here revolve around worldly life of ordinary villagers over economic condition and ego over ones beliefs. He further tells how people often fight over smallest things and compromises on the least profit they expect. Among all these the scientist Karvalo seems like a sober and a philosopher remained committed to his research. The narrator does not find anything unknown common interest among all these characters. He introspects himself. He feels sorry for Ramayya's comment upon Karvalo's excellent task. He thinks that villagers have not understood real value of Karvalo. It is all about perception of someone about something.

Another important character in the story seems interesting is narrator's dog kiwi. He has played major role in narrator's life. Especially in the journey in the forest, he is portrayed as an important character. Narrator expressed his love for animal and many satirical remarks are expressed through this character. It is skillful technical way of expression of his thoughts.

Prabhakar, a photographer expresses his gratefulness for Karvalo. He admires Karvalo for his help in developing his skills as a good photographer. Narrator could able to come out of the disappointment of Mandanna's arrest in liquor case. Karvalo tells them about the importance of their task. Karvalo urges Prabhakar not to distract from the goal. We will become old, but cannot realize truth. We must come out of the worldly illusions. Then only we can see the different world. That is the truth of life. Here narrator is thrilled at the philosophy of Karvalo.

The story enters into the wonder world of Karvalo when he informs the narrator about the journey into the Norvegy forest in search of a flying Lizard which was seen by Mandanna in that region. He adds that this species is as old as the unknown time of the evolution. The species belongs to the ancient period which once ruled the planet. But during the process of evolution they left behind because they could not able to adjust with the changing differences of nature. Some have been vanished and some survived as least creatures keeping the mystery of evolution. They become rare link of the ancestors. Many scientists from the ages are trying to find this truth. They have dedicated their life, time and everything to know the truth of

life. Men fail to know the truth even after having abundant modern scientific sources.

The mystic world of life opens here. The story takes to a completely different turn. Tejaswi moves us in the world of evolution. Thoughts swinging between ages unknown time in the past to the rich forest of Western Ghats. He swings us from the unique knowledge of karvalo to the unbelievable stories of Mandanna.

In the beginning only we have witnessed unmatched narration of the narrator about Sahyadri forests. He never exaggerates the beauty of the forest but goes on giving vivid picture of the Ghats with his minute observation. He describes the strange nature of the forest. It is above the sea level, and sometimes open grass land. We can see hill region here and there and also sudden deep slope.

After completing preparation the narrator, Karvalo, Mandanna, Kariyappa, Prabhakar and kiwi move towards the Ghats. The narrator has no experience in the past getting into the deep forest. Sometimes he gets thrilled looking into the vast beauty and strangeness of the forest. But sometimes he feels his task thankless as there is no hope of really finding the flying lizard as it is rare species living in the deep forest.

Tejaswi creates such a great braided of thoughts. His description really makes us to move from the period of time in the past. The journey is not in future but drags us back in the millions of years ago. He describes us it moving against the flow of time. They have undertaken journey into the past, time is moving in extreme speed in the world of past.

The narrator feels strange as journey progressed. He lost himself in his thought of life, time and evolution. He goes deeper in his thinking. He wonders about the coincidence how Mandanna has seen a strange species which developed a concept in the matured view of Karvalo. The spirit of searching the truth moves all of us in the unknown world strange experience. He surprises why we are in this world. What is the value of life? He becomes philosopher in the Sahyadri forest.

Sometimes he gets boredom in the journey but Karvalo's deep sense of description of life in the forest awakens everyone towards the task. Karvalo shows every smallest creature which they have never seen. He touches one of the sticks which become a moving insect. All surprise to see a beetle going upon a tree that has to be in soil. Likewise Karvalo unfolds many wonders of the nature.

The narrator gradually starts thinking why this flying lizard left behind in the course of evolution. If flying lizard kept the secret of past, then why not closest extant relative to humans tells the story of human being. He imagines how some species develop wings to fly and some swim in the water. He has no answer why some remained as it is even after millions of years. He asks his doubts to Karvalo and even he has no answer to these questions. He simply replies that it is mystery of nature. He explains that some left behind because they have not learnt the art of cope with the changing differences of the flowing of time. Great apes struck in the course of progress. They did not evolve to become human being.

The attempt of Karvalo and the team remained incomplete to discover the truth not only about flying lizard but of whole evolution process of life. Answer to the question for evolution of life goes on complex as we think deeper. Eventually this thought becomes near to the imagination of men but not complete one. Those traces left in rocks, in the layers of earth and in extinct creatures. The effort remained partly success even after so many attempts to catch the flying lizard. Before the immense power of nature we remained nothing. It's all about our struggle against finding the truth. Thus, Karvalo concludes "How can we believe right or wrong. There is no end to the evolution of life."

The world of Karvalo is to realize us the truth of world we live in. It encourages us to perceive and build concept on what the writer represented. He is not behind any particular percept in the nature, but he believes that he is lost in its sensation, in its vastness and in its tranquil of life. The relationship between life and forest in Sahyadri is so deep that it cannot be expressed in mere words. The principle of this deep relationship created a real world of Karvalo that is beyond any existing concepts. According to the writer life is mixture of many conflicts and contrasted truths and inconsistent events. Eventually it is synthesis of

humor and repentance. It is the result of our collective experiences. Karvalo's world is wondrous world one should take journey in this world.

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