

“MEGHADUTTAM: A PULCHRITUDINOUS PIECE OF LITERARY TREASURE”

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Abstracts:

The Meghadutta is the lament of an exiled Yaksha, a benevolent nature spirit, who is pining for his beloved on a lonely mountain peak. When, at the beginning of a Monsoon, a cloud perches on the peak, he asks it to deliver a message to his love in the Himalayan city of Alaka. Meghadutta is full of reference of natural science. The best notion recommended by Kalidasa is the choice of cloud as a main disposition though it is a part of nature, Kalidasa has suggested the pathway of cloud from Ramagiri to Alaka through Yaksha's instruction to cloud. The descriptions of rivers, mountains, cities and villages stretching from Ramagiri in central India up to Alaka nagari in the Himalayas are very attractive in Kalidasa's poem Meghadutta. On the basis of ecological speculation, we can describe the various part of environment as shown in the Kalidasa's Meghadutta. Kalidasa has used attractive imagery in his poetry from ecological view point and effect on human civilization. In Meghadutta every stanza represents the relationship between man and nature with the Yaksha's instruction to cloud. The closeness between cloud and Yaksha is depicted. Thus direct and indirect remarks of poem show the existence of parts of nature in Meghadutta. The story of Meghadutta itself is the results of its consequence on human being. The conversation between Yaksha and cloud, his instructions to cloud, his conduct with cloud, and how he narrates the core to cloud show melodious alteration between nature and man. In Meghadutta, we come across a variety of names of clouds which are addressed by Yaksha. They all are significant and figurative e.g., Kamacharin, Sadho, Jimuta, Saumya, Subhaji (Fortunate one), Sakhya (brother), Jalada, Jaladhara etc. The aspect of melodious relation between nature and human

being- is well articulated her. Thus the Meghadutta poem is a beautiful work of literary art and the description given in it are so vivid that one visualizes what the poet wants to convey.

Key Words:

Conversion, Cloud, Ecological, Figurative, Imagery, Instruction, Lament, Melodious, Mountain, Nature , Speculation, Visualize.

Introduction:

India is a rich land of literary creation. Many great poets, novelists, dramatists and others have given their valuable contribution to enrich literature. They use many languages nourish literature. Since Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages in the World, it has been used by the great Indian poet. A part from this they represent various themes like men, women, love, nature, spiritual matters, myth etc.¹ Meghaduttam is one of the most famous literary works in the Sanskrit literature. Meghaduttam is a poem of love full of sincere, passionate and truthful love between husband and wife. The poem deals with deep and sincere love of Yaksha, a servant of Kubera for his beloved wife. According to mythology, Kubera is the Hindu god of wealth living at Alaka pm mount Kailash in the Himalaya. The poem is divided into two parts. Purva- Megha and Uttara- Megha. The first part of the poem, i.e. Purva Megha recounts how Yaksha, a subordinate of Kung Kubera (the god of Wealth), after being exiled for a year to the mountain of Ratnagiri in Central India for neglecting his duties. In the second part of the poem i.e. Uttara- Megha continues, a passing by “ Megha’ or Cloud to take a message of his pain in banishment, his deep and sincere of his pain in banishment, his deep and sincere love for her and his return to his wife at Alaka on Mount Kailash in the Himalaya Mountains. Yaksha accomplishes this by describing the many beautiful sights the cloud will see on its north word course to the city of Alaka, where his wife awaits his return. Yaksha also describes the unique qualities of his wife which would help ‘ Megha’ or cloud to identity Yaksha’s wife too easily. ‘ Megha’ or cloud accomplishes his duty bestowed to him seriously and honesty.²

Meghadutta is a lyric poem written by Kalidasa, regarded as one of the best Sanskrit poets . It tells the story of a Yaksha (or nature spirit) who was banished by his master to a far away place for a year and begged a cloud to

deliver a message of love to his wife. The poem became well-known in Sanskrit literature and inspired other poets to produce comparable poems on similar subjects. The Meghadutta is the lament of an exile Yaksha (a beneficent nature spirit) on a lonely mountain summit, grieving for his sweetheart when a cloud perches on the top at the start of a monsoon, he asks it to carry a message to his lover in the Himalayan area of Alaka. The majority of the poem, written in an exceptionally elegant rhythm, is a description of the landmarks, cities and vistas encountered on the cloud's voyage to Alaka.³ Meghadutta was the inspiration for Friedrich Schiller's play *Aria Stuart*. The quantity of commentaries made on the work might indicate its prominence within the genre of Sanskrit classical literature as a Khandakavya (short Lyrical Poetry as opposed to a Matakavya, which is an epic poem).⁴

The entire poem is nothing more than a letter sent by a messenger from a husband (Yaksha) separated from his wife (due to punishment meted out by Kubera). Because the messenger is a rain cloud, he is an inanimate thing. The Yaksha does this by explaining the numerous lovely places the cloud will encounter on its journey, northward to Alaka, where his wife awaits his home coming. The literary idea utilized in the Meghadutta generated the genre of Sandesa Kavya or Messenger poems in Sanskrit Kavya or Messenger poems in Sanskrit literature, most of which are patterned on the Meghadutta. The Hamsa-Sandesh, in which Rama requests a Hanse Bird to send a message to Sita detailing sights along the way, is one example.⁵

The beauty of nature in the beginning of Monsoon is described with the imagery: "When with Asharha's glooms the air was Hung, and one dark cloud around the mountain clung; In form some elephant, whose sportive rage, Ramparts, scarce equal to his might, engage." (Note-2, Page 23-24th verse 11-14). IN the month Asharha, rainy seasons sets in. There is a lot of clouds move in the sky, clouds move in the sky. Clouds are described as wild elephant. When, at the beginning of a Monsoon, a cloud Yaksha asks it to deliver a message to his lady love in the Himalayan city of Alaka. In a sense the "Megha" or cloud is a visible expression of the abstract and intangible nature. The soul of Yaksha would remain

passionate in exile: “ Long on the mass of Mead- reviving dew. The heavenly exile fixed his eager view, And still the melancholy tear suppressed . Though bitterest sorrow wrung his heaving breast.” (Note-3, Page-24, Verse-15-18).⁶

In Ramagiri Ashrama, Yaksha has spent his time restlessly and consoled himself by remembering the sweet memory of the days past. The see memory of love acts as a soothing balm in the heaviest breast of Yaksha in exile. He is well aware that his wife eagerly waits for his return. Her pain of heart has no limit. So lovelorn Yaksha decides to sent the message of his return to his beloved wife. He makes a prayer to the “ Megha” or cloud to carry this message to his beloved wife. “ The Yaksha thus the cloud majestic prayed.” (Note-4, Page-25, Verse- 36), Yaksha considers “ Megha” or cloud as his friend or counselor. He considers, “ Megha” or cloud as reliable friend to send his massage to his wife.” Hail! Friend of Indra, counselor or divine, illustrious offspring of a glorious line, wearer of shapes of will, thy worth, I know, And bold entrust three with my fated woe.” (Not-5, PAGE-25, Verse-37-40). The Megha or cloud must have travel a long way to research the city of Alaka to deliver the Message to Yaksha is very much confident that the “ Megha’ or cloud must do it. The “ Megha” or cloud only can help him in his distress. “ Thu art the Wretch’s aid, affection’s friend! To me unfortunate, thy succor lend , my lonely state compassionate behold, who mourn the vengeance of the God of Gold.” (Note-6, Page-25, Verse-433-46).⁷

Yaksha has given the ;Megha’ or cloud a wide and vivid description of the way to the city of Alaka. The ‘ Megha’ or cloud reaches the city of Alaka. Yaksha’s beloved wife is eagerly waiting looking forward the way of her husband Yaksha’s retu7rn. The pain of their separation makes her sick. Lovers are true in their. The restlessness increases as consciousness in Yaksha’s mind and forces him to describe the passion of love: “ Lone as the widowed chacravaci mourns, her faithful memory to her husband returns, and sad, and shalt thou find my wife, half of my soul, and partner of my life.” (Note-7, Page-53, verse-537-540)⁸

The ‘ Megha’ or cloud givers her the good news that her husband will return the cavity of Alaka soon. He will return home with romantic dream. He has spent eight months reminds sweet miseries of those days, he has spent with his

beloved wife. And feels how she has occupied half of his soul as life partner. She must come to know about her husband's true and faithful love." True love no time nor distance can destroy, and independent of all present joy.⁸ It grows in absence, as renewed delight, some dear memorial, some loved lined excite." (Note-8, Page-64, Verse 741-744). Yaksha tells the " Megha" or cloud how he is eager in love making with his wife./ The " Megha" or cloud is requested to express the feelings and situation of Yaksha in the exile. ' Thy task performed, consoled the mourner's mind". (Note-9, Page-65, Verse-753). While the " Megha" or cloud reaches the city of Alaka, it conveys the message of Yaksha's return to his wife. The messenger of air conveyed to Alaka his wild despair, that " the God of wealth, relenting, learnt his state, and swift curtailed the limit of his fate, removed the course, restarted him to his wife, and best with ceaseless joy their everlasting life.' (Note-10, Page-65, Verse-768)¹⁰

Moreover, portraying various natural phenomena in a poetic way establishes the relation among the natural objects as well as its impact on human life. The Meghadutta of Kalidasa is the work of his matured hand. So, in Meghadutta, the theme of love is presented not merely as union and separation between the lover and the beloved or in other words, as human love and separation but also as cosmic love in both the stories we find a strong imagery of women that is not to be ignored.¹¹

Thus, Kalidasa's Meghadutta is a best known poem in Sanskrit. It is one of his best literary creation written during the Gupta reign. There is a description of monsoon in this famous book. The monsoon cloud is imagined to be a messenger between lovers who are separated from one another and the poet beautifully describes the breeze that will carry the cloud north words. It is a cool breeze and blows with the fragrance of the earth. It is delightful, swollen by the cloud's showers. Elephants in hale it deeply and it causes the wild figs to ripen. It blows gently with the cloud.¹² This description is very sensuous and appealing and creates a real picture of the cloud and the breeze. This shows that Kalidasa was really a poet at par.

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