

Universal Friendship And Fatherhood in Tagores Kabuliwala: A Study

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Abstract --

Tagores poignant tale **KABULIWALA** Perfectly captures the essence of wonderful friendship and universal fatherhood that builds a back drop of hardship. These relationships transcending the borders of race, religion, culture and language. **KABULIWALA** tales a tale of human relationship which is greatly influenced by time. Time has a great hand of effect on human emotions and human relations which finely reflects in this short story through Rahamat, Mini and the narrator of the story. Here Mini and her father and Rahamat and his daughter these two unique father- daughter relationship rings the universal tone fatherhood.

Keywords-- friendship, universal relations, fatherhood, emotions, time.

I. INTRODUCTION

Bengal has produced a number of Nobel laureates Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) is one of them. He was awarded Noble Prize in 1913 for his world famous GITANJALI. He was educated at home but he had a great hand of writing from the early mornings of his life. He was successful in all literary genres. Tagore wrote almost hundred short stories. Among Bengali writers he was the first who made short story to a serious art form. Tagore represented rural and urban life of Bengal of his time with the help of conflicts like the new and the old, cruelty and sensitivity, solitude and crowd, male and female by intermingling stark realism and poetic idealism

All these are the mirrors of social pictures and Tagore's personal experiences. Tagore's short stories are valuable documents of gender, nation, politics and the changes of socio economic condition. Feminism and humanism always runs jointly in Rabindranath's short stories.

In *Kabuliwala* (The fruit seller from Kabul, published 1892) Tagore shows he had a love for the child and had a sharp understanding of its mind. Rabindranath's *Kabuliwallah* and his poem *JETE NAHI DIBO* (FROM SONAR TORI) ring the same tone of a universal fatherhood. Pain of Mini and Rahamat's daughter is same. There is no geographical barrier. The father's emotion of Rahamat and Mini's father is same and universal based on love for daughter with out geographical and socio economic and cultural distance. It is the touch of nature which is largely found in Tagore's Short story.

Kabuliwala reflects human relations. It tells universal friendship of Mini and Rahamat and on the other hand eternal fatherhood between Mini's father and Rhamath. Who came from far away, afganesthan as fruit seller. Above all beautiful relationship develops on the basis of innocence, purity, affection, love and abit of sacrifice.

I saw my daughter sitting on a bench in front of the door, nattering unrestrainedly; and the *Kabuliwallah* was sitting at her feet listening - grinning broadly, and from time to time making comments in his hybrid sort of Bengali. In all her five years of life, Mini had never found so patient a listener, apart

from her father. I also saw that the fold of her little sari was crammed with raisins and nuts. I said to the Kabuliwallah, 'why have you given all these? Don't give her anymore.' I then took half-rupee out of my pocket and gave it to him. He unhesitatingly took the coin and put it in his bag. When I returned home, I found that this half-rupee has caused a full-scale row. Mini's mother was holding up a round shining object and saying crossly to Mini, 'where did you get this half-rupee from?' 'The Kabuliwallah gave it to me', said Mini. 'Why did you take it from the Kabuliwallah?' said her mother 76 'I didn't ask for it,' said Mini tearfully. 'He gave it to me himself.' I rescued Mini from her mother's wrath, and took her outside. I learnt that this was not just the second time that Mini and the Kabuliwallah had met: he had been coming nearly every day and, by bribing her eager little heart with pistachio-nuts, has quite won her over. I found that they now had certain fixed jokes and routines: for example as soon as Mini saw Rahamat, she giggled and asked, 'Kabuliwallah, O Kabuliwallah, what have you got in your bag?' Rahamat would laugh back and say - giving the word a peculiar nasal twang - 'An elephant.' The notion of an elephant in his bag was the source of immense hilarity; it might not be a very subtle joke, but they both seemed to find it very funny, and it gave me pleasure to see, on an autumn, a young child and a grown man laughing so heartily. (R.T.S. 114-115) .

As a writer minis father had a great sense of understanding the relationship between Mini and Kabuliwallah. After seven years Kabuliwallah return from jail and finally saw Mini as bride and remembers his own daughter.

Kabuliwallah came and said, "I have brought few grapes, almonds and Raisins for her. Will you give them to her? I took them and was about to pay him but all of a sudden he grabbed my hand and said, "You are very kind sir, don't offer me money. You have a little girl; I too have one like her in my home. I think of her and bring fruits for your child, I don't come for trade." 16

Seeing this Mini's father emotionally attached with Kabuliwallah and asked him to go back home for meeting his wife and beloved daughter.

He suddenly understood clearly that his own daughter would have grown up too since he last saw her, and with her too he would have to become re-acquainted: he would not find her exactly as she was before. Who knew what had happened to her these eight years? In the cool autumn morning sunshine the sanai went on playing, and Rahamat sat in a Calcutta lane and pictured to himself the barren mountains of Afghanistan. I took out a banknote and gave it to him. 'Rahamat,' I said, 'go back to your homeland and your daughter; by your blessed reunion, Mini will be blessed.' By giving him this money, I had to trim certain items from the wedding-festivities. I wasn't able to afford the electric illuminations I had planned, nor did the trumpet – and drum band come. The womenfolk were very displeased at this; but for me, the ceremony was lit by a kinder, more gracious light. (R.T.S.- 119-120)

So Kabuliwallah is a fine example of universal friendship and universal fatherhood . In these relations there is no bar of geographical border or time. Here Rabindranath represents these relationships as pure and eternal.

In the very beginning of the story itself Tagore limns a bond between daughter and father. Mini's father was a writer, basically writers need a tranquility while they writing but often Mini goes to his room creates annoyance and poses meaningless questions but her father condones all her rumpus activities which is the special quality that every father has exclusively for daughters and he finds pleasure in chatting with Mini and in her inquisitiveness. This shows his love for Mini and she too always attached with her father

than mother. When Mini saw the Kabuliwala for the first time, she was afraid of him but he wants to meet her, “And where is the little girl sir?”

The way he asked Mini’s father to meet her shows his fatherly longing. Later, Mini attached with Kabuliwala and their comradeship grew smoothly. Rahman, the Kabuliwala gives her nuts and raisins out of cost, he treats Mini as his own daughter. Mini’s father had a close scrutiny on her activities as all the fathers do. “I saw my daughter sitting on a bench in front of the door, nattering unrestrainedly; and the Kabuliwala was at her feet, listening grinning broadly, and from time to time making comments in his hybrid sort of Bengali. In all her five years of life, Mini had never found so patient a listener apart from her father.”

When Rahman was in prison everyone forgets him even Mini. He was released from jail just a day before Mini’s wedding. He pleased Mini’s father to meet her once but he refused to allow him. He wants to give some fruits and nuts to Mini. When her father is about to give him money he says, “Keep me in you recollection. Do not offer me money! You have a little girl, I too have a one like her in my own home. I think of her and bring fruits to your child, not to make a profit for myself.” He was despair and told him that he too have daughter in Mini’s age as a proof he showed a dirty piece of paper charcoal imprint of a child’s hand on it. He haven’t meet her for a long period. Being a father he could sense the emotional pain of Rahman and let him to meet Mini. When he saw her as a grown girl he was nonplussed to express his ecstasy. Rahman’s thought moved to Afghan and he was yearning to see his daughter. Mini’s father felt pity for the man and gave him some money which aids him to go to his native land. This meant curtailing some of the wedding expenses. But the father felt that it would be a blessing since it had helped a poor father to see his child again after a long and sad separation. At the end of the story, Tagore provokes the emotion by depicting the filial love through father’s concern for another father who is hankering to see his daughter as he comprehended the pain of the father and daughter separation.

A father’s love is absolutely altruistic and unequivocal. He only knows giving. The first man every girl relay in her is their father, who never hurt them back. According to research father and daughters bond are strapping than the daughter and mother. Nowadays the daughters say proudly that they are ‘Dad’s little princess’. The psychology behind the father and daughter relationship is derived from the time of Electra, the Greek mythological character, avenged her father Agamenon’s death by committing matricide with the help of her brother Orestes, which we later calls Electra complex.

In India many fathers like Rahman comes out of their cocoons and went to abroad or any other state for the welfare of their family. He visits his family periodically. During this period both of them longs for the filial love, some daughter may get that from her guardian and the father remember his daughter whenever he saw a girl of his daughter’s age like Mini. In the case of single parenting father can play a role of mother and console her but the mother can’t console the daughter as father do, which is undeniable truth. Even though she goes to her in-law’s house she has the special place for her father which can’t be replaced by anyone. Father and daughter sentiment has the glorious place especially in India. “A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a boat to take us there but a lodestar whose love directs us to ideal way or place”. Thus the entire story is an exemplary tribute to the filial love. Tagore vividly pictures the love between father and daughter.

II. CONCLUSIONS:

I have picked the initial passages from one of his acclaimed short stories, *Kabuliwala*, during the current week's *Places to Go* include. The main portion of the story takes us to the initiation of a surprising kinship between a five-year old *Smaller than normal* and the *Kabuliwala*, an outsider in those parts. Bountiful with an old-world appeal, this is a story loaded with the glow of human ties, and how a kid and an outsider become dear companions, all saw through the eyes of *Small scale's* hovering father. The story additionally investigates *Smaller than usual's* dad's collaborations with the *Kabuliwala*. *Small scale's* dad, an author, wants to travel, which he ordinarily satisfies through his fiction composing. However, in the *Kabuliwala* he finds a man who has seen a greater amount of the world than he has, and he needs to know his accounts. It could be said, the dad also has a fellowship of sorts with this unfamiliar man, much like his little girl does. Nonetheless, the fundamental contrast stays, a kid's kinship is guiltless, unbound by the contemplations of race and class, something that retains *Smaller than normal's* dad from finding a significant association with the *Kabuliwala* against his better senses. The inconsistent idea of this relationship likewise comes up when *Smaller than usual's* dad offers cash to the *Kabuliwala* when he sees that *Scaled down* has been given a ton of dry organic products by her companion. While they were proposed as endowments, *Little's* dad, bound by cultural standards, doesn't permit it. The cash inevitably discovers its way back to the home as another blessing made to *Little* by her companion from *Kabul*.

Kabuliwala has additionally been distributed as *The Cabulliwallah* in *Stories by Tagore* by The Macmillan Organization other than numerous vernacular variants in India. *Kabuliwala* in interpretation implies an individual from *Kabul*, *Afghanistan*. In India, the term likewise alluded to a merchant selling products entryway to-entryway. The story is from when numerous vendors from *Kabul* reached India to exchange and wound up being endlessly from their families for quite a while. I had to cut out one or two items from the éclat of the festivities for gifting that money. For example, the lighting decoration was not as gorgeous as I had wanted it to be, and the band party had to be cancelled. This upset the women, but buoyed by a benevolent spirit, my auspicious ceremony became more luminous.

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