PREFACE

Canadian Studies in India is developing very rapidly and the Canadian Writers’ works are included in the syllabi of many Indian Universities and Colleges. It is good news to say that on that syllabi Margaret Atwood’s works will definitely find a place. When I joined as post-graduate in the Department of English, Bharathidasan University, I studied Canadian literature with great interest because it was new and the perception of Canadian writers was very different. It also resembled the Indian situation in many ways, for both Canada and India are colonial countries. The poem “Journey to the Interior” requires special mention here. A close look at this poem reveals its resemblance to the Indian yogic concept. This idea was clearly brought out by the Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, who taught this poem to us. This influenced me and I started reading a lot about Margaret Atwood and her poems. After completing my post graduation, I decided to do my doctoral programme under the guidance of Dr. Prema Kumari Marshal. M.A., Ph.D., Professor of English, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli. To my surprise she enquired about my genre of interest and I opted for poetry. After consulting my research guide, Dr. Prema Kumari Marshal, and getting her affirmation, with immense
pleasure, I started working on Atwood’s poems for my doctoral research. The Centre for Canadian Studies, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, has been conducting national level seminars on Canadian Studies, and these seminars helped me a lot. Many scholars were doing their doctoral research on Margaret Atwood, Margaret Laurence, Rudy Wiebe. Many theses were produced on Margaret Atwood’s fiction, but not on Atwood’s poetry. Hence I have taken it as a challenge to work on Margaret Atwood’s poetry.

This thesis is a humble attempt to analyze Margaret Atwood’s poems by highlighting the hidden vision in her poems, which tries to insist that any human being should search for a viable human world.

I feel that analyzing Margaret Atwood’s poems is a “painful pleasure”, for her poems are complex, tough and thought-provoking and picture the present world with all its confusion and chaos. As a researcher, her poems made me think about the unexplored avenues and about how she argues about giving voice to the voiceless. In short, the poems deal with the marginalized, the suppressed, the exploited and the neglected.

I remain grateful and thankful to my Research Guide and Supervisor Dr. Prema Kumari Marshal. M.A., Ph.D., Professor of English, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, and Centre for Distance Education,
Bharathidasan University, for her inspiring guidance and thought-provoking suggestions which made me think about the numerous ways in which the poems of Atwood could be analyzed, and her everlasting critical appreciation of Margaret Atwood’s works. She instructed me to go through the unexplored avenues in Atwood’s poetry and her optimistic approach is the major reason for the successful completion of this thesis. In spite of her busy schedule she has gone through the manuscripts of the thesis very patiently, carefully and corrected it with full interest and dedication. While admiring Atwood’s protagonists’ metamorphosis in every poem, I could sense the metamorphosis taking place in me while changes were made in the text of the thesis by my guide. I always admire the way in which she had taken me through Atwood and her bewildering poems.

Whenever I feel, I am trapped in the world of complexities in Atwood’s poems, she directed me on the right path. As a researcher, I was able to identify the hidden meanings between lines through her study of the poems and this helped me very much in analyzing the poems. I am gifted to have Madam as my Research Guide and Supervisor. She is very kind, affectionate and without her this could not taken shape. I whole-heartedly thank my Research Guide for accepting me as her ward. I thank her for providing me space in the Centre for Canadian Studies, which is a golden
treasure of rare books in Canadian literature, social sciences, etc, from where this thesis gained a lot. She also gave me an opportunity to attend the International Conferences conducted by Indian Association for Canadian Studies, hosted by Indian Universities. All the conferences were very useful and highly informative. Through these seminars and conferences I had gained access to a fund of information on Atwood. I once again sincerely thank her for providing me with golden opportunities like this continuously. She is undoubtedly a role model for a guide, I will not forget her throughout my life for the efforts taken by her for my progress.

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I thank the Indian Association for Canadian Studies for enabling me to participate in the conferences on Canadian literature which proved to be very useful. This helped me gain experience in the arena of the Canadian literary circle for I had the good fortune to meet great Canadian scholars like Dr. Coral Ann Howells, Dr. Dennis Duffi, Dr. Uma Parameswaran, Eliot Tepper and David Wiilams. In fact Dr. Coral Ann Howells, Mary Duffi had helped me personally through sending books and articles on Margaret Atwood which was very useful for my research.

I would like to place on record the fact that the Indian Association for Canadian Studies is doing very good work by enabling Indian scholars like me living in the southern tip of India / Tamilnadu to work on Canadian topics with the ease of exposure. In connection with this, I owe my thanks to Dr. Chandra Mohan, Former President, Indian Association For Canadian Studies, and Dr. Juneja, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, M.S.
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