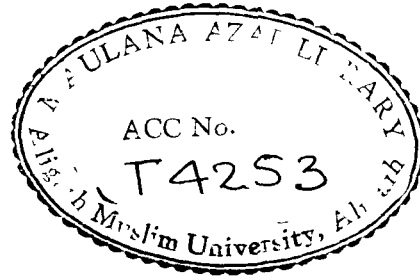


A B S T R A C T



Sarojini Naidu, 'The Nightingale of India', has occupied a unique position in Indian English poetry. Her poetic talent flourished in Western surroundings but she was never an imitator. Endowed with keen poetic sensibility and extra-ordinary perception, she felt the phenomenon of human life around her. Sir Aurbindo remarks,

"She springs from the very soil of India, her spirit, although it employs the English Language in its vehicle, has not other tie with the west".

Sarojini Naidu was blessed with 'bird like quality' but her songs are not only lyrical but also evocative. She contemplated life in its varied conditions and situations. She observed folk life and the fascinating natural phenomenon. She thought of man's longing for love, and his everlasting ignorance about

the mystery of life and death. These aspects were viewed in the Eastern light but their expression has an everlasting beauty of its own. Glasgow Harold observed:-

"The pictures are of the East, it is true, but there is something fundamentally human in them that seems to prove that best songs know nothing of East or West."

Sarojini Naidu in her songs tried to express her emotional tensions, but the imagery which she employed was striking and thus paved a new path in Indian English tradition of poetry. She skilfully adopted specific imagery suited to her theme, purpose, mood and situation.

Sarojini Naidu's compass as a poetess is very wide and no specific theme can be traced out in her poems. Her poetic fervour underwent a drastic change with the changing political, social and emotional

conditions. Variations in her ethos resulted in variety of themes.

Golden Threshold primarily contains the poems which reveal the picture of Indian Folk life. Alongwith the treatment folk life, she also reveals interest in natural sights and scenery Beautiful word pictures are painted here.

The Bird of Time is a collection of poems in which she contemplates about life and death.

Broken Wing is a collection of her miscellaneous poems. In it 'Temple' trilogy of love poems, is her major contribution to Indian English poetry.

Feather of Dawn. The poems in this collection are remarkable for patriotism and her love for child.

In this way Sarojini Naidu's range of themes is very wide. Her treatment of different themes is original, profound, sensitive and varied.

Sarojini Naidu keenly observed, felt and responded to various human emotions, patterns of behaviour, conditions of society and beauty of nature. Thus the major themes in her poems are nature, Love, Life and Death, Indian Folk life, and patriotism. These themes in her poetry have been evaluated under the following chapter-wise scheme:

Chapter I : Her Times, Life and Works

Chapter II : Oriental and Indian Ethos in
Sarojini's Poetry.

Chapter III : Patriotic Fervour

Chapter IV : Poetry of Nature

Chapter V : Theme of Love, Life and Death

Chapter VI : Imagery and Art