



## ONE DAY IN AASHADH: AN ANALYSIS

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### ABSTRACT

*Mohan Rakesh is the pioneer of modern literary movement Nai Kahaniyan (New Stories). Many films are made on his stories. Apart from short stories writer and novelist, he was very famous as a dramatist. He is one of the pillars of modern Indian drama. His plays were inacted throughout India. He was awarded Sahitya Akademi Award in 1968.*

### INTRODUCTION

*One Day in Aashadh* is a three act hindi play. The play originally does not present Kalidasa and his love for Mallika but it presents Mallika's plutonic love and sacrifice for Kalidasa. The entire drama presents how the love story of Mallika and Kalidasa gradually leads to an unhappy ending and how their lives shatters. When the play begins Mallika and Kalidasa were living in a small interior village in a forest. Mallika has so much inclination and attraction of the rain, we feel as if she is the child of nature.

The drama is not the real biography of a great writer Kalidasa but an imaginative creation of Mohan Rakesh's mind. The author of this drama must have thought about some of the questions related with the life of Kalidasa. He seems to have grappled with same questions as: How did Kalidasa able to create literature of peasants and masses? What is relation of his literature with life? Is it mere coincidence that his relation with nature or really he lived life in the company of nature? How could he produce liveliness in nature by living in city and palace? The drama try to answers all these questions.

The dramatist has used Kalidasa, Mallika, Vilom, Manjiri, Ambika, Mama, Rangini, Sangini etc. as characters to recreate the ancient world of Kalidasa in the drama.

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In the play Kalidasa deserts the girl (Mallika), whom he loves dearly and goes to live in city (Ujjaini) to prove his worth to the world. The government of Ujjaini honoured him making the poet laureate. He marries princess Manjiri and lives with her in a palace. Though he was living a comfortable, luxurious and affluent life in palace but his poetry was always nostalgic about country life and beauty of nature. In the journey of life he failed at both the places, in the city (palace) and in the beautiful village surrounded by nature, where he spent his childhood. Kalidasa realizes after considerable long period, where he went wrong in the journey of life.

Mallika's everlasting and earnest wait for her love indicates her devotion. She waits eagerly for him like a thirsty man waits for a drop of water. Her mother Ambika dies with so much pain, suffering and constant worry for her daughter's marriage. Mallika hopes and expects that her love (Kalidasa) would come back. Throughout these years she remains constantly in touch with his writings by purchasing his books from her hard earned savings. She would purchase all his books by requesting and giving extra money to the businessman who visit Ujjaini. Once Kalidasa did visit the village on his journey to Kashmir along with his wife Manjiri, but did not have courage enough to face Mallika. Manjiri visited Mallika without the knowledge of Kalidasa. She just wanted to see her because she heard a lot about Mallika from Kalidasa. Kalidasa left the village without meeting her. Here Mallika breaks from within waiting to meet her lover.

Kalidasa came back to the village but it was very late. The self realization and introspection took long time for Kalidasa to understand his real happiness lies here with Mallika and in the company of nature. But time and tide waits for none.

Vilom, the villain in the drama is a contemporary poet and rival of Kalidasa both in poetry and love. He is a failure both in poetry and love. On a broader perspective both Kalidasa and Vilom failed in their lives but their failures have different dimensions. Kalidasa got everything in his life but failed to decide what to select or reject at the appropriate time. As a poet he may be successful but in life he failed. He loved one woman and married another, his soul was always in the country side and in nature and lives in royal palace. Something has gone wrong in the life of Kalidasa. On the other hand Vilom lived in the surroundings of nature but he did not have extra ordinary talent like Kalidasa to create great work of art. So he is a failure as a poet. In personal life, he loves Mallika and Mallika loves Kalidasa, again a failure in love life. Though Mallika does not love him but his love for Mallika is true.

Manjiri takes Kalidasa to Kashmir as a ruler but in few years the subject of Kashmir revolted against the rule of Kalidasa and Manjiri. Kalidasa loses everything. Mallika heard from people that Kalidasa renounced everything and became a sanyasi. But Mallika who knows

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everything about Kalidasa knew that he would never become a sanyasi because being an artist he loves life.

One night in a very depressed and pathetic condition Kalidasa appeared at Mallika's door. Kalidasa came back to Mallika's place on the same day of Aashadh (rainy) as he left the village for Ujjaini. On the same kind of rainy day Mallika and Kalidasa soaked many a times. The same day of Aashadh he returned again but this time he was a ruined man. The hypocrisy, artificiality, materialism and unnecessary customs of life have broken him completely. At this critical juncture of his life he came back to restart once again the same old life in the company of his true love Mallika and nature. The dramatist makes the audience to believe that now these lovers will unite and live happy and fulfilled life hereafter. Upon his arrival Mallika shows him all his books that she collected. She even has shown Kalidasa the blank book bind for him to write a great epic.

Mallika and Kalidasa were born for each other. They long for union their entire life. They have strong desire to embrace each other. Their many hopes and expectations, time to clear misunderstandings, strong attraction for each other all seems to come to an end. A new life was about to start, an incomplete life of two lovers was to be completed. But destiny has other plans. At that moment Vilom appears and says to Kalidasa,

'It is as if life doesnot exit outside of you. There is no one but you. But, kalidasa, time is not so cruel. It gives privileges and powers to others.....It gives opportunities to others.'

Within few seconds the longings, desires, expectations, hopes were all shattered. Everything seems to be wasted, the illusion cleared and only left fragments.

When Vilom appears, he was fully drunk. In drama whenever Kalidasa came at Mallika's place, Vilom was always there. When Kalidasa was about to leave for Ujjaini, when Kalidasa came to the village but did not turn up to see Mallika. Now Kalidasa came back leaving everything behind, Vilom again here. Seeing Vilom, Kalidasa gets furiated and tells him, 'Go away from here Vilom.'

Vilom replays,

'You are back to claim the land which you abandoned years ago? Because you have permanent right over it?

Now the twist starts uncovering. Mallika waited for a long like an eternal surrenders to the one sided love of Vilom and married to him. Now this house where Kalidasa standing is house of Vilom and Mallika wife of Vilom. The readers were shocked and raised many

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questions in their mind. Why did Mallika marry Vilom? Though Vilom did not have talent as a poet is but his love for Mallika is sincere? May be Mallika has an idea that how one feels when one does not get his love? May be Vilom should not face the pains of rejected lover? May be Mallika married for her livelihood?

Accepting the request of the guest, when Vilom was about to leave there comes a voice of a baby crying from interior room. At that moment Vilom sarcastically says,

‘Mallika, see to it that Kalidasa has everything he needs for his comfort. A guest who has come for the first time in many years may, or may not, come again.’

The destiny is merciless, it does not understand feelings and emotions. Mallika’s selfless love for Kalidasa and Kalidasa’s love for Mallika is mercilessly ruined. Meanwhile when Mallika went to take baby from the room, Kalidasa takes the blank book made by Mallika for Kalidasa to write a great epic, disappears in the dark night. With the baby in her lap Mallika ran after Kalidasa and calls his name several times. When she was about to put her leg out of the threshold in the dark rainy night, she looks at the baby and stops. There is thunder of the clouds, lightening, the first rain of aashadh continued. Earlier it was Mallika and Ambika and now Mallika and the baby, it completes a circle.

In this way Mohan Rakesh has presented an imaginative love story based on the legends of Kalidasa. But the way author has created an ancient atmosphere in the play is commendable. The drama ends with an unhappy note but it presents a reality that we cannot get what we want but we get what is in our destiny.

## REFERENCES

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