



CONCEPT OF REAL HOME OR A REAL WAY OF LIVING IN THE WORLD FULL OF VARIATIONS AND CORRUPTIONS IN BADAL SIRCAR'S PROCESSION

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ABSTRACT

This paper is about the play called Procession written by the famous playwright Badal Sircar. Most of the plays of Badal Sircar are based on the concept of Third Theatre and among than the best known plays are: Bhoma, Procession, State News etc. The present play, Procession is the most famous play of Sircar. This play covers the concept of 'real home' or we can say 'a real way of living' in the contemporary world which is full of different types of deviations and corruptions. He seems to give a message to these people about their rights. Moreover, Sircar has rightly ridiculed the people who are money minded, selfish and who only value materials or wealth. This play is full of the corruption and the morality that one has in our society. Let us try to understand this by the following discussion.

Key words: Real Home, Corruption, Third Theatre, New generation, Old generation, Police, Society.

INTRODUCTION

Badal Sircar is one of the most popular Indian playwrights and he is popularly known as a 'barefoot playwright'. He is the one who is associated with a new theatrical movement in India. Unlike Mohan Rakesh who uses the historical characters in order to describe the moral and social breakdown of modern society, Sircar mostly uses contemporary life. Sircar has been known for the creation of a 'Third Theatre', a theatre which is created and supported by the people. This theatre has shown the composite of a four-way flow of the influence- "Actor to Actor, audience to actor, actor to audience and audience to audience."

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1P a g e



Most of the plays of Badal Sircar are based on the concept of Third Theatre and among than the best known plays are: *Bhoma*, *Procession*, *State News* etc. The present play, *Procession* is the most famous play of Sircar. This play covers the concept of ‘real home’ or we can say ‘a real way of living’ in the contemporary world which is full of different types of deviations and corruptions. The imagination of the playwright has reached to its best as he shows the world where there is no corruption and exploitation. Here, no man lives by exploiting others. The play has two major characters who are representatives of two different generations. The man named Khokha is a representation of the new generation where is the character called old man is the representation of the old generation. Thus, the play is a very good example of the ideal way to live life.

Procession is a play originally titled as *Michhil* and is published in year 1983 along with the other two plays or Sircar as a collection titled ‘Three plays’. The play has been a huge success like his other play and that is the reason it is translated into so many languages and has been staged in so many cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi etc. The language of the play is quite simple so that many people can be associated with the idea of the play. The play also supports the idea of directly communicating with audience. The bodies of the actors on the stage are actually used as symbols and image and at the same time this aspect of the play creates humour along with the satire.

The play starts with five characters who are given their names in the strange way unlike any traditional drama. They are names as: one, two, three, four, and five. The meaning of the play shows the connectivity of the actors and the audience. The actors perform amidst the crowd or audience and thus it is hard to tell who is an actor and who is a spectator. The play starts with the character Khokha which means ‘a boy’ in Bengali. Khokha enters the stage and on to the acting area he comes while screaming. He falls on the stage dead as his dead body is being surrounded by the chorus that burst in. However, there is a strange thing happening on the stage as Khokha dies again and gains. The action is repeated several times on the stage and the audience is quite surprise by this. It has been done by him in order to make the police understand about his dead. However, his effort to make the police understood goes in vain. Police do not seem to understand that. Thus, Khoka says to the audience:

“I was killed... Me, I was killed today. I was killed yesterday. I was killed the day before yesterday... Last week, Last Month. Last year. I am killed every day.” (Procession, 17)

After this, he remains invisible and the scenes from the day to day life are happening around him some daily tongue-in-check has been used and some of the scenes which are extremely violent along with the scenes that are farcical in their approach. The other actors are also of



great importance as they continuously transform the space of the performance by putting their bodies around in order to describe streets, a procession of funeral, means of transportation and other objects too which is certainly a unique thing as far as a play is concerned. However, the play has been a kind of satire too as the police does not seem notice the dead body even when everybody around him says that there is a dead body. Even the dead body of Khoka seems to tell him that he has been killed. This is the politics and corruption by which our country is filled. However, Sircar does not want this to happen in future as he gives a perfect treatment to characters in order to suggest that the nation will be. The playwright beautiful portrays the scenes of communal violence, the, military, the streets where everything is happening and other things as well as. All these are portrayed with the help of actors who transform themselves into things. The actors pass from both the sides of actors and they seem to search Khokha or his dead body as he is missing. There are also the men who offer the items for sale. They all are in search of Khoka as it is also announced on the radio and wireless. The people too begin the searching as they describe his physics, looks and feature: “One: Have any of you seen Khoka?

Two: Snub nose, big eyes, little in wisdom, little in wisdom, little in knowledge?” (Procession, 13)

The name of Khokha is hard everywhere a she is coaxed to return. The old man describes his details and tells the audience about the real meaning of Khokha. It means as ordinary boy who lives in an ordinary home. Here, Sircar talks about the real home and the real way of living. Our society is full of corruption and politics. The major concern here is to show the real way to the new society where there will be no corruption and no exploitation. The playwright shows the new approach and the new perspective where everyone thinks in positive manner and no one will live by exploiting others and the society in which every individual acts according to his/her ability and get what he/she deserved on the basis of his/her needs. The play most often than not deals with the mockery of the policies for people, the follies of police exploitation, the way truth is crushed, and the way people use it for their advantage. However, this is one of the most unique ways to present characters. Thus, it can be said that Sircar has certainly elevated egalitarian civilization in this play with this regard, Manchi S. Baby says,

“In equality is an indispensable part of civilization and so egalitarianism destroy civilization. That is way the Master tells the people that communism is the greatest enemy of civilization.” (Babu S, 1997)

However, it can also be seen that Badal Sircar has mirrored the unfortunate condition and the tragic plight of the people of the period of colonization. He exposes the strategies and the policies of those in power in order to provide justice to the present working people. By this



play he wants people to be aware of the co-existing colonial policies by which these innocent and hard-working people are being exploited by the more powerful people. Thus, he seems to give a message to these people. Thus, he seems to give a message to these people about their rights. Moreover, Sircar has rightly ridiculed the people who are money minded, selfish and who only value materials or wealth. These upper class and should learn to value the labour class and should not behave rudely with this hard-working class. However, because of these concerns we can certainly say that the play *Procession* advocates the concept of 'Real Home' or 'Real Way of Living' in the society like ours where people are corrupt and the society like ours where people are corrupt and the poor people are exploited without any fault. So, the playwright wishes the society not to follow these ill-practices and to learn to behave in good manner with each individual.

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