



## **DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR'S *THE BUDDHA AND HIS DHAMMA* : A TREASURE OF SIMILES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 'Buddha and His Dhamma' must firmly fall within the canon as it is a fine literary work which can be proved in the light of prescribed traditional as well as modern literary parameters. The careful study reveals that various literary devices are employed by him as other writers. His language has become juicy and lucid particularly in this book. Readers never find Dr. Ambedkar in such a romantic mood in his earlier writings. He not only uses literary devices but also shows his mastery in using them. His writing makes it clear that he has tremendous command on English and treasure of words is at his command. This is also a linguistic experiment of Dr. Ambedkar. It is a new experience for readers and the literary world to read the different angle of his personality. It can be easily identified by any of Ambedkar's follower or reader that it is a different Ambedkar in BHD. There are many occasions in the book where he molds himself to serve the requirement of a literary writing. It shows that he has taken all efforts to produce a quality literary document. There are numbers of instances which easily can prove that he can surpass any contemporary literary figure.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Ambedkar has not contributed in the form of poetry or drama. But it does not mean that he is not aware of various literary devices. He has employed several various literary devices

**DR. UMESH B. BANSOD**

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in *BHD*. The book is full of various literary devices, spread everywhere in the book. Literary devices like allegory, alliteration, antithetic Parralism, apostrophe, heroic narrative, gospel style, epic style, literature of praise, tragic elements, autobiographical elements, climax, euphemism, hyperbole, imagery, figure of speech interrogation, rhetorical questions, irony, use of legal perspective, litotes, metaphor, metonymy, mythological references, onomatopoeia, parables, paradox, pathos, personification, repetition, riddles, supernatural elements ,riddles, transfer epithet, synecdoche and many other literary devices are amply employed by Dr. Ambedkar in the book.

The simple but a language full of various literary devices leads to a poetic language. Dr. Ambedkar never wrote poetry but he has lived an epic life. There are many sentences and paragraphs in *BHD* which are not less than a poetry. There is a rhythm in his logic. He himself is a man of adjectives. He is the source of inspiration for millions. Entire Dalit literature in India stands firm on the foundation provided by him.

*Following evidences are sufficient to prove whatever is claimed.*

*They bathed her, robed her in a dress, anointed her with perfumes and decked her with flowers in a manner fit to meet some divinity. (p.3)*

*By your skill in expressing the heart's feelings, by your coquetry, your grace, and your perfect beauty ye can enrapture even women, how much more easily men (p.15)*

*"Ordinary women captivate simple men; but they are truly women, who subdue the nature of high and hard."<sup>1</sup>*

*"Courtesy is the balm of women; courtesy is the best ornament; beauty without courtesy is like a grove without flowers. (p.19)*

*There are many such examples which show how prose becomes poetry in Dr. Ambedkar's BHD.*

### Similes in abundance:

A simile involves an explicit comparison of two unlike things using the words "as" or "like." Dr. Ambedkar has used similes the most. Comparison with the help of similes is his favorite style. Several superb similes are used by him in the novel. e.g. Bearing the Bodhisatta in her womb like oil in a vessel for ten lunar months(p.4), Lumbini Grove seemed like the heavenly Cittalata grove or like a banqueting pavilion adorned for a mighty king.(p.4), the prince wander in the woods like an elephant in the forests of Himavat, accompanied by a herd of females (p.16), creeper-like arms, lower lips red like copper, stood conspicuous with her tongue visible like the night with its lightning lashing, with eyes like lotuses, stood like the

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<sup>1</sup> ibid p.16

lotus goddess Padma, (p.17), bright like fresh resin-juice(p.18) beauty without courtesy is like a grove without flowers.(p.19), Like an elephant with an arrow in his heart, he was full of pain.(p.21), his bull like eye, and his beauty, bright like gold, his broad chest, and his voice deep as a drum or a cloud (p.38), their faces streaming with tears like large lotuses beaten by the rain.(p.42) like a crow attacking a rock, the evil passions left Gautama in disgust.(p.74) Just as a clean cloth free from black specks properly takes the dye(p.145) I am like a sailor whose ship after a mishap has reached the other bank. I am like an unprotected aged person who has found protection. I am like the blind that has got new sight.<sup>2</sup>(p.199)

These and many such examples are in plenty in the book. The close study reveals that Dr. Ambedkar has made maximum use of similes in *BHD*.

## CONCLUSION:

The luxury of similes in *Buddha and His Dhamma* reveals the fact that Dr. Ambedkar writes not only for brain but also for heart. His exploit using similes provides lusciousness to his logically laced discourse. Selection of his language serves his purpose selectively on selected occasions. The scholars or any reader whoever may go through Dr. Ambedkar's writings will definitely find a difference in prose style, selection of words, similes, metaphors, change in temperament, and many other literary devices used by Dr. Ambedkar in '*BHD*' and his rest of the writings.

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<sup>2</sup> ibid p.199



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