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## IMPARTING HUMAN VALUES IN SAROJINI NAIDU'S THE SOUL'S PRAYER

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### ABSTRACT

*Poetry is when an emotion has found its thoughts and the thought has found words. The prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart. The present article seeks to explore the human values, described in the poem The Soul's Prayer.*

### HUMAN LIFE

"In order to lead a meaningful life, you need to cherish others, pay attention to human values and try to cultivate inner peace. For this inner peace, we need a soul's prayer." Sarojini Naidu was a great poet to explicate the human values [ Life, emotion, thoughts, death] through her poetry.

### SAROJINI NAIDU

The bulk of Sarojini Naidu's poetry in small, disappointingly small. Yet, she was a born poet. She began composing poems at quite an early age of eleven. Sarojini herself gives a vivid account of the beginning of her poetical career.

"One day when I was eleven. I was sighting over a sum of Algebra, it wouldn't come right, but instead a whole poem came to me suddenly I wrote it down." From that day poetic career began. She has rightly been called the "Nightingale of India", and "a singing bird." After India's independence on August 15, 1947, Sarojini Naidu was appointed the Governor of Uttar Pradesh

and was warmly welcomed by the people of the state. Sarojini performed her duties well, Sarojini was actually a self sacrificing patriot and a dream weaving poetess.

### LIFE AND DEATH

Sarojini Naidu is the significant poetess. She has a great quality to explore about life in various paths, so she is the poetess of life and love; equally she is the poetess of the challenge of suffering and pain death of life. Which enables her to look straight into the eyes of death and face it boldly too. Life and Death both according to her, constitute the mingled web of existence; life remains incomplete without a combination of both. The poet is not afraid of death she fondly asks:

"Shall my soul falter, or my body fear  
Its poignant hour of bitter suffering!"

She is really ashamed to encounter death shame facedly, she sets herself on to the unworthy task and duty of song and service to her country. When she has accomplished it, death does not hold

any fear for her, she is pitied by death, but her heroic soul challenges it and she revolts at it and returns. Naturally the poet's attitude is not quite consistent, for as Wordsworth said, "the many movements of a poet's mind" all seeks to express themselves in the poet's work. They are essentially the works of a poet and not of a philosopher and so no coherent philosophy of life is to be expected. Accordingly there is in Sarojini Naidu's poem The soul's prayer she carves for "Earths utmost bitter, utmost sweet" and wishes to be spared no bliss, no pang of pain and the prayer says the lord, shall be granted; her soul shall know all rapture and despair, pain and suffering. So far from crushing the poet, humanize her.

The soul's prayer express the twinship of life and death in its closing lines:-

"Life is a prism of my light  
And Death is shadow of my peace."

Life and Death are inspirably one and the poetess gains strength at an awareness of this fact to meet sorrows and sufferings lightly. In her poem transience she depicts the momentariness of life's Joys and Sorrows.

### SONGS OF LIFE

The Soul's prayer is notable for its depth and sincerity of feeling. One may mark the clear Shelleyan note in the closing lines of the poem

"I bending from my sevenfold height  
Will teach thee of my quickening grace  
Life is a prism of my light  
And Death the shadow of my face."

Here the poetess differentiates between living and existing. Inanimate objects and forces of nature, merely exist, while human beings alone live. A mountain or a river exist on the map, but human beings live and their existence is changed into life only when they experience the difficulties, sorrows and suffering of life and face them boldly.

Sarojini's view of life is essentially heroic. Life is a constant process of struggle against sorrow and suffering, against difficulties and failures which shatter our beautiful dream of life. This struggle will exhaust them and wear out their energy and strength and violent desires which remain unrealised will wound their hearts and tear their souls to pieces.

### PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

The poem embodies Sarojini's philosophy of life. Life is more real than dream, larger than existence and greater than personal experience. It is all these, and get more. It encompasses and transcends the partial and final the individual and the immediate and the actual and the imaginary. It tests the moral fibre of the individual and proves the soul's hunger for greatness.

"Lord, Thou didst answer stern and low:

Child, I will hearken to thy prayer,  
And thy unconquered soul shall know

All passionate rapture and despair."

Sarojini acknowledges God's answer to her prayers, and is assured that God would need to her prayers. The almighty deals with her in a stern but down to earth manner. The poetess clearly shown the value of human life in this poem.

### CONCLUSION

Suffering shall purge and purify her soul of all that is gross and unholy. Thus purified, her soul would understand the eternal truth that God the eternal is the source both of life and Death. They are two different aspects of his personality the two sides of same coin. Life is the beautiful, colourful light emanating from him; Death is but the dark shadow cast by God's face. Both should be equally welcome. Realization of this truth alone can result in spiritual peace. Sarojini Naidu is the poetess has unique quality to write about human values. Human beings should know about life and death, they have to restrict all the obstacles and get success in their life.

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