

What Jayanth Mahapatra Means by "Cultural Destruction" in "The Whorehouse in a Calcutta Street"

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ABSTRACT:

One of Jayanta Mahapatra's poems is titled "The Whorehouse in a Calcutta Street," and it describes a whorehouse seen on a Calcutta street, complete with its own unique brand of street light, path, hatched, whispers going around, secret talks, beautiful love, sexual fulfillment, and brief lifespan. Our traditions, values, and social structure are as inseparable as the two sides of a coin. Although poetry is metaphorical in nature, it always depicts society properly. Poet of worldwide renown Jayanta Mahapatra tackles the most pressing challenges facing his home state of Odisha in his poems, providing a powerful window into the state's true predicament. His poetry is founded on the everyday life of Orissa and the history, myth, and tradition of his environment, as well as modern Indian circumstances, life, and existence.

Key words : Extreme poverty, patriarchy, love, and lust.

INTRODUCTION:

The poetry of Mahapatra taps into the depths of the human soul. When it comes to Indian English poets, Mahapatra has one of the most haunting and challenging styles. Mahapatra's *The Whorehouse on a Calcutta Street* is widely regarded as one of his greatest works. Mahapatra gives an inside look at a prostitute's routine and personality. In this case, the prostitute only chooses to engage in prostitution due to financial need. According to Mahapatra, Calcutta is one of India's poorest cities. The city of Calcutta was portrayed as a "whorehouse in a Calcutta street" in his poetry. Despite Mahapatra's realistic depiction of women, he is

also capable of idealizing them, like in "The Indian Way."

Evidence of this may be seen in her actions and interactions with clients in which she provides sexual services. The prostitute rushes the customer in a harsh voice, implying that she has no feelings for the client and is only treating him like a cash register so that she may cash in. Mahapatra has described the thoughts and feelings of the males who frequent the whorehouse, and he has not neglected to include the concerns of the women who frequent the same establishment. Prostitution, illegal acts, and adultery are all connotations of the term "whore." In the poem's opening words,

the reader and potential consumers are invited to "Walk right in. It belongs to you.(1). These lines illustrate the patriarchal mindset prevalent in Indian society, in which males see women primarily as objects to be used and consumed. The designer of the Whorehouse itself acted as go-between with each individual prostitute.

Poetically speaking, the room's ability to talk would allow it to tell the world about the prostitute's plight. The empty structure of the whorehouse is proof that the clientele had a good time there. The poet's words let us see the world as it really is, a world where we may empathize with one another's struggles. Meanwhile, it would take pleasure in the sexiness of women. The phrase "smiling into the lighted street" (2)

The poet isn't trying to convey anything about a romantic pairing in this poem. However, it aspires to reflect the sexual appetites of the public at large. As a man, I can relate to the need to have sex with someone of the opposing sex. The men's gaze has always drifted to the obscenity of the "Others" as we read the newspaper, wall posters, Hoardings, magazine, or digital blog. The attempts of commerce and other types of housing to depict women as sex objects are exposed by Mahapatra with a tone of mordant sarcasm. As a representation of a poet, she is only a heartless marketing tool.

“Think of the women

you wished to know and haven't

The faces in the posters, the public hoardings
And who are all there together,

**those who put the house there, for the
startled eye so fall upon,
where pasts join, and where they
part.”**

The whorehouse is a place where the customer may hope so see some faces resembling those which he had seen in the posters and for whom he had burning desire. We don't come to conclusion whether they are happier while they are giving the physical happiness to others. We should know the darker sides of the whore... **“The secret moonlight of the women left behind their false chatter” (3)**

Then the poet tried to expose the mixed emotions of the society by the feelings of the guilty person who uttered the whorehouse first time. They would ready to inquire her family, children and other things by their intimate talk before their act. But she emotionlessly expressed her feelings... **“Hurry, will you? Let me go.” (4)**. According to him she may be his first attempt but not her. She may utter the sayings and inquires quite often in her routine life.

Mahapatra describes the activities of whore and her customer side by side; their activities and mind setup have been accurately portrayed with exact expressions. Sex trade is very common in India, but Mahapatra has brought out it in a realistic way in his Hunger and his The Whore House in Calcutta .

Because she was ready to serve her customers wish. By the end of her act she won't get an emotional touch with her customers. She urges the customer to hurry up and let her go. Every prostitute wants to get rid of a customer as soon as she can because she is hoping that some other customer would soon come. She is concerned only with the commercial aspect of the whole transaction.

According to me, she received the inner feelings and ugliness of the every customer (men) by the end of her act. The mentality of men won't change until their sexual desires winded up.

The poem begins with the instruction of the protagonist who does not know how to find a whorehouse in the streets Calcutta city and ends with the woman asking him to leave when she is in a hurry to receive new customer.

**“You fall back against her
in the dumb light,**

While she does what she thinks proper to please you, The sweet, the little things, the imagined;
Until the statute of the man within You’ve believed in throughout the years Comes back to you, a disobeying toy...
her words dose behind: “Hurry, will you? Let me go.” “Hurry, will you? Let me go.”

CONCLUSION:

“The Whorehouse in a Calcutta Street” struggled with the daily suffering endured by these prostitutes. A client approaches the establishment in the poem with high expectations of seeing the attractive hookers shown on the posters and billboards outside. The whore's request that he complete his turn quickly so that she may leave for another client, however, causes him to feel guilty and ashamed and teaches him more about the women. In today's world, love is a thing of the past. She is peddling fleeting pleasure rather than love, so don't expect it to stick around for long.

WORK CITED:

Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies
ISSN: 2321-8819 (Online) 2348-7186
(Print) Impact Factor: 1.498 Vol.4, Issue 6,
May 2016