

Patriotic Values in Wake Up, Mother India by V. V. Hadap Mr.

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Abstract:

V. V. Hadap was most influential bilingual writer of India. His most of the novels are written in Marathi. Though he was born and brought up in Ratnagiri, one of the districts of Maharashtra, his novels occupy big canvas of setting. He is remarkable for his contribution of historical novels which are based on the struggle for independence. It is a series of six novels which exposes the real picture of struggle against the British Raj. The first novel, Wake Up, Mother India which was written in 1948, talks about the necessity of the struggle to get freedom. It unlocks the hearts of the common people and encourages them to jump into the well of risk and achieve the goal of freedom. The writer was ready to leverage himself to greatness and achieve great results by contributing such hilarious series. He took the right road map in his hand and showed the miserable picture of the common Indian People.

Key Words: *struggle, independence, British Raj, freedom, hilarious etc.*

Introduction:

Mother India Awake is the first novel from the series of novels. It is most important novel from the series because it makes a suitable background to next coming five novels. It is set in different parts of India, particularly Mumbai, Ayudhya, Ramnagar and Amritsar. The characters are also from the different areas of India. Everybody is trying to contribute his or her excellent in waking up their Mother India. The title of the novel itself exposes what exactly the purpose of the writer would be. The title exposes that every human beings who are either suffering from the terrible government of the Britain or just enjoying the government of Britain are trying to wake up their Mother India. Thus, the title is most suitable and tempting. It even highlights on the general aspects of common human beings who always feel that except the departure of British people, it would be difficult for anybody in India to think positively and the goodness of their own people. In fact, the title is most encouraging and inspiring. When the readers take this novel to read, they swiftly follow all pages one by one and come to the conclusion that title itself encouraged them to read this novel. It shows all the historical events which took place during the struggle of independence. The novel occupies only ten years of duration; particularly it begins in 1920 and just focuses on the journey of the protagonist, Harkishan from the First World War to his imprisonment. It obviously seems that how the protagonist himself is engaged in waking up his

own mother India. The journey of the protagonist from Mumbai to Amritsar and then Ramnagar exposes how he engaged in making the energy among the people, particularly the common people like the farmers, the labourers, the working class and even some who were engaged in the political activities. It is the eminent picture of protagonist's journey. It is not just a journey from one place to another but it is his spiritual journey in which he wants a total freedom to his mother India. The title even highlights on the major issues which may be focus in the core part of the novel such as Jallianwala Bag hatyakand, Savinay kaydehbang, Rowlatt Act, the revolt of the farmers and the policy of British government 'break and rule'. In short, the title has capability to show the concrete picture of the struggle of the common people for their own rights and for the freedom their Mother India.

In one of the interviews, the writer of asked why he wrote such a series of the novels. He just exposed his purpose that he wanted to make aware among the people. It was very essential to write this series to make the consciousness among the people and to know to the coming generation how people sacrificed for the freedom of India. The first novel from the series, *Mother India Awake* depicts some historical events through the imaginative atmosphere. The novel deals with some imaginative and lifelike characters. They have ability to stand alone to expose the condition of the country. The protagonist of the novel, Harkishan himself thinks that the purpose of his life is just to give the freedom to his mother India. Actually, he was not ready to help to the British people in the First World War but he was the blind follower of Gandhiji. So he without thinking had devoted his life in the First World War. When he came back from the First World War, he found a big disparity not only among the people but also in the British government. When a writer imagines writing such series, the purpose was to make awareness among the people of how the freedom of the country is important and how the struggle of freedom will bring the Independence to their country. When novel came on the white paper, it exposed various themes and aspects which were not in the mind of the writer. In this way, the purpose of the novel is very clear; it highlights with the nuisance on some dominant historical events; particularly the Second World War and the role of Gandhiji. In entire novel, Gandhiji doesn't come on the platform, but his name is mentioned hundreds of the time as some miraculous man who is indirectly guiding the people for the struggle of freedom. Let us see how the aspect of the writer can be different from the historian:

Although historians may view and even create their histories back - to - front, the results of this view are presented here, for readability, as a kind of narrative, perhaps even as an epic drama nine thousand years long, with a monumental setting, cast of characters and even a denouement: the present. By way of prologue, this chapter will first introduce the setting by discussing India as a physical landform. We shall then consider the characters by looking, not at individuals, but at the roles they play when organized into communities and states and the ways in which community and state exclude, coexist with and modify each other. It must be borne in mind that the discussion of community and state is not a synopsis of the history to follow; it is

intended merely as a description of the political contexts in which that action will take place. (Stein, 7)

Like the historical novel, this novel has also a simple plot. The writer tried to pick up some important Historical events from the history. He doesn't put these events with the complex way, neither he tries to mingle any techniques concerning writing the novels. He simply developed every event and incident with a nuisance and attempted to give the justice to the every event. For example, Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh hatyakand are two dominant issues which have been discussed in the novel and the writer succeeded to give the proper justice to these heartbreaking events. When the readers read these events in the books of history, they feel pity about these horrible incidents which took place before the Independence. These incidents encourage the readers and make them ready to sacrifice themselves for the sake of their country. It is a skill of the writer who tried to bind various events in one chain; even he didn't lose any beauty or essence of the novel. He introduced many imaginative events and characters throughout the novel. It is most important skill of the writer of connecting the events to the characters and the characters to the events.

The sense of the writer of introducing such new events in the form of the novel was a challenging task, but he accepted this challenge and gave the justice to every kind of incidents. He neither violated the historical beauty of the events nor tried to put up these events in a hyperbolic way. The effects of these events are really heart touching. It is a remarkable skill of the writer to develop the plot of the novel with the new sense, new beauty, and new smell to the same events and incidents. Actually history functions to encourage and inspire the human beings but this encouragement and inspiration doesn't remain for a long time; when the same events have been exposed through the art of novel, then the effect of such events remain for a long time on the mind of the readers. It is a talent of the writer who tried to build all these events in a particular chain and gave justice to the plot of the novel.

When the setting of the novel is considered, the writer leads the reader to different parts of the country. When the First World War took place, some soldiers had fought by the side of the British government. So they had left their country. Very few incidents have been portrayed in the novel where Indian soldiers fought on the boundary of China and Japan. This description comes in very few paragraphs in the novel. The major part of the novel has been set in four important towns of India Ramnagar in Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai in Maharashtra, and two other religious places like Amritsar and Ayodhya. Most of the characters in the novel are from the same regions. They keep their relationship with other regions; as a result the setting of the novel expands. The time is First World War and afterwards. Places which already mentioned above show how the characters are interlinked to each other and try on their level best to show their affinity in creating the awareness among the common people about their Mother India to whom they always help to wake up.

When the characters, particularly the protagonist of the novel comes to Mumbai and finds out how the people in Mumbai are influenced by the moment of the freedom, he feels affinity and

inspiration from the workers, and labourers in different kind of companies. He comes to know that the devotion of these common people is really noteworthy. When he goes to Amritsar and there finds some people of critical nature who just are thinking about their own existence and not the existence of their country or the existence of the people who are living around them. It is a remarkable thing that most of the characters weaved in the novel perform their villainous activities and expose that they don't think about their country; they just pretend that they are in the love of their country. In real sense, they don't want the British government to be stopped and start their own government. These people are like the crocodile. They just pretend that they are helping the freedom fighters but in fact they are far away from the situation and even their inner doesn't support them to support those who are fighting for their Mother India. In this way, the novel is set in different towns of India. There is a inter link between all these towns and all the characters from these towns. They are in directly connected to the one and same purpose of encouraging their country to awake and be ready for the struggle to get the freedom. We find the essence in the following quote by Lukacs:

It would of course be a dangerous exaggeration to take this polemical sally too literally, to stretch it too far. Aeschylus is protesting here, quite rightly, against the external character of Euripides' conception, whereby Oedipus's destiny becomes a "destiny" in the sense of a mechanically inescapable fate. The majority of heroes of the really great tragedies are in no way 'inevitably doomed simply because of their character. They are in no way, to use a modern phrase, "problematic beings". Take Antigone, Romeo, Lear, Othello, Egmont etc. Before their dramatic essence can be released they have to encounter a concrete and definite collision. They do not encounter just any collision which might embody, as it were by accident, an abstract general principle of the tragic as many theorists of the eighteenth century believed. (Lukacs, 121)

When we think about the theme of the novel, the thematic view exposes how the writer, particularly focuses on the theme of the struggle of the freedom. Except this theme, he focuses on the exploitation of the common people, the terrible condition of the freedom fighters, the nature of landlords and capitalists, the psychology of the Government and the issues concerning to the British government and its way of treating Indian people like the dogs. The writer at one hand, concentrates on a single theme of struggle for the freedom; on the other hand, he gives the justice to various other sub themes. His attempts of giving justice to various themes leads him to be the prominent writer about writing the novels concerned to the freedom of the country. The readers come to know, the dual nature of Hindu and Muslim people throughout the novel regarding the communal harmony. In the same novel, the writer sows the seeds of religious harmony which has been destructed due to the rule of British government 'break and rule'. It seems that the characters in the novel are not happy with the performance of the British government.

The authority is always engaged to trap the major characters and send them to the prison without any dominant reason. The protagonist of the novel Harkishan is also the victim of the same

instinct. He had participated in the First World War due to the advice of Gandhiji. When he came from the war, he was imprisoned for misguiding a lady, Rampyari. It was not his any fault but Rampyari complained against him as he had destroyed the moral of Rampyari. In this way, various themes besides the theme of struggle for the freedom have been justified by the writer by giving a proper place and value to each and everything throughout the novel. He always thought that many issues concerning the freedom of the country are important and they should be judged equally and give them the importance throughout the development of the novel.

When we try to take a snapshot of the novel, we just concentrate on the major issues which have been exposed throughout the novel; particularly the image of Gandhiji. Gandhiji was the father of the nation; he was the anchor, guide and supporter of the common people. He was a man of encouragement; he was a man of enthusiasm and so on. Such type of image has been portrayed through the aspect of the freedom fighters. On the other hand, there were some negative aspects looking at the Mother India of few greedy people. They always thought that Gandhiji is the enemy of the country. Except the image of Gandhiji, we have other important issues discussed in the novel; they are generally the Jallianwala Bagh hatyakand, the first world, Gandhiji's role in uniting the Hindu Musalman, the importance of Rowlatt Act, the black magic of British government in 'break and rule' policy and the revolt of the farmers. All these events are very important and they try to expose the relationship between the British government and Indian affinity for their own government. The struggle is very strong and the rising stars like Harkishan, who represents Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, thinks that his mother India should awake and be ready to fight against the British government. Every young person in the form of Harkishan was fighting against the government. The people from old generation, particularly, Bhopal Singh, Mata Prasad, and Rai Sahib Paliwal were playing the role of villains. They were trying to mislead the young generation who was fighting for the freedom of the nation. The dominant issues of Rowlett Act and Savinay kaydebhang are encouraged by Gandhiji and Mohammad Ali Jinnah equally. The poet, Iqbal's role in the motivation of national integration is most important. Percival Spear gives an account of Iqbal's role:

It was at this time that the poet Sir Muhammad Iqbal came forward in 1930 with a proposal for a separate Muslim homeland in the northwest. In his treasured poems and widely read philosophic writings he had already provided a young Islam with an ideology more vigorous and acceptable than the Sayyid's rather dated occidentalism and Anglicism. Independence and self reliance were his theme. Islam was a dynamic religion whose secret was the progress of the soul towards freedom through constant striving. The west was sunk in materialism and would perish from the evils of its own inventions. Here was a message at once invigorating and apparently intellectual, something in tune with the urge to action of the time. Expressed in glowing and melodious verse, it gave new heart to the Aligarh class of Muslim and prepared him for the campaign which was to follow. (Spear, 227-228)

One of the most important incidents weaved in the novel is Jallianwala Bagh hatyakand. In this incident, almost two thousand Indian people were massacred. They were innocent and had been murdered by General Dyer. He gave the command to the police to attack on those people who had gathered for the meeting against the British government. Actually he had not any right to attack on the innocent people of India. This event became more harmful to the unity and inner peace of the country; so the general young generation, particularly the people like Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev thought that General Dyer should be murdered and Bhagat Singh himself tried to throw the bomb on General Dyer and murder him. The novel highlights on the issue of the death of the innocence and destruction of the inner peace of the country. We just feel the affinity about the victims in the pages of the book of history, but when the same incident is exposed by any writer, every person becomes more conscious and more empathetic about the ugly aspects of the British government. There were some nasty illusions in the mind of General Dyer regarding the Indian community. He is shown responsible to break down the unity among the people by attacking on them and giving the birth to the violence. Gandhiji's moment was based on the non-violence but General Dyer encouraged to the violence. That is why, the death of the thousands of the people became the cause for the death of General Dyer. In this way, the event of Jallianwala Bag massacre is most dominant through which the writer tries to encourage the new generation to get up and be ready against the government and help Mother India to awake.

First world war was also one of the remarkable events depicted in the novel which was based on the philosophy of nationalism. India has great history about the contribution of the political leaders like Ashoka and Samudragupta in the ancient times and in mediaeval times the kings like Akbar and Aurangzeb. But the national integrity and identity was not the major issues in their contemporary period. In 19th century the British government tried to exploit the people of India. Hence, the national identity and national consciousness became more dominant in the growth of the country. The First World War is also one of the symbols of the national identity. British government encouraged to the Indian people to fight by the their side to prove their National identity; but most of the people thought that to help the British people in the war means to destroy their harmony and unity. It was the advice of Gandhiji, so the characters like Harkisan and his brother Ramkishan deliberately participated in the First World War and gave the victory to the British. Their devotion proved useless as when they came from the war, they had been imprisoned for the simple causes. The government never wanted to have such type of people who are really dangerous for the growth of the British Empire and the smoothness of the British government. In this way, First World War is also most important event portrayed in the novel. It tries to connect two different philosophies; a philosophy concerning the British Raj as a good for the health of the country and other British Raj as really harmful for the development of the country.

As the French revolution was based on the liberty, fraternity and equality, the Indian freedom struggle was based on the unity, harmony and affinity among the people. Unfortunately, the British government tried to break down the same thing among the people so that they would be possible to destroy the unity among the Indian people. Their policy of 'break and rule' became

more a dominant throughout the novel, which also helped in First World War to encourage the British Raj and win the war. This war is one of the issues which encouraged to the anti-colonial movement against the British Raj. India had been suffering from the social, economic and political factors which had been inspired by the people who defined and achieved their first national identity. The new generation never wanted to follow this false identity; instead they wanted to create their own identity and fight against the British government. It was really shocking thing for the young generation to help the British government in the First World War. The writer simply exposes that the purpose of the First World War was to get colonial monopoly because it was a plan by the nations of Europe against the nations of particularly non European countries.

As the clouds of the First World War were hovering over the head of the European countries, England requested and appealed to the Indian leaders to help them in the war. Actually Indians never wanted to help this cruel nation but there was no solution except helping them. So they put some terms and conditions and became ready to help them in the First World War. The first important term was if they help them in the war, the British government would give them the constitutional powers after the war. Unfortunately the British government took a heavy loan from different countries during the First World War which created unrest among the Indian people. This loan had to be paid by the government by increasing the revenue from the land, particularly Lagaan. Even they first appointed the youngsters from India in the British Army, and then they increased the price of important things in the life and imposed the taxes on various personal and professional incomes. This matter created chaos in the mind of Indian people. It simply created some doubts in the mind of Indian people against the British government and so they had to face protest from Indian community.

The First World War is also a responsible element for the birth of exploitative policies of British government against the farmers and workers of Champaran, Bardoli, Kheda and Ahmedabad. One more dominant effect of the first World War took place; the students from the schools and colleges had denied the degrees and left the schools. Even hundreds of the lawyers also left their practice; women also significantly contributed in the movement and their participation became more important and valuable through the guidance of Gandhiji. One more issue of the war became more prominent; it was the boycott of foreign clothes which became later on a mass movement with thousands of bonfires of foreign clothes, lighting the Indian sky. In this way, the First World War is most dominant issue and majority of the characters like Harkishan, his brother, Gopinath, hiswife Rampyari and all other major characters directly or indirectly brought out the effects of the First World War. The seeds of partition were sowed with the birth of Muslim League. Mushirul Hasan rightly puts it:

There was, after all, no blueprint of a future Pakistan in the 1930s, no Islamic flag, no visible symbol, no common platform, no shared goals and objectives. Rahmat Ali's scheme, nurtured in Cambridge, was an illustration of obscurantist political eccentricity. It caused much political embarrassment back home and was dismissed as 'chimerical' and 'impractical.' (Hasan, 6)

The rise of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in the typical Indian social and political atmosphere was not suitable for the British government. The first novel from the series introduces how Gandhiji become Mahatma, how he mediated his personal life for different social and political issues in South Africa as well as in India etc. The writer gives the brief information of the hero of the Independence or Rashtrapita, the father of nation through the mouthpiece of different characters in the novel. When Gopinath was informed about Gandhiji's struggle, he studied the character of Gandhiji and attempted to share the valuable information about Gandhiji with other characters in the novel. He shared how Gandhiji completed his training as a lawyer in Britain and how he spent his time in South Africa, how he spent almost 21 years in South Africa and became conscious about the malicious way of British government. Even in South Africa, he observed there how Indians have been treated wrongly by the British government. He decided to struggle against their policy of racial discrimination of the South African government. He invented a new technique of Satyagraha, nonviolence, and insistence for truth and Justice during the same period. When he was in South Africa, he succeeded in his struggle and returned to India in 1915. He actively participated in the social and political upheavals against British government. To get a proper foundation to his work, he founded the Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad. It was possible for him to practice the ideas of truth and nonviolence from the same place. He was a fan of the philosophy of Gopal Krishna Gokhale who advised him to walk throughout the country, particularly in the villages to understand the nature and problems of the people.

With the advice of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Gandhiji's first experiment in Satyagraha began in 1917 at Champaran in Bihar. He encouraged thousands of the peasants to struggle against the operation of plantation system of the Britain. He even encouraged to the people for Satyagraha. These people were very poor and unable to pay the revenue because of crops' failure and epidemics. It was not a different situation in Ahmedabad. He started a movement among cotton mill workers and got a great success. Since then he became the active political and social leader in the upheaval of Indian freedom. In short, the writer successfully exposes the great picture of Gandhiji which influences on the common people as well as encourages to the freedom fighters.

The protagonist, Harkishan always follows every step of Gandhiji. Though he was in prison due to the crime which he had not committed, he didn't expose anything against the issue. He spent one year in the jail and after the departure from the jail, he tries to be more active in the total panorama of struggle against the British government and to help to awake his mother India. Gandhiji was credited for making the unity between Hindu and Musalman. When Muslim League was established in 1906, Gandhiji was not in favour of this. He tried to bring Hindu and Muslim together to make the unity and fight against the British Raj for next thirty five years. He spent his much more energy in making the harmonious relationship between Hindu and Musalman but he didn't get the enough success in it because we know that his signature caused to divide the two big countries India and Pakistan in 1947. We cannot blame to Gandhiji for the participation of partition of these two countries but we just pray for his devotion to create the harmony between these two great countries of the world. The writer systematically exposes various events regarding how

Gandhiji attempted to bring the harmony in these two communities through the novel. Aijaz Ahammad rightly accounts for how the Congress' attitude led Jinnah along the line of separatism:

People like Jinnah, (...) found themselves increasingly sidelined and alienated. The advocacy of partition and Pakistan during the 1940s was for a leader such as Jinnah in some senses a reaction of fury against the frustrations accumulated through a life-time in which he had sought to combine the two prongs of his own conviction: the generality of "Hindu-Muslim unity" which he often described as his life's mission, and the specificity of what he used to call the "Muslim interest". But, then in losing commanding figures such as Jinnah, Gandhi's Congress also lost increasing proportions of the modern Muslim middle class, which came to believe that its career opportunities would be far greater in a brand new country of its own. (Ahammad, 26)

Rowlett Act is one of the major issues which has been portrayed throughout the novel. The characters in the novel directly or indirectly are concerned to the Rowlett Act which encouraged the youngsters who were interested to fight against the British government called this act the black Act. It was passed by the Imperial legislative council in 1919. It was very danger Act because the government had an opportunity to arrest anybody and even there is no provision to find out the reason of the imprisonment. This act brought a control on the press and right to arrest without warrant, indefinite detention, without trial for the political acts. It was not any provision for accuses why he has been accused. There was no facility of the trials. British government had got the right to arrest anybody who would behave against the government or would appeal against the government. Gandhiji was one of the important political leaders who extremely opposed this act and argued that everyone should be pushed in response to isolated political crimes. Even the same act brought unhappy atmosphere among the Indian political leaders and public. The law became responsible to implement repressive massacre of Jallianwala Bag. It is nothing but one of the fruits of Rowlatt Act. Indian people particularly the political leaders tried to take this Act back by a request to the government but the government was not in the mood to accept any order of the Indian political leaders. For the same reason, hartal was organised on April 6, 1919. Indians suspended all business, went on the fast and held public meeting against this act. It was a sign of the opposition and civil disobedience against the law. This event is called a Rowlett Satyagraha. The protagonist of the novel, Harkishan participated actively in this event.

Conclusion:

Hadap is one of the finest thinkers and writers on inner and outer struggle of the freedom fighters. This series shows how to discover extraordinary inner resources and tap the incredible proofs regarding the Indian Independence. This series absolutely amazes the readers to start to achieve new and better results of Indian Independence. The series contributes the great success of the writer. His ways of putting the ideas are so logical, so inviting, and ultimately so fulfilling and beneficial. In short, this series is a shining light in the speaking and writing world. He has done incredible attempts and achieved amazing success in compiling the way of historical novel. It is

full of the great adventures and explorations of common people. Besides the remarkable political leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, all other characters, though imaginative put the panorama of struggle against the British government. This series succeeds to give a wonderful experience like the novels of Chaman Nahal and Sir Walter Scott. Let us analyse the novels of this series through the aspect of historical novel and Indian Freedom movement. These novels are nothing but the harmonious interaction between the features of historical novel and the Indian Independence movement.

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