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Degradation of Moral and Ethical Values:

A Study of

Vihang.A.Naik's *Poetry Menifesto (New & Selected Poems)*

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Current society is technically heading towards the Mars but getting uprooted from morality. This double fact scenario is very well depicted in 'Poetry Manifesto (New and selected poems)' by contemporary poet Vihang A. Naik.

Naik divided this selection in eleven segments titled as: *The Poet as a Young Man, Making a Poem, A Poem Comes Alive, Poet, Love Song of a Journey Man, Mirrored Man, Self Portrait, Act the Shore, and City Times.* Dr. Jitender Aloria remarks "The poetry collection is based on many themes like religious, social, cultural, political, economic and personal history"[1]. The title segment of the poems signify so many aspects in itself. Vihang. A. Naik raises a big question mark through this title. Why a poem needs to become alive? What does the poet want to say through this title? Talking about modern generation, going away from the traditions due to the influence of western materialistic culture, young generation of India wants to become rich overnight by hook or crook. The poet shows his hope only in the poem or his poetry that when the poem comes alive, it becomes

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able to deliver proper message to the youth. It is the need of the hour because poetry is the only weapon in the hands of poets to bring forth favourable changes in society. Dr. Jitender Aloria Says "As a poet Vihang. A. Naik has also expected to enjoy colourful society by poetry. We can say that poets can change the world by his vivid poetic image."[2]

In the poem entitled *Pen*, the poet shows his great concern that these days Pen is not able to make words for poem.

These days the pen
It's at the end
Of making words
That could be
A poem for you[3]

Dr Kalyani Dixit gives her views "Contemporary Indian English poetry is an interesting amalgam of fanatical fervor, frank expression, tender feelings, feedback, platform social issues and ardent circumstances." [4]

Intolerance in the name of religion, and Caste-ism is at the peak especially in Asian sub- continent. The writers are returning their awards to protest against this. The poet raised his voice also by poems like 'The Winter Pen'. He gives a voice to his pen:

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You hear

The rattle of pain

Through your pen in turmoil [5]

There is something wrong happening in the education system also. These days the society is passing through a very dangerous and tricky side in education system. There are no effective teachings on moral and ethical values so far. Students must be taught moral and ethical values at the university levels also. Students must learn the lesson of humanity. This is what Naik wants to say in the following lines:

To love is human

You know by now

You live [6]

A poet expresses his feelings for society. He knows that the pen has has the power to bring transformation in the society. But the poet has to be optimistic. Same is the case with Naik. He is hopeful that it is possible to make some changes in society. He tries to convey his feelings through poetry.

Midwinter rain

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On the glass of window panes

Beats unseasonable report

Slams chill against your face

You wipe unexpected days. Blunt

Uncertainties scribe the city.[7]

Methew Arnold writes in his essay on criticism that poetry is at bottom a criticism of life; that the greatness of a poet lies in his powerful and beautiful appreciation of ideas to life- to the question: How to live? Vihang. A. Naik's poetry also gives the account of evil life, degradation of moral and ethical values in society. He suggests how to live through his poem titled 'A Poem Comes Alive'

The

Ink

Block

Image

Whose

A poem

Injects life

In the rib of words[8]

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The poet draws an optimistic picture through his poem. There is a hope in society to change and builds a moral and ethical structure for coming generations. The poet sees a lot of hope in poetry, and in words because strength of words is most effective medium that makes a wonderful change in human psychology.

To conclude, the poet Vihang. A. Naik gives an account of degradation of moral and ethical values through his poetry. Not only talking about them but also tries to find the causes of this problem. 'A Poem Comes Alive' shows how a poet tuned the psyche of reader from negativism to optimism. The poet successfully presents his feelings through poems and beautifully gives his message to readers.

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