



## The Spiritualism in 'A Tiger for Malgudi' by R.K.Narayan as a Motivating Factor to Transform the Contemporary Society

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*Abstract: In this present article, I would like to present how R.K Narayan in the Novel, "A Tiger for Malgudi" adroitly outlines about the life of the tiger, Raja who is very wild in the beginning, and then becomes enlightened by the spiritualism of his Master, Hermit, further confronts myriad impediments en route the infinite bliss and finally gets New Life which is the symbol of pre-consciousness of God, self-realization and Identificatiuon with the supreme.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Adroitly, Enlightened, Spiritualism, New Life, Pre-consciousness of God and Self-realisation.*

R.K.Narayan is one of the best known writers in India and Abroad. He is one of the three leading figures of early Indian literature in English alongside Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao and is credited with bringing the genre to the rest of the world. In the present novel, A Tiger for Malgudi, The spiritual powers have been permeated throughout the novel. R.K.Narayan has artistically woven the fourfold path of detached action, the path of knowledge, the path of devotion and the path of dedication for the attainment of the ultimate goal of Moksha in the life of the tiger, Raja.

R.K Narayan dexterously depicts the transforming power which takes place in the course of time through many stages in the life of the tiger, Raja. The novel offers the most enlightening discourse on the spiritual depths that can make a man fully-equipped to better the the society. The tiger, Raja undergoes the

transformation ,the transfiguration as well the threefold systems of social, moral and transcendental phases. The Tiger, Raja faces different phases in his life and finally reaches to the experience of 'Samadhi' which is a higher level of concentrated meditation or Dhyana.

"It has been described as a non-dualistic stage of consciousness in which the consciousness of the experiences subject becomes one with the experienced object, and in which the mind becomes still, one-pointed or concentrated while the person remains conscious."<sup>1</sup>

'Samadhi' is the stage of consciousness induced by complete meditation which the tiger, Raja experiences and finally acquires integration or wholeness, or truth through the teachings of his Master 'Hermit'. Etymological meaning of 'Samadhi' is a state of total equilibrium. 'Sama' means (even) and 'dhi' means



(intellect). The tiger, Raja, the unmitigated animal, finally becomes the mitigated animal and reaches to a state of total equilibrium through the spiritual teachings of his Master Hermit. R.K.Narayan uses the spiritualism as a moral instigator in the lives of the readers to achieve the same kind of unspeakable joy which the tiger, Raja, has finally attained.

The state of self-realization is evidently seen in the life of the tiger, Raja. The mundane commonalities are deserted by the tiger, Raja, so as to attain wholeness which is supernatural. It becomes possible in the life of the tiger, Raja, through the spiritualism. It is indicated that one has to get rid of worldly entanglements to involve oneself in the divine will of God to attain Moksha. The tiger, Raja, says that, "I keep scrutinizing faces, but all faces look dull and monotonous, none radiant like my master"<sup>2</sup>

The keenest observation shapes the tiger, Raja, into a different kind of Narayan hero. R.K.Narayan is able to decipher the inner urges of the tiger, Raja which symbolise the humans urges. The comprehension of the master's radiant face is the training and central point to the tiger, Raja, to be transformed into an enlightened tiger, Raja. These unique qualities in the life of the tiger, Raja, later in his life blossom to fruition and aid to attain the enlightenment which Narayan wants to unfold to his readers to teach a lesson that everyone will have a chance for the turning point and it ought not to be misused. This experience of the tiger, Raja, is universal and the people from the various walks of life happen to go through the same kind of experience.

Like every modern man, the Tiger, Raja, possesses the advanced and revolutionary ideas. At this stage of his

life, he radically posits an argument saying why God has given such a fierce make-up. The Tiger, Raja has the stream of consciousness and the despondency with equal measure. The tiger, Raja raises his voice as the humans raise the voice in distress. As the revolutionary, the tiger, Raja is given solutions in the course of time, the modern revolutionary man can also be given solutions by seeking unseen God's help or mystic power in the universe.

Another phase of the tiger, Raja is, he becomes philosophic for he is filled with the philosophical questions like who am I ?, where am I from ? there are undoubtedly the questions asked by many from the time immemorial. The questions of the tiger, Raja, are answered by his master Hermit. The supernatural powers of his master that are unseen, influences the tiger, Raja. According to Sethuraman, "Myth means originally a short narrative or epic describing events/actions relating to supernatural beings, but now used in the sense of a pattern which such stories provide for our understanding of any modern novel or story."<sup>3</sup>

In the next stage, the tiger, Raja, shows the feelings of ego and resentment which are more detrimental and self-destructive. But through the teachings of his master, the Tiger, Raja, gains control over the passions and evils of his life which is called 'Nibbana' These passions are fetters which prevent a man from reaching Moksha or the infinite bliss. The moment one knows how to be emancipated from the passions, he can find out a life of composure as the tiger, Raja, is aware. "Nibbana means enough control over passion so as to enable one to walk on the path of righteousness."<sup>4</sup>

Man is composed of two fundamental principles opposed to each other, one spiritual, The Soul (Atman) and



the other material, The Body (Sarera). The atman is eternal, immutable and indestructible where as the body is transient, mutable and destructible. Now the tiger, Raja, knows the prominence of the soul which is permanent by the teachings of his Master Hermit.

Though the tiger, Raja, is under the rigorous training of his master, but he intermittently yields up to the temptations of the mind and the body. He often goes back to his former life and does the cruel acts like nipping off the goat's head. This is the stage where the body is predominantly dominant over the spirit and carnality overcomes spirituality. As the tiger Raja, makes fellowship with the master hermit and heeds the teachings of Hermit, again he is back to spirituality, shunning greed and resentment and is led on to peace, insightfulness, enlightenment and graceful phase of being meek.

In Narayanian view, God is always in his heaven and everything is well under his benevolence. The Tiger, Raja, reaches this graceful phase of knowing God. It is a stage where the tiger, Raja, sheds his illusions, attachments and succeeds in merging himself with the universal self through the influence of his master's teachings. " the key to cosmic consciousness, to god-consciousness, is in the consciousness of the soul. To know our soul apart from the self is the first step towards the realization of the supreme deliverance."5

Now the tiger, Raja, comes to a stage to comprehend the mysteries of spirituality, life and life after death. The comprehension of the mysteries of spirituality is a stage of moral and intellectual perfection transcending the distinction between good and evil, between doubt and faith, between being and non-being. The tiger, Raja, shares his spiritual bliss and magnetic moral powers

of his master. The tiger, Raja, is wonder-struck for he understands a strange power on him. Finally the tiger, Raja, becomes enlightened through the influence of the master Hermit through meditation and devotional approach.

The philosophic views are fully comprehended by the tiger ,Raja on life, existence and death, previously the word God was unheard to the tiger, Raja. But now the description of God or the creator is clear with the spiritual power of his master. The tiger, Raja, now stands for all humans who can be transformed and can start a new life with the power of spirituality. The tiger, Raja, acquires the maturity of saints which can be described as satvik life, a deeply religious and spiritual life. K.R. Srinivas Iyengar rightly observes "There is generally a flight, an uprooting, a disturbance of order followed by a return, a restoration to normalcy."6

The tiger, Raja, gradually realizes the obstacles and illusions which hamper this process of self-realization. It's true that his identity is undergoing 'change' that leads him towards New Janma which is the symbol of pre-consciousness of God, self-realization and identification with the supreme. When one's spirit reaches the threshold of spirituality, he does not feel crushed by the weight of the world at all .

The spiritualism is the most pivotal motivating factor to transform the contemporary society. The one who is inclined towards the spiritualism can solve any kind of problem. At present, the problematic issue in the society is the lack of the spiritualism. So when one purely and whole-heartedly clings to spiritual powers can abhor evil and do good to society and can attain the infinite bliss without fail.



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