

Syed Abdul Malik - Modern Eminent Thinker of Assamese Literature

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Abstract

Syed Abdul Malik was a modern Assamese writer, born on 1919, in Golaghat district of Assam. He highlighted the varied dimensions of Assamese language, literature and cultural discussion. The *Zikir* and *Zari* songs of Assam, his own unique in itself. He played a vital role in popularizing the modern novel and short stories in Assamese literature. Malik is also a famous as a revolutionary dramatist of his contemporary age. Malik's contributions to Indian literature - *Sufi aru Sufibad* is a remarkable book. Malik has explained that indigenous Muslims are quite different from Muslims of other countries.

Keywords: *Syed Abdul Malik, Assamese, literature, Muslims, Zikir and Zari.*

Introduction:

Syed Abdul Malik was a modern Assamese writer who mainly contributed to Indian literature through Assamese language in the first half of the last century. He was born in a remote village 16th January, 1919 at Naharani, Golaghat, Assam. Malik write a first short story at 13 years age, published in Jeuti, the annual magazine of Jorhat Govt. High School. It is true that, Malik has been recognized as a popular novelist of Assamese literature since the publication of his first novel. He introduced himself as a short strong till the seventh decade of the last century. It must be mentioned that the total numbers of his books are above than 150. Malik has more than two thousand of short stories are scatted in different publication in different time frame. Mailk has contributed towards some virgin areas of Assamese literature. He highlighted the varied dimensions of Assamese language, literature and cultural discussion till his time. The *Zikir* and *Zari* songs of Assam, his own unique in itself. He seriously played a vital role in popularizing the modern novel and short stories in Assamese literature. At the same time he is also a serious writer of research based articles. Hem Baruah rightly identified that Malik was witnessed the transition of Assamese society from the colonial to post colonial period. Malik was influenced by the last past of romanticism the path of new light in Assamese literature. He is very much relevant in the Indian literature because of his ability to depict the

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commonness of Indian society. He is a poet of high repute. He specifically attempted to express his political as well as societal consciousness through his poetry. Malik research based essays are very much important in Indian literature; he contributed a lot towards the study of the cultural life of Assamese Muslims. He establishes the indigenous Assamese Muslim Community is unique in itself and it carries significant difference with the pan Indian Muslim community. From the research based study on Assamese Zikir and Zari songs Malik established the uniqueness of pan-Assamese Muslim community. Malik tried to build a link between other major Indian languages with Assamese through his writings.

Malik – an inquisitive person:

The journey of a real inquisitive person never stopped in any part of life in any circumstances. Malik was such an inquisitive personality, who continued his further education in spite of various challenges and circumstantial problems. On the other hand he got the opportunity to come closer to Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha, and he found a new path in leftist ideology to change the society and particularly the deprived class. Malik started his research work on “Zikir and Jari songs of Assam” in Gauhati University and completed his work in 1956. Malik deeply influenced by leftist political ideology and activities also. As a part of his political activities he contested in the parliamentary election of 1947 under the banners of communist party of India and he was defeated. He joined the congress party under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. In 1972, he had to put up with the news of sudden demise of great Assamese film makers, Brojen Barua. Brojen Baruah and Malik were working together for the film *Opoja Sonar Mati*. In 1976, he was elected to Rajya Sabha, as a representative from Assam. In this year he retired from the chain of profession cum departmental Head of the Department of Assam from JBC Jorhat. In 1947, he was elected as the president of Assam Sahitya Sabha. Abhayapuri conference as a master piece of Assamese literature, in which the Government of India honoured him of Padmashree in 1984. In 1988 Dibrugarh University honoured him of D.Lit title and in 1992 he was honoured with the prestigious “Padmabhushan Award” by the Government of India. In 1995, he was honoured with “Ajan Fakir Award”. Sahitya Akademi offered fellowship to Malik in 1999 as a reputed Indian writer. At the same time, the Government of Assam, felicitated Malik with the prestigious “Sankardev Award”. All the reputed awards and recognitions which have been offered to a literacy personality of Assam, Malik is an author who has contributed towards all the genres of literature and recognitions as a literary personality of Assam.

Writer of the people:

Malik had already occupied a special position in the heart of the people of Assam till the 9th decade of the last century. These awards and recognitions prove that Malik become the most respected personality of Assam during the last part of his life. He received almost all the reputed award and recognitions which have been offered to a literacy personality of Assam. Malik is such an author who has contributed towards all the genres of literature, Malik was a serious writer in the field of all the branches of literature. His talents who have equal expertise both in serious essays and fictions or poetic expression. In the beginning his talents expression of modern Assamese literature. Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbarua was such a writer who contributed to almost all past of literature. Bezbarua was the first Assamese Short Story Writer and the second novelist in the language. Malik was a writer the last stage of Romantic Movement of Assamese literature. His inner personality carries the characteristics of literature personality. The journey he never stopped any part of life. Malik has been recognized as a popular novelist of Assamese literature since post war period. His short stories have been translated into various often Indian languages and he has been translated into English language. Malik was a major writer of romanticism and modernism period. Even the impact of Ramdhenu cannot be complete literature also. Malik was confined his life in selecting themes from his short stories. Malik has a master artistic mind of a strong narrative style. Malik was a leading writer of the last part of romanticism in Indian literature. He identified some stories for his great contributions to his life. Malik has successful described the real picture of the deprived class of our society. Malik has to establish the ideological through the contemporary way on his stories. Malik was a politically conscious writer of any particular political ideology. Malik has tried to highlight the issues related to abnormal psychology through some of his short stories. He has highlighted some of such issues which are often avoided those matters are not socially recognized.

Revolutionary dramatist:

Malik is also a famous as a revolutionary dramatist of his contemporary age. He expressing the thought so called “Rajadrohi for expressing his ideology through the courageous drama”. Rajadrohi in his particular drama he has nicely reflected of his ideology. Malik say that history as a source of establishment of truth. He nicely declares his political philosophy through the vice of Satram. Through the drama he have been quite relevantly established in country to

the contemporary happenings of the society. A different identity of Malik comes to light as a dramatist and poet than his distinctiveness as a fictionist. This individuality established him as a patriotic writer, keen towards the subjugated class of society. Through the verses and dialogues he tried to establish himself as a revolutionary personality of his age. Malik has expressed his views on the contemporary issues through this Satirical more effectively than any of his creative writings. In the satirical writings, he showed his character as an open, ruthlessly offensive and study reformative person.

A fictionist:

There could be hardly any end of discussion on Syed Abdul Malik, his contribution as a fictionist have kept out of sight his talent as a poet and dramatist. Malik's contributions to Indian literature *Sufi aru Sufibad* is a remarkable book. Sufism is a famillian philosophy for the Assamese literature. A few reputed poets of the romantic age have successful to depict their inner feelings. *Sufi aru Sufibad* is the main contribution of Malik towards Assamese literature. Malik has explained that indigenou Muslims are quite different from Muslims of other countries. Malik has tried to highlight and analyze in the field of Assamese language. Malik's thinking developed on the ideology of Sufism and explained in Assamese Zikir songs.

Conclusion:

It can be concluded that his writings portray unique and distinct position in literary society of India. Being a distinct Assamese writer, he also translated his works into English, which has made it possible to compare his works with any Indian writers. Further, one of his important themes of write ups is *Zikir* and *Zari* songs of Assam, which reflects the culture and tradition of indigenou Muslims and also reminiscence the influence of Sufism in the state.