



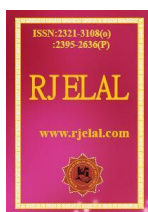
Magical Muse of Sonority in D. C. Chambial's *Songs of Sonority*

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Abstract

D.C. Chambial, an aspiring poet from Himachal Pradesh, is popular for his poetry replete with social realism and influence of nature. His poetry reflects his incessant urge to portray the poverty and suffering in Indian lives. In his nature poems, one can see the strong influence of John Keats. His poetry is a blend between romantic poetry and modern poetry. He tried to portray the social evils and suffering in its true colour. His poetry evolves magical muse of sonority.

Keywords: Social Realism, Music in the poetry, Muse of sonority.

D.C Chambial, the poet from Himachal Pradesh, is popular in the present Indian English Poetry, bard of Himachal Pradesh, is born at Bajrol in September 1950, has carved a niche for himself in Indian English poetry with his *Broken Images*, published in 1983. It was followed by *The Cargoes of Bleeding Hearts* in 1984, *Perceptions* in 1986, *Gyrating Hawks and Sinking Cross Roads* in 1997, *Before Petals Unfold* in 2002 and *This Promising Age and Other Poems* in 2004. His poetry reflects his incessant urge to portray the poverty and suffering in Indian lives. One can easily see the strong influence of John Keats on whose poetry he did M.Phil, and his Ph.D. thesis on Indian English poetry. It is a remarkable analytical dissertation, which has equipped him with a complete knowledge of the merits and limits of Indian poetry in English. His poetry is like a blend between Romantic Poetry and Modern

Poetry, as his poetic themes are replete with nature and humanity.

The poetry of D.C Chambial to a large extent is a reflection of the social evils and moreover it projects the suffering in its true colours. The uncertainties and vicissitudes of human life are presented in his poetry along with the beauty of Himachal Pradesh. His moral anger finds expression in most of his poems. Reference to 'Darkness' is repeatedly found in the poetry of D.C. Chambial as it suits the theme of expressing the deplorable conditions in which the humanity is living today. A few terms such as death, ashes, coldness, etc are recurrently used so as to create the existing atmosphere of suffering and insecurity. The present tumultuous environment breeds hooliganism and death is the product of the evil acts and the unwholesome atmosphere prevalent in the contemporary world. The themes of bloodshed

and 'ashes' are synonymous with the evils taking deep roots in this land. India is the land which has every right to feel proud of its great civilization and heritage? There is growing insecurity to human life, which breeds indiscipline in the social life in general. There is growing insecurity to human life, which breeds indiscipline in the social life in general. The anti-social elements have gone to the inhuman stage of killing people going on pilgrimage to satiate their animal instincts, and their destructive agenda comes from across the border, and killing of people on pilgrimage to Amarnath has become an everyday issue in news papers resulting in an ocean of despair to the mourning hearts of readers:

Smile on face

Go on pilgrimage

Dead stone

Walls like niobe

By cold water

Hot snow and cold fire

Fire in a cloud of dust

A fountain of blood. (B.I, p.10)

According to words worth Poetry is 'Spontaneous overflow of emotions recollected in tranquility', there are many definitions of poetry depending on the poet and his conception of poetry. According to D.C. Chambial, Poetry is 'A unified whole', and poetic process is a dream, a Poet dreams of a particular aspect and tries to portray the dream in to a colorful poem, probably it is called as poetic licentiousness. The poems presented in the poetic collection **Songs of Sonority and Hope**. The present collection is a dream like reality that has sprout from his age old experience. The poems more appear a suitable illustration of tradition and individual talent of T.S. Eliot, that is blended with 'Fancy and Imagination', the very first poem 'Temple', reflects his memory of the past.

"flag still flies,

Waves and carries the past with it.

A memento of past memories. (SSH,p 17)

Dr. T.V. Reddy a renowned poet and critic says 'a careful scrutiny of Chambial's poetry reveals that poetry becomes a logical medium for him to express his deep anguish at the existing social scenario of corruption that has steeped in to the blood of the people". His antipathy towards corruption is obviously seen even in the poems on nature, for example the poem 'Wellington', it is a tribute paid to Nilgiris, a hill station in South India, far from the buzz and din of the cities, the place stands still and quite, the poet is so obsessed with the deep roots that corruption has taken, that he is worried that the cold hands of the corruption is capable of taking inroads in to the innocent hearts of the people in the hill.

Fog always veils it

Lest some ominous eye

Cast its spell

And corrupt the innocence high.
(SSH, p88)

D.C. Chambial's poetry is remarkable for its patriotic fervor; many of his poems are laced with his love of peace, and love of nation. For him poetry is a powerful medium to express his deep rooted anger on the anti social elements. As Ajay Kahol says in his "Anger Expression in the poetry of Chambial", he opines that 'there are a number of poems in which anger springs mainly from the socio-political chaos in the modern society. In the poem 'My Country is Great', he says his country is great for all her innocence, her polity is further more great because people forgives and forgets all those dark scams. In the fourth stanza of the poem he satirizes the coal scam.

With coal their faces all black to pate,

Rolling in the mire of fraud, who guess?

My country is indisputably great!
 (SSH, p69)

He concludes saying men may come and go, men may live or they may die, his country possess the poise, it is indisputably great, and her polity is great because, she nonchalantly witnesses the corrupt ways of politicians. Here country implies the people who are adept at the corrupt ways of the politicians, men may come men may go; the life has to go on. Political Parties may come and parties may go out of power, people remain the same waiting for the good days to come with eternal hope that becomes their source to live. This nonchalant attitude is outcome of Karma siddantha.

Men may live or men may die of their fate.

'sukh-dukhe same kritva?, they equipoise possess.

My country is indisputably great!

Her polity is yet all the more great!

The poem "we are Living...." reflects his righteous indignation at the degradation of morals, ethics and virtues. People who are god fearing and wanted to lead virtuous life are considered incapable of living. In the struggle for existence people who are vice stands on the top slot and there is always short cuts to success. Ambition rules the life and the ways to achieve success need not be 'fair'. In this world of smart phones and malwares people are more concerned to paint people black to enable them to show they are fair in unfair means.

We're living at a time

Where morals, ethics and virtues

Emaciated, scared, crouch in a corner;

When debauchery, larceny, treachery

Have become the order of the day

Shamelessly; (SSH,p51)

The poem "So Goes the world" unveils the way of the world, where people are smart and live

amidst wisest people, they wear a mosque to hide their true emotions, and truth is veiled. Humanity detests truthful people and brands them poor. In the chase for success, unseen battle is fought between the clever and the truthful; leading to the success of clever and making the truthful fall a pray to untruthful. Wild chase for money is the sole aim of people. Success speaks, not the means.

The struggle between honest and clever, who throw all human ethics to the winds in a wild chase of money and matter and break morality's rind that man binds. (SSH, p 42)

Endowed with poetic power of force, Chambial can say anything with accomplishment. His expression is not ambiguous, but clear, simple, emphatic and sober. Simplicity of his poetic diction and poignancy of his ideas and thoughts told in a picturesque style are admirable. R.S.Sharan says "Whenever he has to say something he says it well. Chambial's poems are good food for intellectual for their depth of thought and playing upon different aspects of thinking". This collection Songs of Sonority and Hope seems to be possessed by the poetic muse as the poems are at once poetical, musical and sonorous there by suggesting the aptness of the title.

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Abbreviations

- BI - Broken Images
- SSH - Songs of Sonority and Hope