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Short-Stories of Paternal Love



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: Abstract:

Literature is an expression of feelings, thoughts, ideas, opinions, etc. There are different forms of literature such as novel, poetry, drama, essay and short story. Many a times it is seen that there is an expression of love or affection of a mother in different forms of literature. Though there are some literary works which depicts love between father and his children. The main objective of writing this paper is to bring out the paternal love depicted in Dhumketu's short-story 'The Letter' (Post-Office) and Rabindranath Tagore's story 'The Cabuliwallah'.

(Key-words: Literature, short-story, paternal love, The Letter, The Cabuliwallah)

Rabindranath Tagore, popularly Known as 'Gurudev' and a recipient of Noble Prize, is an adorable figure in world literature. He was mainly a poet but he also wrote novels and short-stories. He debuted the short-story genre in Bengali with 'Bhikharini' (The Beggar – woman), published in 1877, but by the writers own appellation, this was a set of 'connected ramblings' rather than a short-story. He wrote his first short-story 'The Ghat's story' in 1884

'The Cabuliwallah' (1892) is one of his well-known short-stories and it throws light on the love and affection of a father for his daughter. It is a story of Cabuliwallah who befriends little girl Mini. In the beginning of the story, we see that Mini left her play and ran to the window and in the street below, there was a Cabuliwallah walking slowly along. He wore the loose, soiled clothing of his people and a tall turban. He carried a bag on his back and boxes of grapes in his hand. The Cabuliwallah come to narrator's house and offered Mini nuts and raisins. Here at this moment he sees his own daughter in her and how he keeps a palm print of his daughter as a remembrance. There is a depiction of pathos with the yearning of a distant father, the Cabuliwallah for his daughter.

Years had passed. It was once more autumn and there was going preparations for Mini's marriage ceremony. Again Rahamat, the Cabuliwallah visited the narrator's house. But he could meet Mini this time as there was ceremony in the house. He held out his offerings for Mini. The narrator was going to pay him but he said: "You're a very kind