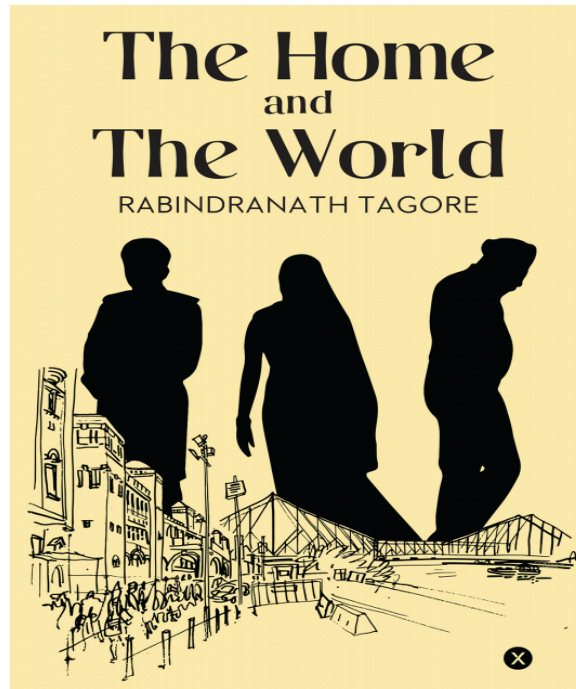


Review of the First Half of the Book



(Source : <https://notionpress.com/>)

Submitted by : Tasnim Rahman Moumita

ID : 22301689

Course code : EMB101

Section : 17

Date of submission : 26.03.2023

One of the most famous literary persons of Bangla literature is Rabindranath Tagore. He has significantly influenced every area of writing. He is a poet, author, lyricist, composer, and writer. He won the Nobel prize in 1913 for his outstanding contribution to Gitanjali. Another remarkable novel by Rabindranath Tagore is *The Home and The World* (Ghare Baire). In 1916, it was published. Surendra Nath Thakur translated his novel in 1919 and Penguin Publisher released it. The Swadeshi movement is the basis for the narrative. In this family-centered story, there are three major protagonists, and their involvement with the Swadeshi movement is exposed. They play opposite roles in that movement as a result of their distinct points of view.

The Home and the World was written by Rabindranath Tagore during an era of severe social and political crisis in India. A few years after the division of Bengal in 1905, which caused significant trouble and enmity among Indians toward the British colonial rulers, the novel was published in 1916. Tagore was also an iconic figure in the Indian independence battle and a firm believer of India's political and cultural freedom. In the book, Tagore expresses his personal opinions on the debates between tradition and modernity, nationalism and internationalism, and the role of women in Indian culture. It also displays his belief in the power of learning and enlightenment to bring about changes in society and politics. Basically, the Swadeshi movement, a phase of Indian nationalism that started in 1905 as a reaction to the partition and tried to encourage Indian products and refuse British goods, is the time the story begins to develop.

The novel called *"The Home and The World"* was inspired by the Swadeshi Movement. The book has a total of 26 chapters. Three main characters' perspectives of view are used to set up this work. Every chapter has its own specific story style. The Swadeshi movement was later mentioned in this tale after it began with a family story. One important aspect of India's anti-colonial fight is the Swadeshi movement. Starting in 1905

and coming to an end in 1908, the Swadeshi movement. According to Laxmiparasad, the Swadeshi movement is an effective pre-Gandhian movement. People boycotted all British products and continued their movement in opposition to the British. Despite its failure, the movement had a significant impact on Indian history. Bengal was ruled by the British for 200 years. People went through a lot of pain and attempted to move out from it as fast as possible.

The novel is set in India and includes modern nationalist movements, commercial issues of colonial powers, and the morality underneath violence.

The conflict between the world and the home (tradition, domesticity, and the individual) shown as the novel's major theme. The characters of Nikhilesh, Bimala, and Sandip represent this conflict. Nikhilesh is a representative of the family; he values education and knowledge as well as stable relations with the British colonial authorities. Bimala, who is divided between her responsibilities as a wife and mother and her desire for independence and expressing herself, symbolizes the clash between tradition and modernity. Sandip speaks for all of humanity and is passionate about the need for a civil war to bring down the British.

There are three main characters in the book. Nikhilesh, Sandip, Bimala. Nikhilesh is the son of a landlord's family. who was a well-educated and modest man. Nikhilesh, an Indian noble who values peace and embraces Tagore's beliefs, seeks for the best for his family and society without applying to violence or inspiring patriotism in his battle for freedom. According to Dutt(2020), Nikhilesh's thinking is based on reality. He is a nationalistic character. His overview is to create a peaceful unity where all people can ensure their rights correctly. If a large number of people are facing injustice, then it can't be a righteous movement. Then comes Sandip. His childhood friend Sandip, who belongs to a lower caste, sometimes lives in his home and is

regarded as the "Enlightened" movement's leader for Bande Mataram. The story shows his intense hunger for wealth and power and his reputation as a wild revolutionary figure. Nikhilesh and Sandip are both characterized as defenders of the Swadeshi movement. But their points of view are different. Bimala is also a very important character in this novel.

In the 1st half of this novel named "The Home and the World" the major description is about Bimala, her description about her life, her love-life, her husband, and the meeting with Sandip. The story progresses with the flow of how Bimala feels attracted and inspired by Sandip.

To elaborate, so far, the parts that I have read till now from this book mainly focuses on the inner condition of the time of Swadesh movement and its circumstances. How a typical housewife gets influenced by a protester of this movement, how Nikhilesh's support contributed in Bimala's rise up. For example, Sandip once told Bimala that the main formula or secret of women is "We want, I want". This statement really affected her a lot in terms of seeking her own goals and desires in life rather than being a typical housewife of an affluent Hindu family. But Nikhilesh also wanted that his wife, Bimala should not bound herself in the barrier of home. Thus he also inspired her to be familiar with the world outside her home. Moreover, the narrative also shows how Swadeshi movement affected the then Indian society and its people's daily life. Avoiding all the British products and only using indigenous goods was not as easy as it sounds.

The novel's presentation of the Indian independence struggle and the conflicts and difficulty that occurred during this time of British colonial control is one of the main elements leading to its relevance. Tagore

basically emphasizes the risks of blindly following charismatic leaders and the significance of affecting a balance between one's own goals and society obligations by showing the movement as a force for good change and a source of violence and disorder. The book's focus on gender norms and the fight for women's rights in Indian culture is another important part. In order to demonstrate Bimala's own dreams, the main female character, Bimala, refuses traditional gender norms and ideals.

Personally I really like how Rabindranath Tagore describes the scenario of Swadeshi movement in the then Indian area. The real turning point is when Bimala finds that she is also an important part of the society, she also has some duties to complete. Nikhil's supportive characteristics towards his wife in that very ancient and "renaissance" era of India also fascinates me much. Besides these, Sandip's energetic, enthusiastic characteristics, his passion, and patriotism is also appreciable.

I would definitely recommend the novel "The Home and the World" by Rabindranath Tagore to the people who are truly interested in history, the emergence of our Bengali nation and its gradual rise up. Also, readers who are interested in going further into the complex themes of tradition, modernization, nationalism, and the place of women in society should read Rabindranath Tagore's "The Home and the World." For those who admire fiction and are curious about the details of social movement, relationships, and human nature, this book would be a great choice.

In conclusion, In his book "The Home and the World", Rabindranath Tagore shows the conflict between modernization and tradition. The central struggle in the book is between Nikhil, a young man who wishes for the progress of his nation, and Bimala, his wife, who desires a continuation of traditional rituals. The themes

of responsibility, patriotism, and love are all portrayed in the book. Therefore, "The Home and the World" is a powerful book that explores the shared experience of mankind. Tagore's characters are rich and completely realized, and his writing is elegant .

References :

1. Laxmiprasad,PV.(n.d.) Rabindranath Tagore's Home and the world[Ghare Bahire] : A Gripping Portrayal of Swadeshi Movement.
2. Dutt,p.(2020,August 15). Reading the Present in Tagore's "Home and the World".