GOOD BYE PARTY FOR MISS PUSHPA T. S.

BY

NISSIM EZEKIEL

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Nissim Ezekiel and Goodbye Party For Miss Pushpa T.S.

- Goodbye Party For Miss Pushpa T. S. was written by Nissim Ezekiel, one of India's foremost Indo-Anglian poets.
- He was born in 1924 and was educated in Mumbai and London. He produced several volumes of verse and plays and was an art critic.
- Nissim Ezekiel is acclaimed as the father of post-independence Indian-English verse.
- He is a trend-setter, who started modernity in Indian-English poetry.
- The poem is in the form of a speech made by one of Miss Pushpa's friends.
- “Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T. S.” is a parody and satire on the usage of English language by some Indians e.g. the habit of using present continuous tense in place of simple present and rambling style of conversation.
- The poem,” Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa” comes under his sixth volume of poems, namely “Hymns in Darkness.”
- Written in the form of dramatic monologue where the speech made by the narrator reflects more about him than about others.
The character of Miss Pushpa

- The opening lines reveal two different characters of Miss Pushpa. First that she is intelligent, because she goes to a foreign country. The second is that the speaker calls her as his sister. This shows that Miss Pushpa is a woman of some respect.
- Miss Pushpa has a smiling face. The speaker says that Miss Pushpa is always found smiling.
- The speaker also says that Miss Pushpa is kind. She is kind at heart too. She is popularly known for her kindness among men and women.
- The speaker also talks about her family background. He says that she comes from a rich family.
- Miss Pushpa is also known for her helping nature and good spirit.
- The speaker says that whenever someone approaches Pushpa, asking for help, she would never say no.
Development of Thought

- The occasion is the farewell party being hosted by a group of friends to Miss Pushpa who is going abroad.

- Use of grammatically incorrect and inappropriate phrases and expressions mark the poem bringing out the outrageous use of English by the native speakers e.g. “departing for foreign”, “all knowing friends”, coming from very high family”.

- The other aberrations are incorrect use of tense such as in “I am not remembering”, “his wife was cooking nicely”, “she was saying”, “that is showing”, “is never saying no”, “am always appreciating”, “we are wishing her bon voyage” etc.

- Attitude of the speaker is reflected through his conscious effort at styling the language and the flattering tone of the speech suggesting a hypocritical and sham personality.
Miss Pushpa, although depicted as a pleasing personality, is not without the pretentious manners reflected through the speakers lines “Miss Pushpa is never saying no/Whatever I or anybody is asking she is always saying yes”.

The speaker’s digression to Miss Pushpa’s father, and hanging on it, the speaker’s connection to Surat and then to his/her uncle’s very old friend and his wife there—are typical of the unprepared, spontaneous speech, characteristic of many Indians who lack propriety in such grave formal functions.

The party ends with the summing up and the concluding remarks made by Miss Pushpa after the speaker invites her and other members to the dias.

The tone of the poem is humorous although sarcastic is devoid of stingy bitterness.

Ezekiel through this poem speaks about Indian English with lucidity. The peculiarities of the Babus’ angrezi are elucidated with wonderful craft and humor.
Conclusion

The speaker of this poem is not given a definite identity. We do not know whether it is male or female speaker.

Nissim Ezekiel by hiding the identity of the speaker renders the mistakes to every Indian in general.

Another notable feature is the fact that Miss Pushpa is always addressed as "Miss Pushpa" and as "dear sister" but never by her name.

Interestingly Miss Pushpa is described to be both internally and externally sweet, coming from a very "high family". And the icing on the cake is that her father is a "renowned advocate".

A perfect example of how family background and the profession of the father matters in India.

Not to forget the initials in her name "Miss Pushpa T.S.". Another Indian phenomenon. And what is hilarious is that all this is being mentioned at her farewell party.

Nissim Ezekiel does successfully manage to not only capture our attention but also to tickle our funny bone.
THANK YOU...