

## **English Literature Under Bharata Muni's Rasas Impression**

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### **ABSTRACT**

English literature is very vast and varied. It provides us with different forms of writings like poetry, novel, drama, myth, short story, comedy, satire, tragedy etc. All sorts of genres are affected by the Rasas under Rasa Theory by Bharat Muni. A proper analysis of the theory can let us have a sense of pleasure and satisfaction out of our reading of English Literature. In English, Rasa is known as Aesthetics which itself teaches a lot but the actual 'rasa' can be achieved when we go through the theory by Bharata Muni. The concept of Aesthetics deals with the sense of beauty and taste. It shapes our aesthetic judgment, understanding, emotion and attitude. Rasa Theory teaches us more into this sphere. According to Bharata Muni "no meaningful idea is conveyed if the 'Rasa' is not evoked." Under the influence of Rasa the reader or the spectator becomes the 'Rasika'. Especially today's world is all about hustle and bustle, one does not have time and enough space for someone. The purgation of feelings of a person is unable to reach to its zenith. He remains devoid of any permanent accompany. Literature is the ultimate source of entertainment and pleasure for him. If he is able to find out rasa through it, then he can have sort of psychological and mental relief out of his readings.

## INTRODUCTION

Aesthetics is the philosophical study of beauty and taste. It is basically the sensory judgment of what we read, watch or experience. Semantically, in modern English it means something that can appeal to the senses. Different cultures and traditions have a different concept of aesthetics. Aesthetics is apparent in various genres: poetry, music, drama, design, painting, architecture and among others. The various treaties of aesthetics have been discussed to show how pleasure is evoked. Its appreciation and expression is determined through the psychological and cultural aspects. Rasa Theory is given by Bharata Muni in Natyashastra. According to it, there are eight Rasas that impact an aesthetic piece of work. It is not that one needs to have deep insight to the whole of Rasa Theory rather the understanding of the eight rasas only can perform miracles in their way of interpreting a piece of art. "Rasa" is a technical terminology of Sanskrit Poetics. Bharata, the father of Indian poetics and writer of "Natyashastra" raises a question about 'Rasa' that what is rasa and he himself solves this question by saying that "rasa" is a thing of relishing or enjoyment of something. Thus Rasa means in poetical perspective is a poetical enjoyment. In other words, it is an aesthetic experience of a piece of art. He also explains that mental permanent moods such as love, anger, laugh (sthayibhava) are basis of this poetical taste or enjoyment. These sthayibhavas are the principle conditions for the poetic enjoyment. Bharata develops a formula for expressing rasa in his "Natyashastra" for the first time. He lays down his formula as: "vibhavanubhava-vyabhichari-samyogadrasanishpattih." These vibhava etc. is cause, effect and auxiliary moods to give impetus to rasa.

## RASAS AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature constitutes of endless number of writings. All are based on varied themes and subjects. All can be a different source of entertainment for different individuals. To start with the relevance of Rasas in English literature one needs to know about how many rasas are there and what does each rasa mean. There are 8 rasas according to Bharata Muni. These are:

1. Bhayanak Rasa: It deals with the emotion of fear.
2. Hasya Rasa: It explains the emotion of joy/laughter.
3. Raudra Rasa: It arouses the emotion of anger.
4. Adbhuta Rasa: Emotion of wonder is expressed.
5. Bibhita Rasa: Feeling of disgust is talked about.
6. Shringar rasa: It explains the emotion of erotic/love.
7. Veera rasa : It highlights the emotion of heroism.
8. Karuna rasa: It explores the emotion of sadness.

All these rasas can be found in different forms of English Literature. One can derive the immense state of pleasure out of these rasas while enjoying a text or any piece of art. This can be well illustrated through the different works of literature by eminent writers relating them to one of the rasas individually.

**EMOTION OF FEAR:** Fear is when some elements arouse a kind of terribleness. One feels horrified or is laid towards something good or wrong. Macbeth by William Shakespeare arouses a sense and emotion of fear while we read it. It is the major motivating factor in the actions of its character. Macbeth was fearful of being caught due to his wrong deeds in the case of the murder of the King Duncan. His actions were also partially the resultant of the fear created by the fearful prophecy of the witches. The troublesome sleep of Lady Macbeth is again a sign of fearfulness. She loses sanity as she is consumed by fear and guilt.

**EMOTION OF LAUGHTER:** A sense of comedy, farce that makes us laugh and feel happy is what is created by this rasa. William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' creates comedy. The words, action and the plot are to some extent humorous. It is created when reader is more aware about the situation of a character than the character does. It occurs on how the readers perceive the circumstances of four lovers. Both Lysander and Demetrius leave off being in love with Hermia and fall in love with Helena, and they do not know the reasons for this but contrary to it the viewers are aware of it. The characters' confusion and mess creates comedy in the play. They indulge in arguments which are silly and for fun of the reader.

EMOTION OF ANGER:When we feel a sort of anguish or we try to have revenge, anger is evoked.Chimney Sweeper by William Blake evokes the anger towards society. The parents sell their kids to sweep the soot. The choking soot is dangerous for the young kids. The unsatisfactory minds of children and the wrong judgment of society with them is the main source of anger in thepoem.

EMOTION OF WONDER:The gestures of surprise or wonder are created when something unexpected happen. Samuel Beckett’s Waiting for Godot keeps us wondering what next is going to happen. Even at the end of the play we still wonder. Vladimir and Estragon keep on waiting for Godot in the play in spite of the fact that they do not even know who Godot is.

EMOTION OF DISGUST:To have a feeling of unlikeness, when you do not like to achieve something as it is actually or as it is exhibited you suffer from the emotion of disgust. The poem The Flea by John Donne exhibits some elements of disgust. The flea is taken to join the two bloods together. The body of the flea is taken to as the marriage bed. The idea of having sex and then comparing it with the instances of the fleais really disgusting. The harm that can be caused to a lady is compared to that of the killing of an insect.

EMOTION OF LOVE:Love is to be passionate and in deeply attached with something or someone, it tells one to completely devote his self to someone. William Blake’s sonnet “She walks in beauty” presents the theme of love. The speaker compares her beloved to lots of beautiful things like stars , the dark sky shining etc. The beauty is described in so much affectionate way that one can easily come to know how much does the speaker loves his beloved. He says that her face is “sweet” and “pure”. She is not just presented as beautiful but is also said to be “good” and “innocent”.

EMOTION OF HEROISM:When someone is presented to be your role model or a kind of personality whom you can follow, he is taken to be the hero of the task. His courage, bravery, boldness is all that is talked about. He has a sense of proud or the reader feels a sense of proud on that figure. P.B Shelley in Ozymandias , describes about the boastful attitude of the king. The lines “ Ozymandias, King of King; if anyone wishes to know what I am and where I lie, let him surpass me in some of my exploits,” they present his heroic qualifications.

EMOTION OF SADNESS: Sadness can be created by any unwanted activity of life. You may want something in life but due to inability to achieve something you can be sad. Even the bad happening in life can turn you upset. It is basically getting your mood spoilt when something goes opposite to your desires. A monologue by Robert Browning i.e “The Last Ride Together” expresses the dejected condition of a rejected lover. He wants to have a last sign of love with his beloved in the source of last ride.

These rasas are related to our life. We somehow relate our happenings of life with these rasas . We can even have a sense of commonness with the characters when we assume the reading based on these rasas. A kind of sympathy could be created with those characters or the sufferer around us for the same cause. We can even find out rest when we observe that what all is happening with us is actually the part of life and has happened and is happening with people around us.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusive words rasa is that internal enjoyment which is relished after the generalization of a person who generalizes himself with all the situation and feelings of an actor. These all may be in some readable or seeable acting of some actor. Not only this, this rasa generalization makes a poetic enjoyer enjoying the same type of enjoyment which was enjoyed by real actor at the time of his or her original acting. This rasa takes a poetic relish to the same situation, impetus and world where the timeless state of mind appears only those feelings are enjoyed by the aesthetic enjoyer for the first time. At last we can say that this aesthetic experience takes a person to the absolutely indivisible state of mind which is similar state of mind of the great creator of this world and ultimately he enjoys the indescribable wonder of this world and wants again and again to achieve this type of state of mind.

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