

A study about Sharing Responsibility in Swami and Friends

by RK Narayan

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Abstract : “*Swami and friends*” was written by RK Narayan is a first of set of three novels, by English novelist from India .it is the first novel of narayan which mainly depicts the pre-independence days in town-*malgudi* in India. Present ally it is a virtually a evident place in India which gain wide popularity and name and fame from the narayan’s novel . His novel gained popularity due to smoothly etched characters, his different way to tell the language and his sense of humor.



Introduction : The novel mainly focused on the lifestyle, blossoming of swami a young child. He is very simple, passionate, naughty boy. His behavior in novel is a person full of knowledge of outside dynamic style . by protagonist character a author get to know about the pre independence in south India, the lifestyle in story describe all about colonial days – the revolt , revolution, the antipathy and the reverence people had for their hero , mixed with different source , which became one, like sports and study .

Swami and Friends : Various colonial and post-colonial novelists don’t straight forward point out or blame the british system, whereas aspect of gentle blame and irony pointed towards the colonial system, are dispersed through the novel “*Swami and Friends*” and other novels. He showed his imagination by the telling about the lifestyle of the people in colonial time through his novel. Narayan mainly focused on the lifestyle of the children in colonial time their education .he not directly attack on the colonial system. So that it would be stupidity to point out that system that would help in his career and his novel . When asked why he don’t bothered about the existing political issue and other circumstances at that period Narayan said in an interview thus

" When art is used as a vehicle for political propaganda, the mood of comedy, the sensitivity to atmosphere, the probing of psychological factors, the crisis of the individual soul and its resolution and above all the detached observation which constitutes the stuff of fiction is forced into the background."

Moreover he respect the English language and literature as opiate in colonial period . in colonial system there is absence of criticism that , why the author believed that the colonizer and colonized should live together with peace and harmony, by helping each other . mainly authors and Englishmen certainly seem to do so in his novels, like "Mr Retty (Swami and Friends) and Matheison (Waiting for the Mahatma)". The rice mill owner Mr Retty was

"the most Indianized of the 'Europeans'....and was the mystery man of the place: nobody could say who he was or where he had come from: he swore at his boy and his customers in perfect Tamil and always moved about in shirt, shorts and sandaled feet."

"Mr Matheison" has tremendous regard for American Indians and tell everyone as I am Indian American .

"You see, it is just possible I am as much attached to this country as you are."

Only "Mr. Brown" considered as "black sheep" in this aspect. He is able of "classifying, labeling and departmentalizing..." in western way. And the blame or irony pointed towards him was as pointed towards his native countrymen. His thinking that all foreigners or Indian, they were all person full of bias , mistake , kindness and goodness, everyone in different ways.

writer achieve great heights as a novelist from his novel which depicts a different ethics , and yet at the period a comment of a political strength . To show this recycle instrument of banter and irony. His achievements mainly revolve around these various opposite poles is seen in the case that Narayan's novels gained popularity in India , in his native country and all over the world.

When the story revealed, we are asked that narrator has four buddies. 'He (Swaminathan) honored only four persons with his confidence' - Somu, the Monitor, who borne himself with such an easy air; Mani as best friend the *mighty Good-For-Nothing*; Sankar, the intelligent child of the class and Samuel was called as Pea, who don't have a unique about himself just as Swami, but they were grouped in their achievement to happy at small things . Swami's friendship with each of them is varied and, but he cherished them all. but with the arrival of Rajam all this laughter friendship get breakdown . Rajam was the British hero that novelist represent . He showed the new middle class family

"Thomas Babington Macaulay anticipated in his now famous 1835 Minute on Education 'a class of persons,'" he is English in taste, thinking, opinion but Indian in blood and color.

Rajam was new in school, he was very well dressed, he is the only one who wore fur cap , sock, shoes and beautiful blazer and snickers with a tie . He always speak in english just like a *"Europea"*, that's why only plight of people understand what he said.

"Rajam" was a new student ; he very well dressed he the only one student who wear shoes and socks and a cap and tie, and a wonderful coat and knickers. He spoke very good English, exactly like a *"European"*; *"which meant that few in the school could make out what he said."* Rajam was grown and brought in different atmosphere from his fellow classmate that's why only few understand what he spoke Rajam wants to be best than the others , to be best , to impress and to lead. As the readers read the *"swami and friends"* we get to know that he is not caring ,trustworthy , and loyal to his friends. At the same pint he was motivated and hardworking and rarely if ever fail to concentrate . He has created a new proverb *"English stiff upper lip."* Swami was highly affected by Rajam lifestyle and need to do friendship with him. And when he later does so, this friendship creates misunderstanding with his earlier friends.

The changing aspect in swami living comes when he choose to take part in a revolt against the colonial . However he was not so nationalists, but rather violent , and he broke the window panels by throwing stone. He got punished badly by the principal when got red

handed and in a moment of anxiety he ran from the school. Later he took admission to another school – “Board High School”. It was the period when Rajam, Mani and Swami create a “Cricket Club” and booked the date for a match with another cricket team. Swami is pressurized by Rajam to take cricket practices; for this he leaves his drill classes to attend the practice, and got punished by his drill teacher. Moreover of desperation he ran away from both school and home. He got lost on the road, but is found by a cart-man and is brought home. He learns that he had indeed missed the cricket match, which he took such pains to practice for.

Due to these circumstances Rajam denied to keep friendship with him, and after a span of time of days Swami get to know through Mani that Rajam's father was promoted and was moving from here very next day. Swami is filled with emotions but in his innocence, he erroneously thinks that Rajam will forgive his mistake. Rajam had hardened himself like a stone against forgiving. There is immense passion in the parting seen between the friends. It is highlighted by the fact that the reader knows that Rajam has not and will not forgive Swami, while Swami believes that he is forgiven and is grieving for his "dearest friend's" departure:

"At the sight of the similar face Swaminathan lost control of his emotions and cried": "Oh Rajam, Rajam you are going away. When will you come back?" Rajam continuously looking at him without uttering a word and then ("as it seems to Swaminathan") "opened his mouth to say something, when everything was disturbed by the guard's blast and the hoarse whistle of the engine.Rajam's face with the words still unuttered on his lips, receded"

Swami did not have the money to buy a luxurious gift for Rajam, but had decided to give him an English book "Anderson's Fairy Tales" and writes on the cover page of book "To my dearest friend "Rajam". In this last series the author focused on the the difference between the thoughtless Rajam and his beloved two friends Swami and Mani. Rajam was “dressed like a European boy” his appearances was like a alien to them, but it is not only on the outside that Rajam was varied, but even within, as the readers of the novel sees throughout the novel and mainly at the end. For author Rajam's ways and thinking are varied from



others, much like the "Europeans." In the superiority rajam don't fell like he owes anybody farewell and thinking this brings the drastic change in the life of the Indians as abruptly as he had come and the live get conquered by the attitude of rajam . Rajam was the symbol of that "class of people" the British colonizer breed, who became alien and even disrespectful towards their very own culture.

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