

## ***The Last Wave: Hearing the Unheard Voice***

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### **Abstract**

Literature as said to be mirror of life is also a medium to voice out for the unnoticed. Fiction evidently varies from portrayal of the realspecially when voicing out for the subjugated the elements are to be dealt with precision and responsibility. The paper attempts to throw light on one such work on the subjugation of Jarawas, the primitives of Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago, in their own territory, with concern to the voice tunnel destined to represent each strand of their plight and Pankaj Sekhsaria's take on the subject to aware the world withhis *The Last Wave*; an attempt to put Jarawas of Andaman and Nicobar Island on the notice of the world by acting as a non-native portal. The analysis is carried out conscious to three major components: Portrayal of the truth with fictional image, literature as a device to project social justice, Non-native author's voice for the natives, thus contributing to both literary world and social insight.

**Keywords:** Subjugation;Indigenous;Tribal Studies;Literature as medium; Jarawas.

### **Introduction**

The collective conscious of contemporary society composing modern propaganda where the need for luxury and anthropocentric mechanism of the world became much predominant, the generation lacks to think not for the fellow human race, nor on the ecological balance. The men subjugated under the occident long backnow reversed his role with the minorityof his own nation for the same reason. Fighting Spirit of a socially insight individual contrast with the primitivetribe unaware of the world beyond his physical boundaries with the aggravating facet of subjugation in their own land to be,nor themselves neither the awarecan help the need without the law enforcement.

Joining hands with fellow NGO's, the initiatives by Pankaj Sekhsaria through Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group, to defend the primeval forest lands desist not with legal exertion but vented out in his writings and his novel *The Last Wave* with which its motive is not much different from *Hungry Tide* of Amitav Gosh; the inspired source. But the novel unlike *Hungry Tide* is not renowned, for it may be the reason that the concerned land mass is obliterated from collective conscious of its own nation.

### **Voice of a Non-Native**

The Archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the barely heeded for the nation's social bearing;conserves thebiodiversity same as early as forty thousand years ago could be accentuated not only for its treasure ofFlora and fauna but also for its clench on the primitive tribal clans still preserving theircenturies old authenticity, serving as the habitat for some major tribal of The Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onge and Sentinels. It was all a grace upon the world until the exploration and exploitation of the land rose during the colonial oppression, which in

turn expanded after Indian Independence to test and question the peace of the tribes and turned a threat for the same.

*The Last Wave* does not aim to make a fiction out of the subjugated plight but attempts generating awareness. The abrupt portrayal of different claims for the land owned by none but the tribes is exposed with explicit diegesis. The Novel pivots two strands unperceptive to the rest of the world- violations under the shadow of government and the innocent Jarawas unwittingly giving upon their physical and social boundaries for their own exploitation.

Andaman Trunk Road, the vein intruding the heart of Jarawa tribal reserve forest; the golden thread of exploiters, bringing the primitives in contact with threat, sustaining immortally against edict of Supreme Court for the shutdown in May 2002, set off Sekhsaria to question his activist face, propelling him towards *The Last Wave* with hope.

The paradigmatic images of all the possible exploitations with regard to the history of tribal plight are evident with precise fabrication of characters. As an archipelago, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands not only inhabit the tribes but also the settlers, Local borns, Intruders, Researchers, natural resource exploiters, Government Officials and Political governors. While all the rest but the primitive tribes' subject to be bracketed as the aliens or the colonizers, paradoxically the natives endemic to the authentic land are looked upon as the threat for the rest.

Voicing out the voiceless, especially correlated to literature never fails to drag excitement, withholding essential spirit. Sensual vein of voicing for the subjugated not halt with the bringing off aware, care and sympathy but demands to evoke empathy with respect and insight for the targets. The author's assertion varies from the native voice to the non native acknowledger. While repercussion to the possibly evident misapprehension or emotional disrupt with the subject varies from the native to non-native, the later possessing more chances of being placed under the scrutiny, bestow extra responsibility towards the aimed cultural portrayal even if with esteem.

Sekhsaria, an outlander himself in the *The Last Wave*, confined with whom and what are his concerns are of with varied limits. Unbiased with the need and the urgent awakening for the world, the novel fails not to call attention for the justification of both the feudal. *The Last Wave*, last hope of a lost voice, made itself a vessel bridging the island to the nation's attention for help. The reality check with the novel ticks all the boxes of the concern without fail.

Tanumei the character depicting the true incident with regard to Enmey the young tribal boy spotted hurt amidst the reserve forest, when brought to the village for medical emergency, developed fancy over the social culture and sequel with his repetitive venture to the outskirts of the village just to elope with the instantly available utilities, is not observed as an influenced innocent consequence but as a threat, by villagers; needs a reality check. He represents the island's exploited tribal population who on learning the art of brutal survival from the modern man exposes the same on the preacher. When the whole habited settlement, the loot from the tribal's, the villagers feeling threatened by the victim brings out the reality of brutally ironical injustice.

The intruder's tales of Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago dating back centuries old can be traced in Madhushree Mukerjee's *The Land of Naked People*. Yet the construction of settlements surfaced during British invasion of India to prison the rebels, in turn their release is provisioned with land plots of the island, construction materials and money laying stepping stone for settlers, local borns and commercialization. The narration of Seema's ancestors Syed Iqbal and Lalita taking up their life on the island for the same provides insights on history.

Seema, the local born depicting the modern young generation with multiple needs- to step out of the native land for survival and grappling to restore the native identity portrays the

struggle between the two fold demands of youngsters of contemporary minority society. Her raged aversion for tribal relocation to the remote island, voice out the proud but strained generation realizing helpless in preserving the homeland's authenticity.

Harish, a visiting journalist, the portrait of affinitive young generation's heightened empathy, sensing the pulse and dire need for urgent awakening of the tribal affairs discern the direct voice of the author himself. Apprehension for the tribal plights evident in an unrelated outlander speaks for the demanding social and humanitarian responsibility to conserve the little left primordial authenticity of both the nation and the world. Nourishing the reader's knowledge on the intended awareness is fed along the character of Harish's investigation on the tribes and the Island's biodiversity.

The authorities at the Institute for Island Ecology is nothing more than a well aware society of literates, acknowledged on the striving circumstance and yet incapable of saving the scene from exploitation but can only keep an eye for intruders within the possible limits. The educated mass who have insight and grows concern but helpless further to fight for the need reveal the vulnerable situation of the subjugated.

The constant face-off boomed with allocation of residential settlements in the tribal reserve outskirts by administrating authorities. The old man and Felix scorning to realize their intrusion; blaming the government for apportioning the land in spite of the evident heat over the groups, imitates the settler's unaware attitude, who weaved their life over the settlements and decline to look beyond their survival needs. While the settlers habituated the land under the shade of government; establishing the physical boundaries without the knowledge of the rightful is already a blunder, in turn, refusing to discern the reality that the innocent land owners are yet not aware of their land being looted and still attempt to access their centuries old rightful space, a pathetic sad is spot lighted.

The political represent Mr. Basu, the apathetic exploiter trying to earn advantage to the verge of contemplating the primitive owners' relocation to nearby island, for the reason that the renters bothered by the owners presence, portrays the persuasive threat of modernization. He along with the Policeman Halder is indistinguishable from the European exploitation of the colonies and its population under the banner of civilizing the uncivilized.

The claims for inducing repeated ventures to establish association with the tribes, either by driving them out their boundaries or by intruding into theirs are attempts grounded on the assumed need to civilizing the primitives. Mr. Basu's accusation of Jarawas' nakedness making improper influence on the village youngsters and questioning its legitimacy, voices out the wondering contemporary mass population that refuse to recollect the memories of cultural evolution and to realize his position of an intruder.

Neglecting the role of the unaware, unlearned and the official pursuers, the rest of the nation's perception upon the land and the natives are daunting for their lack of insight, diplomacy and humanitarian though process. The media portrayal of the Island sustains minimal enough to be null in ratio, the only impression of the nation for the archipelago is fancy for tourism indifferent to government vision. While Halder and his wife's show of customized tribal women's baby shower display imprudent ethos, the media's discourtesy is visualized when the All India Radio reporter trust mike into a young boy's face to induce yodel to record the rare.

The great alarming factor of all the mislead propaganda is that, the attempts to establish relation among the two completely diversified world results in the sexual and ethical abuse of the subjugated. Mr. Pillai's narration of the police officer's brutal death on raping the tribal women is to be considered as Jarawas proclaiming self justice. The abrupt voice for mismanaged tourism in

the island illustrated by portrayal of any and every ordinance listed on the awareness banners throughout the land being breached under the corrupt surveillance of the guards. The accusation serves as direct reality check on primitive's physical and ethical abuse by the tourists who in turn are encouraged with the exclusive offers of encountering the primitive tribes, in spite of being against the law.

*The Last wave* primarily banners the exploitation of the natural boundaries, a highly precarious affair totally blindsided to the world. The characterization of Sreekumar kutty a complete depiction of an absolute helpless, striving to establish the truth among the corrupt by constructing the report on the Island's biodiversity serves sharp warning for whomever when take notice will sense the urge for immediate governance over the hazard.

The Forest Department for the purpose of logging under the controlled context established by The British, After Indian independence expanded the process with increasing demand of extensive deforestation and exceeded the government allocations resulting in the illegal diminishing of the tribal reserve. SK's research on the logging in tribal reserved forest and its reverberation on the ecosystem are evidently illustrated with the help of *Pipilionanthe teres*, the orchid that survives under direct sunlight. By picturizing the scenic beauty with zero evidence of the orchids within the tropical evergreen tribal boundaries stretching along one side of the Andaman Trunk Road and the other side subjected to the deforestation covered with blanket of the orchid, the author exposed the beauty beside the beast.

*The Last Wave's* pragmatic argument showcase the "Report of the Project for Formulating A Land Evaluation Survey of Andaman and Nicobar Islands" by Satish and Shanthi Nair belonging to Department of Environment, Government of India, 1983, enunciating the failure of official method, the refuting claim of scientific architecture to preserve the eco system with neglected contradicting consequence .

While the modernization rolled out at gradual pace over rest of the world, the innocent tribes of Andaman are direct victim of the case. Being obscure to any kind of diseases, crime, illegalities, modern brutal propaganda and exploited life style; the sudden exposure struck them under both threat and excitement for the new something and it's evident when Tanumei spoiled the village utilities . Violating the tourist restriction to issue any consumables on encountering the tribes in the outskirts of the forest and indulging them in the adultery are unnoticed alarms unmuted in *The Last Wave*.

The cry for the help clearly heard through the pages, urge for the revival of the land and its people by which it denote the tribes. Wonder about the author's concerns for Jarawas in particular, needs a discrete meticulous insight on the history of the archipelago. Andamanese and Onge exploitation set in motion way few decades earlier with the same fashion that's being executed with jarawas; the clans that upheld the huge population has completely been disturbed with massive threatening decline and exploited in the civilizing attempts resulting in complete hazard, pushing natives into the welfare needs. Onges with a step ahead dethroned to the nearby island. Sentinels who inhabit their own island in the archipelago show complete resistance to the visitors in the forever history and also known for the same for their fortunate existence. The limited attempts to establish relation ended unsuccessfully and been halted by Indian Government realizing the need to protect the little left primitive tribes with The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Act of 1956.

Analyzing the position of each tribe in the ladder of subjugation Andamanese and Onge pushed at the top while the jarawas in the process of inclination and sentinels fortunately remain at bottom. Placing the jarawas in the middle could be sensed with some hope to revive and

restore the land with appropriate implementations; while the already established measures are corrupted and demands proper impediments, the author through his words tries to grab as much as attention with awareness by presenting the respective in the novel.

While the modern men's progress brought him nothing but the heights of trouble along with the heights of his achievements, he somewhere lost his capability of coping up with nature and struggle to balance. Contradictorily the tribes in their primitive habits of survival establish harmony with the nature and balance in their social and physical ecosystem; shows no need to be disturbed but preserved and respected for their cultural dignity.

## Conclusion

*The Land of Naked People* by Madhusree Mukerji talks on the report by Journal Current Biology in late 2002, that states the tribes of Andaman show evidence for their DNA characteristics to be more like Africans than Asians and are the last left planets first humans. Realizing the necessity to safeguarding the autochthonous, possess the chance to put the nation in spot light for withholding few left primordial of the world. Incident of November 2018, a twenty eight year old American tourist claimed to be a Christian missionary on his repetitive illegal attempt to reach the North Sentinel Island when killed by the tribes set off as an eye opener for the whole world.

The last wave primarily argue that the mission to civilize the primitives becomes absurd if the attempt lead to daunting genocide rather than glory and with the evidence of the early attempts with the Archipelago natives it is precise and thus the *The Last wave* announce the very need in every page. Proper insight to witness and accept the reality, history and authenticity of the targeted territory of archipelago and the hormonal people of it, expresses the lacking essential of contemporary which is voiced out in the *The Last Wave*.

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