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Incredible Dedication and Adaptability in Dalvir Singh Gahlawat's "Wall of Trust"

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Abstract

Dalvir Singh Gahlawat is a burgeoning distinguished voice in Indian English poetry. He is the artist of feelings, experiences, and nature. He is very close to nature and man. In his poems he describes and understands human nature in different conditions. He portraits the pictures of the so called modern society where we see the peak of luxuries and lack of love, trust and loyalty. He is a writer of a number of books on literature as well as Indian Police System. His book, *Smile from the Veil: Collection of Poems* (2014) is fully pregnant with fecund and innovative ideas. The poems portray the real pictures of life. In today's competitive self-centered world where each and every person is trying to get physical comforts, it seems that the poet, beyond the above, observes the importance of inner feelings of trust. In his beautiful poem "Wall of Trust" he has presented problems of life with notable path of solutions i.e. incredible dedication and adaptability.

This paper tries to delineate the importance and weakness of 'Trust' through his poem "Wall of Trust" wherein the poet shows that 'Trust' is too weak to stand on the surface of loyalty, honesty and dedication in this "world of flatterers and money makers". Trust can be shaken by the outer forces if it is not protected from the flattery and "Yes-man-ship". However, in order to make it so strong, it requires to be nurtured with confidence, incredible dedication and adaptability. It requires victory over negativity and outer upheaval. It is the very truth of life that one has to go and go towards the path of adaptability by the way of incredible dedication without any hesitation in order to survive for long in this self-centered world as incredible dedication and adaptability are the true intelligence of human kind.

Keywords: Burgeoning, Fecund and innovative, Self-centered, Negativity, Confidence, Incredible dedication and adaptability, Nurtured.

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Introduction

When you want to tell the taste of sea water you do not have to explain every single drop of water of the sea but you explain only one drop to tell the taste of whole sea water. Similarly a writer picks up one incident from the society through which he generalizes the problem of whole society in which he lives. Dalvir Singh Gahlawat's poem "Wall of Trust" tells about the nature of society regarding trust on which the pillar of progress of any organization/establishment/department, creativity of any person, empowerment of leadership is based. The poem "Wall of Trust" has taken from the anthology *Smile From The Veil: Collection of Poems*. Like every poem of the collection, "Wall of Trust" has also a background. The hard cover of the anthology reveals that the poet is a Police Officer where flattery and trickery are common phenomenon among the police personnel from top to bottom and there is absence of trust and loyalty. Personnel have to be victimized by the off door policy of higher officers, therefore everybody remains under "Dog Loyalty". Through this poem, the poet wants to change the existing things not by fermentation but the power of his pen because you never change things by fighting the existing reality but by a new model that makes the existing model obsolete. When the poet joined his office there was a lack of trust, and rumours of dishonesty and disloyalty were observed here and there in the surroundings as the poet himself says in the very beginning of this poem:

Entered into an edifice
on 22nd November, 2002
It was wrecked and dilapidated

("Wall of Trust" 1-3)

After checking the trust level in police culture, the poet wanted to change the existing model through incredible dedication and trust. The poet started to build a 'wall of trust' as he considered the trust as a cardinal tool to promote creativity, conflict management, empowerment, teamwork and leadership during times of uncertainty and change. A culture of trust is a valuable asset for any organization that nurtures and develops it. Stephen M.R. Covey writes in his book *Speed of Trust:* "When the level of trust in an organization goes down, the speed of change goes down with it and the costs of the change go up". (Covey 2)

Such an insightful literary man has covered a long way to achieve this profoundness as his life was not so simple and conditions were not so favourable to him even in his department. Therefore, it is necessary to go through his life background to understand him. Gahlawat (b. 1961 in a small hamlet, Raipur, of District Jhajjar, Haryana) got graduation from M.D. University, Rohtak, Haryana and subsequently joined Delhi Police. In spite of disagreeable atmosphere in his department he got M.A. in Political Science, M.A. in English, M. Phil. in English and PhD in English. He hails from rural background. His Poem "Boat of Life" was selected as one of the best poems in the International Poetry Fest, Guntur, A.P. He has six books to his credit: *Turmoil and Turn: Women in Shashi Deshpande's Novels; Post Feminism in India: Myth or Reality;*

Psycho Socio Analysis of Indian Police System; Smile from the Veil (*Collection of Poems*), *Feminine Consciousness: Glimpsing Indian Perspective, Indian Policing: Significance of Intelligence Leadership.*

Words can be like X-rays if they are used properly, they'll go through anything. You read and you're perforated. The poet emphasizes upon the words i.e. honesty, loyalty and uphill struggle that symbolize the balm to heal/obliterate the venom like flattery, contempt and corruption which take place in some form under the 'umbrella of discipline' in police culture. Through these words which are cultivated by 'water of love', the 'wall of trust' can be built. In other sense, the progress of any organization is possible only if these words take place instead of flattery, trickery, corruption and red-tapism.

The poet through his most sensitive poem "Wall of Trust" hints about the incredible dedication to his duty and tries to show that after every dark night there is a bright day but it requires wait with patience as lots of evil powers surround that are ready to divert our mind and soul towards the wrong path and on that wrong path there is a show off brightness but equally this path is full of darkness, loneliness, broken heart, pain and shrills. The 'way of uphill struggle' is greater than the way of 'show off brightness'. This makes the world happy and prosperous but on the other hand, the way of 'show off brightness' covers a small distance and then disappears and even the explorer forgets in which direction he should go. In this way the progress of a nation can be hampered but the 'way of uphill struggle' covers a long way and leads a nation toward the progress by leaps and bound. Such type of way cannot be blocked by the outer forces as this is not made by the cement and concrete but by inner forces of trust, honesty, loyalty and uphill struggle:

Not "Wall of Cement and Concrete"
But "Wall of Trust"
Never shaken by the outer forces,
as it was built by inner forces

("Wall of Trust" 13-16)

The poet makes the 'wall of trust' with a mixture of honesty, loyalty and uphill struggle which was so strong initially that it was impossible to demolish it by the foolish people ('wild animals') who enchant others by their oily tongue.

Materialistic and Futuristic Approach in "Wall of Trust"

The human mind is like a parachute. It works best when it opens. Employees of any organization provide the best result in a relaxed and hopeful environment as it is a natural phenomenon that a man becomes happy when he sees himself successful in his efforts, he pins many hopes with his efforts and waits for the result. Futuristic plan and teamwork strategy make an organization better. In lack of ultramodern stratagem, the progress of an organization in particular and a nation in general is impossible because what we decide today will have its effects tomorrow.

> We are all materialists, to one extent or another. We all use and enjoy material goods in our daily lives, and most of us simply couldn't get by without them. And there is nothing wrong with that, as long as the desire for material goods doesn't control us and our actions. Materialism becomes an obstacle when we start allowing things to control us, to keep us focused on things outside ourselves rather than on things that would be truly beneficial to us, such as our spiritual development, our relationships, our learning, and our peace of mind. (Berry1)

In "Wall of Trust" the poet, through the collection of small things, i.e. abstract material, wants to send a message to the society that in spite of amassing so many things one cannot get satisfaction. The poet accumulates the abstract materials i.e. honesty, loyalty and uphill struggle to build a wall of trust and pins many hopes in the same way as a child collects the small things from the courtyard to make a toy for playing there and when it becomes ready he gets happiness but if it shatters, he becomes disappointed. Similarly, the poet had pinned many hopes with the wall of trust. When the wall of trust is made he becomes happy but due to unforeseen circumstances it could not protect the poet from the scorching heat, as he writes:

Exulted, it will protect
from unwanted Breeze and Glows
and will give immense pleasures
in its shadows

("Wall of Trust" 7-10)

In the second half of the poem, the poet seems to be depressed due to the dismissal of wall of trust by the selfishness and misconception. But despite it, the poet advises us to maintain the trust to heal the broken wall with virtues – honesty, loyalty and struggle. But with all problems and solutions the poet also shows that when your problems reach beyond capability of solutions then there is no need to cry for loss of the whole life. We should be adept to it and mould ourselves according to the situations rather than putting ourselves in worse situation. The wall of trust is not broken by outer sources or by outer persons but due to inner forces.

The paper is an attempt to analyze the poet's one part of personality "Incredibility, dedication and adaptability", and on the other hand readers can find the broken heart and adjustment somewhere in his professional life which is common phenomenon in this technical world where everyone suffers from this realistic problem of broken trust.

The Philosophy of "Wall of Trust"

The "Wall of Trust" means protection from unwanted or negative thoughts which proliferate and destroy the mind and body. A man dominated by negative thoughts becomes insane and tries to flee away from the responsibilities assigned to him. In this situation he is ready to do anything, even to smear his head.

Wanted to strike head
To smear it
With the drops of my blood
Wanted to call it 'Gory Wall'
Not 'Wall of Trust'

("Wall of Trust" 28-32)

But 'Trust' is a virtue which gives us immense pleasure. The strength of trust makes one feel secure and get pleasure but in outer world there is negative charge also which gets protection under the shadow of trust, side by side it slowly cuts the tree of trust. Wall of trust should be maintained by positive feelings. This wall can be heralded by the others, they can shake out trust of our loyalty and honesty and in that condition we should not feel depressed but must use our strength.

Once peak was for high to see
unable to tell
There is huge dust on it
Never gave pleasure of 'Protection and shadows
Never saved from glows

("Wall of Trust" 19-22)

When our trust becomes blind and it reaches the top then it becomes difficult to see breaking of trust slowly. So to save the wall of trust we must protect it from time to time so that we may feel safer under the cool and comfortable shadow of trust. In this respect the poet says:

"I am Trust"
If I go
Would never come again
And 'Wall of Trust'
Would collapse for ever

("Wall of Trust" 37-41)

Incredible Dedication and Adaptability

The above personification suggests that the poet is an inseparable part of the 'Wall'. He did not want to separate from it since the trust is one of the cardinal tools to make the wall so strong that it could face the outer forces – negative thoughts, because the poet knows that if trust weaknes, the wall will collapse forever and that is why he remains firm on his place in spite of so many hurdles faced by him during the whole journey. From the "Preface" it is learnt that the poet had come to know about the dire consequences of excessive attachment therefore he found out the early solution. Although it is never too late to treat and repair difficulties in attachment such as reactive attachment disorder, early recognition of the symptoms of insecure attachment helps to repair it on time. With early detection, you can avoid a more serious problem. Caught in infancy, attachment problems are often easy to correct with the right help and support. The poet candidly indicates in the "Preface" of the anthology:

> I came to know that the attachment and trust had taken the place of professionalism. That night was a commemorative and instructive for me to adapt myself accordingly to avoid redundant mess and to keep myself alive. (Gahlawat 7)

"Wall of Trust" is a realistic problem of disappointment. In this barren world of relations and loyalty, man suffers from broken heart and trust, in personal as well professional life. The poet says in the preface of the anthology,

> … that night was a commemorative and instructive for me to adapt myself according to … redundant mess and to keep myself alive. There was a dialogue between me and my past when the day broke out I tried to pen my profound ideas in the shape of a Poem titled "Wall of Trust". (Gahlawat 7)

The poem shows that in spite of so many problems one must not lose courage and keep standing with utmost trust and credibility :

> Credibility boils down to two simple questions. First, do I trust myself? Second, am I someone who others can trust? Covey talks about Four "Cores" that are key to building credibility. The Four Cores are: 1. Integrity, 2. Intent, 3. Capabilities, and 4. Results. Integrity and Intent are character cores. Capabilities and Results are competency cores. All Four Cores are necessary for credibility. A person of integrity that does not produce results is not credible. If you are not credible, you are not trustworthy" (Covey 4)

Conclusion

The poem explains the practical problems being faced by the common man in any organization in his day to day life. It shows our outer and inner feelings as well as human values and virtues. It shows how modern man, in order to become a technical man, loses his own real virtues. He is very sound in safety equipment but weak on emotional level. The poet wants to send a message through the poem, "Wall of Trust" that one must be a person of incredible dedication and adaptability in order to avoid difficult situation. Indeed, it is always right to use our instincts as our guide. One must not set oneself up to be shot down emotionally by someone who doesn't deserve one's trust. But equally, one should not let negative past experiences allow oneself to believe that it's not safe to trust again. Trust to trust. Ernest Hemingway rightly says: "The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them." (Hemingway 1)

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