

War: From the Perspectives of Poetess Globally

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“Life is Not a Bed of Roses, but rather a Bed of
Thorns”

Abstract-The researcher begins this research article with a wonderful quote that suits at all the time those who really suffer in their lives. The objective of writing this article is to create awareness on life is full of struggle among readers. Therefore, they could refine themselves to lead a better life in a better manner. As a human, one could have witnessed a number of wars since the globe started existing. From the Greek mythical story that the war of Troy and today’s war between Russia and Ukraine. The causes of war would be confined to Territory, Monetary, and Women. Even it may be a story that too may end with any of these issues. Especially this article is going to discuss the struggles or problems of women faced through the consequences of war in the globe from the above-said context and the wisdom and knowledge shared by literary people from all over the world. The causes of war all over the world consist of only the following categories. Economic Gain. Territorial Gain. Religion. Nationalism. Revenge. Civil War. Revolutionary War and finally Defensive War. The researcher has taken up the following poetry from various authors of different countries. *The Gift of India* by Sarojini Naidu, *The War Works Hard* by Dunya Mikhail and Majorie Pickthall’s *Marching Men* discuss war in articles from the perspectives of Women

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According to Women in the world, war is an opportunity to show men’s nationality and patriotism. But women have worked as nurses, ammunition, arms factories, and so on. They are not directly connected with wars, so they all help the passive soldiers. As Jessie Pope rightly glorifies the idea of war and encourages men to participate, as war is a measure of masculinity for her. Through her poem she has encouraged men to participate actively in I world war.

Like Jessie Pope, charlotte mew, Margaret Postgate Cole, and Helen Parry Eden have also contributed their knowledge and ideas towards the realm of war. Apart from these poets, Sarojini Naidu from India, Majorie Pickthall of New York and Dunny Mikhail of Iraqi – American Poet are going to be discussed in the research article from the perspectives of poetess from all over the world. Through this research, the research writer brings out the strength and caliber of womanhood to the entire world.

Gift of India was written in 1915 by an Indian poet Sarojini Naidu. She is a freedom fighter, and politician. Sarojini Naidu’s *The Gift of India* consists of Four Sestet, each stanza representing a variety of themes. This poem is a homage to the soldiers who took part in World War I and lost their lives.

From the first stanza of the poem, one could assume the contribution and sacrifices of the motherland India as well as the mothers on the whole in India. The mothers in India are selfless, therefore, they are able to dedicate their sons to the war. That shows their readiness. The Indian soldiers sacrificed their life working in the directions of East and West, which shows that the mothers of all the soldiers, who took part in World War I are not known where their sons are. Then Sarojini Naidu portrays that the mothers of India have gifted their sons as priceless treasures to the globe.

In the second stanza, Sarojini Naidu picturizes that the sons of India are scattered and buried in other nations. Though they were born in one nation, they were not able to return to their own homeland. They were scattered like blossoms and their hands are broken which shows their sincerity and dedication to their profession though they don’t fight for their own nation rather than borrowed by the British to wage war against other nations. But Sarojini Naidu portrays the trouble and emotions of the mothers of soldiers whose bodies scattered like leaves in other lands, and also the mothers are not known that their sons have already

died. So, India is the land not only sacrificed their sons for some time but has lost its own wealth and treasure. As Lucius Annaeus Seneca, a Philosopher from Ancient Rome, philosophically states that “Brave men rejoice in adversity as brave soldiers’ triumph in war” as the statement implies that the Indian soil soldiers triumphed in the war according to the conscience. Indian soldiers are trained to face any kind of difficulties and have faith and patriotism so that they are able to fight for other nations. The Indian soldiers not only train their minds to have brevity and also train their respective every individual of their family members.

“Can ye measure the grief of the tears I weep”

The sons of India wage war against the enemy country of which they support and lose their lives like laborers of their own nation. But their mothers do not know that their sons have already died in the war field. So, the sacrifice of the mothers of Indian soldiers are immense and enormous. Their sons fought with the country as their own country’s enemies, therefore, they are able to sacrifice their lives even in another land. The way they are trained is crucial, rigid, and straightforward. The sacrifice of Indian soldiers’ mothers is heavier than the sacrifice of Indian soldiers, but in the poem, the mothers have been affected by psychological turmoil. They do not have any special medication for the disease, their disease is unable to bear the death of their sons in a foreign land for which they even cannot have the last rites for the funeral. This is the cruelest thing in the life of a human, here Sarojini Naidu vividly portrays the trauma of mothers after they lose their son’s life has been picturized. Not only the loss of mothers of all Indian soldiers but Indian defense too so the entire nation weeps for the loss of their sons in other countries. As Ernest Hemmingway states exactly as “Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.” According to Hemmingway war is not a necessary one When the soldiers wage, they could witness a number of soldiers have been wounded, other soldiers would rescue the already wounded people, at the time the rest of the warriors would pity the soldiers and they would realize that it may happen for the number at any time. Mark Twain also says that *All war must be just the killing of strangers against whom you feel no personal animosity; strangers whom, in other circumstances, you would help if you found them in trouble, and who would help you if you needed it.*”

The last stanza of the poem celebrates the sacrifice of India and its contribution for the cause of others. Courage, Honor and recognition of the hero are reflected through this poem, the contribution is immense, uncountable, and innumerable. Sarojini Naidu from the perspective of Mother and motherland has expressed her views and ideas and knowledge of the war has been picturized.

Dunya Mikhail was born and raised in Iraq of a Catholic family. She graduated with BA from the University of Baghdad. Mikhail worked as a journalist and editor of the literary section, then she became a translator for The Baghdad Observer. As a liberal writer during the time of dictatorship and censorship, Mikhail fled Iraq in 1995, moving first to Jordan and then ultimately to the United States, where she became a U.S. citizen, got married, and became a mother to a daughter. She studied Near Eastern Studies and received her MA from Wayne State University. In 2001, she was awarded the United Nations Human Rights Award for Freedom of Writing. Mikhail is able to speak and write in Arabic and English. Her works include the poetry collection *The War Works Hard*, which won PEN's Translation Fund Award, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize, and was named one of the best books of 2005 by the New York Public Library. Her genre-bending work *Diary of a Wave Outside the Sea* won the Arab American Book Award in 2010.

Dunya Mikhail’s *The War Works Hard*, is a recurring theme of war, and she is an Iraqi exile who fled her country after being placed on Saddam Hussein's enemies list. Her poem *The War Works Hard* offers an ironic take on the meaning and consequence of war. In the very first line of the poem starts with a wonderful adjective Magnificent that represents the cruelty of war and its consequences. Moreover, the exquisite of poem in every line has a minimal number of words and every line has an active and vibrant action word. The author ironically expresses how the busy morning was in the war field and the awesome picturization of the setting of war and eventually she represents how the war field functions in a busy movement of dispatches of ambulances to various venues and the tears from the eyes of mothers digs into the earth. The above said lines indicate how brutally the soldiers were wounded by the enemy country soldiers. Then Dunya vividly explains and photocopies that the wounded soldiers were kept in the stretches into pieces and thriving for

their life in earth. Their life on the earth was being counted minute by minute. The researcher immediately remembers the recently happened earthquake where many-storied buildings collapsed and was devastated within a fraction of a second. A number of children and elders were there in the rubble of the collision. Even their cry is not heard.

*It produces the most questions
in the minds of children,
entertains the gods
by shooting fireworks and missiles
into the sky,
sows mines in the fields
and reaps punctures and blisters,
urges families to emigrate,
stands beside the clergymen
as they curse the devil
(poor devil, he remains
with one hand in the searing fire) ...*

The war continues working, day and night.

The above-quoted lines delineate how children witness the cruelty of war and by seeing the war, how their minds would be psychologically affected and that effect would definitely reflect on their life. Moreover, the ecclesiastical people curse the soldiers and bomb blasting because they were not able to tolerate the everlasting fight. The persistence of war also made people feel uncertain about life. Waging war day and night is from the perspective of public is unsustainable, whereas from the perspective of soldiers, they find it very difficult to face the enemy country. Men wage war with other men in the war field whereas women face their everyday lives as more than war fields without men in their lives. Their groom, sorrow and grief are more powerful than the pain of soldier's death. Dunya Mikhail also stresses upon the ironical mood of war that war contributes to the industry for preparing limbs, the decayed dead bodies were eaten by flies, then the consequences of war definitely have found pages in history books, then there will be liberation and mutual understanding between two binary oppositions killer and killed, moreover lovers world have sent their feelings and emotions through sending letters simultaneously young girls would be waiting for the reply, the news of war field would fill all pages of the newspaper with articles, picture, and cartoons followed by enormous new houses were built for shelterless, providing food for foodless and gifting the dress for dressless people.

At this time the researcher remembers the rightly said quote by Ernest Hemingway, in his perspective on war "Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime", with this fine optimistic view of war from the mirrors of women were a marvelous way of ironically explained. "I believe there's no winner in the war because, you know, the killed one dies physically and the killer dies morally. So, they are both dead."

Marjorie Lowry Christie Pickthall was born on 14 September 1883 in Gunnersby, Middlesex, England but was a Canadian because she settled there when she was six her family moved to Toronto, where she grew up. She was a precocious child and she wrote some surprisingly well-crafted and impressive stories and poems. In 1898, at the age of fifteen, Pickthall sold her first story, *Two Ears*, to the Toronto Globe. She was regarded by some as the greatest Canadian poet of her era, and this short poem is a moving religious take on the sacrifice being made by thousands of men every week: 'With souls unpurged and steadfast breath, they supped the sacrament of death. And for each one, far off, apart, Seven swords have rent a woman's heart.' The poem deserves to be better known outside of Canada than it is, as it is an interesting example of a 'war poem' written during the First World War, but by a female civilian rather than a male combatant.

When the researcher of the article reads the poem of Majorie, the researcher recalls instantaneously the learners of the present scenario and their attitudes. Modern students do not want to work hard but they require a pocketful salary without working hard. The learners of lost their interest in pursuing knowledge. In the first stanza of the poem *Marching Men* the dead soldiers are brought to the graveyard as the people of Christ go to Calvary. The title could be justified as Men marse to die or marse men died, those who took part in World War I. This line strengthens the faith of the almighty. When the dead bodies of soldiers are taken to the graveyard that shows faith in god as well and they lost their faith after the industrial revolution. According to David F Beer, the poem primarily focuses on the statement about sacrifice. To the Pickthall, these young soldiers are modern-day Christs on their way to be crucified. Unlike Christ, they don't know they are already condemned to death and so enjoy an "idle song and free" as they march along carelessly and jokingly. A more cosmic view would

see them as willing sacrifices on the road to Calvary in the hope of redeeming the world.

As in the second stanza says that the soldiers are earth-born dreams to deck the grave. Its already written in our destiny that the soldiers sacrifice their lives as God sacrificed his life for his own people. Hauntingly, in the background is the Christian rite of Holy Communion, where believers 'sup' the elements of bread and wine in commemoration of Christ's sacrifice. The final couplet is intriguing. Each soldier's death will pierce a woman's heart. We recall from the Gospels that Christ's mother was present at his death and heard the final seven exclamations of her son in agony on the cross. Each would have rent Mary's heart, just as news of their soldier sons' sacrifice will stab the hearts of the mothers who watched them march away. Therefore, women suffer a lot than the one who goes to battle.

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