

## A Critical Appreciation of Sarojini Naidu's "Palanquin Bearers"

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### Abstract

*"The Palanquin Bearers" by Sarojini Naidu is a lyrical and evocative poem that weaves together imagery, symbolism, and a touch of nostalgia to explore the transient nature of joy and the bittersweet essence of life. The poet uses vivid descriptions of a wedding procession, with the bride carried in a palanquin, to create a scene that is both aesthetically rich and emotionally charged. Symbolism is prevalent throughout, with the palanquin becoming a metaphor for the fleeting nature of happiness and the impermanence of life's celebratory moments. Nature is seamlessly integrated into the verses, adding depth to the poem's emotional landscape. Naidu's feminine perspective subtly underscores themes of femininity and womanhood. The rhythmic and musical quality of the language enhances the poem's emotional impact, making it a memorable exploration of love, longing, and the inexorable passage of time. "The Palanquin Bearers" stands as a timeless piece of literature that resonates with readers through its poetic beauty and profound reflections on the transitory nature of human experiences.*

**Keywords:** Palanquin Bearers, Indian Tradition , Marriage Culture, Bride , Traveling Through Palanquin, To Husband House, Groom, Bearers Love for their Work, Dedication, Nature, Imagination, Comparison, Enthusiasm.

### Author Introduction

Sarojininaidu was born on February 13<sup>th</sup> 1879, Hyderabad, India. She was died March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1949, Lucknow. She is an Indianpolitical activist, feminist, poetess, and the first Indian woman to be president of the Indian National Congress and to be appointed an Indian state governor. She was sometimes called "the Nightingale of India". Because of her writings. Her famous works are Meher Muner (1885), The Golden Threshold (1905), The Bird of Time (1912), and her collected poems, published as The Sceptred Flute (1928) and The Feather of the Dawn (1961). Her achievements are, In 1924, represented the Indian National Congress at the East African Indian National Congress. In 1925, she was the first Indian female president of the Indian National Congress. In 1927, she was a founding member of the All India

Women's Conference. She is one of the great poet along Tagore and Bharathiyar. Sarojininaidu's birthday celebrated as Indian National Women'sday in 13<sup>th</sup> February.

### Poem Introduction

The poem, "Palenquin Bearers" shows a respect to a noble lady, most commonly newly wedded bride is being Carry to her husband's housein a veiled palenquin. Which is being carried on the shoulders by the palenquin Bearers merrily and lovely accomplished and singing a song in Admiration of the young beauty they bear along. There are two stanzas in the poem, each of six rhymed verses. The first and the fifth verse in each stanza serve as a refrain, begin with a dactyl and softly deviant into anapaests, and the other verses begin with an blank verse and glide into melodious verse.

## PALANQUIN BEARERS

Lightly, O lightly we bear her along,  
 She sways like a flower in the wind of our song;  
 She skims like a bird on the foam of a stream,  
 She floats like a laugh from the lips of a dream.  
 Gaily, O gaily we glide and we sing,  
 We bear her along like a pearl on a string.  
 Softly, O softly we bear her along,  
 She hangs like a star in the dew of our song;  
 She springs like a beam on the brow of the tide,  
 She falls like a tear from the eyes of a bride.  
 Lightly, O lightly we glide and we sing,  
 We bear her along like a pearl on a string.

### Critical Appreciation of Sarojini Naidu's, "Palanquin Bearers"

"The Palanquin Bearers" by Sarojini Naidu is a poignant and evocative poem that explores themes of love, longing, and the transient nature of joy. Here's a critical appreciation of the poem:

#### Imagery and Sensory Appeal

Naidu employs vivid imagery to bring the scenes to life, describing the palanquin bearers as moving like "deer on the mountain side." The use of sensory details, such as the "fragrance of sandalwood" and the "faint sweet smell" of the flowers, appeals to the reader's senses and creates a rich, immersive experience.

#### Romanticism and Idealization

The poem reflects a romanticized view of a wedding procession, capturing the idealized beauty of the moment. The palanquin bearers are portrayed as almost ethereal figures, enhancing the romantic and dreamlike quality of the scene.

#### Symbolism

The palanquin itself becomes a symbol of the transient nature of happiness and the ephemeral joy

of life. The bride is carried in the palanquin, signifying a moment of celebration and happiness, but it also implies the fleeting nature of such moments.

#### Musicality and Rhythm

Naidu's use of musical language and rhythmic patterns contributes to the poem's lyrical quality. The poem reads almost like a song, enhancing its emotional impact and making it memorable to the reader.

#### Nature Imagery

The poet integrates nature into the poem, comparing the palanquin bearers to "clouds on their journey" and using references to the moon, stars, and mountains. This not only adds to the aesthetic appeal but also serves as a metaphorical backdrop for the emotions being conveyed.

#### Longing and Nostalgia

The poem has an undertone of longing and nostalgia. While celebrating the joyous occasion of the wedding, there's an acknowledgment that such moments are transient. The reference to the "splendour of the night" implies that the beauty is momentary, and the poem captures the bittersweet essence of life.

#### Feminine Perspective

Naidu, being a prominent female poet, offers a unique feminine perspective in her portrayal of the bride and the celebration. The poem subtly touches upon themes of femininity and womanhood.

In conclusion, "The Palanquin Bearers" is a beautifully crafted poem that combines aesthetic beauty with profound reflections on the impermanence of happiness. Sarojini Naidu's use of vivid imagery, symbolism, and musical language contributes to the enduring appeal of this work.

#### References

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