



RESEARCH ARTICLE



THE CO-EXISTENCE OF INDIAN CULTURE AND MODERNITY: A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NISSIM EZEKIEL'S 'THE NIGHT OF THE SCORPION', 'JEWISH WEDDING IN BOMBAY' AND 'POET, LOVER, BIRDWATCHER'

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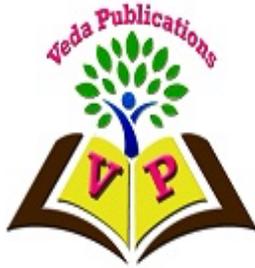
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ABSTRACT



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Nissim Ezekiel is a key figure in Indian literature after independence, recognized for his exploration of Indian culture and beliefs. His poem "The Night of the Scorpion", published in 1965, highlights the contrast between rural traditions and urban life, reflecting the beliefs of Indian villagers, "Jewish Wedding in Bombay", published in 1962, highlights the elements of both Indian culture and modern culture in Bombay apart from Ezekiel's never forgetting his roots and lastly "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher", published in 1960, highlights the traditional role of the poet and his modern life experiences and observations. Ezekiel, who lived from 1924 to 2004, began with romantic poetry but shifted to urban themes, discussing love, marriage, family and identity in modern society. His writing style blends ancient and modern elements, establishing him as a significant modernist poet in Indian English literature. The paper notes that villagers in India and other developing nations maintain old beliefs alongside modern technology, touching on themes like a mother's love, village life in the 20th century and the clash between science and tradition. Ezekiel's work reveals the co-existence of scientific ideas and superstitions, addressing social and cultural issues. As a Jewish Indian, he often felt displaced but focused more on cultural appreciation. His poetry also reflects themes such as the search for meaning and identity, revealing feelings of isolation, especially related to India's partition. Through his evolution as a poet, Ezekiel's work has contributed to the significance of Indian English literature in modern literary discussions.

Keywords : *Rural traditions, Urban Life, Love, Marriage, Identity, Superstitions*

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INTRODUCTION

Nissim Ezekiel, a prominent Indian English poet born in Bombay in 1924, played a significant role in post-colonial Indian literature and modernism. After studying philosophy in England, he returned to India and became an influential figure in literary circles. He founded the magazine *Imprint* in 1961 and worked as an art critic for *The Times of India*. Ezekiel held notable academic positions, including professor of English at Bombay University. He influenced many poets, including Dom Moraes and Adil Jussawalla and received the Sahitya Academy Cultural Award in 1983 and Padma Shri in 1988. Ezekiel's literary journey began with changing cultural landscapes, with writers often starting with romantic ideas before exploring diverse styles. He wrote various poetry collections, such as "The Unfinished Man" and plays like "Nalini" and "Marriage Poem". He also published essays and served as editor-in-chief for several journals. Ezekiel is sometimes referred to as "the father of Indian English poetry" by choice. Growing up in a secular family, he attended a Roman Catholic school and studied English Literature at Wilson College. He produced collections that resonated with Indian experiences, particularly in Bombay, exploring Indian culture and traditions, tackling socio-economic and political issues. His style and personal experiences greatly influenced his portrayal of mid-20th-century urban Indian life.

Nissim Ezekiel is known for his use of simple language and thoughtful themes in his works. His verses reflect the complexities of Bombay and its diverse communities, using humour to portray different groups without bias. Ezekiel's Indian Jewish

background influenced his exploration of identity and belonging, resulting in works like "Background, Casually" and "The Minority". Despite feeling like an outsider due to his minority background, Ezekiel experienced a sense of belonging in Bombay, creating conflict within himself. His struggle for roots and belonging is evident in his later works, which encapsulated the Indian experience amidst social changes after independence. Ezekiel's clear language and thoughtful word choices have influenced generations of Indian poets, emphasizing discipline, self-criticism and professionalism. He valued memory, observation and imagination in his poetry, creating works that captured his unique experiences and insights. Indian writers like Raja Rammohan Roy, Rabindranath Tagore and Kamala Das have enriched global literature. Ezekiel, often referred to as the "father of post-independence Indian verse in English", produced notable works like "The Night of the Scorpion" that are still taught in schools, "Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T.S.", "Jewish Wedding in Bombay", "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher" and "Background, Casually".

The poems contrasts village and city life, highlighting the traditional customs and beliefs of villagers despite the introduction of modern technologies like television and the internet. Nissim Ezekiel's poems "Night of the Scorpion", "Jewish Wedding in Bombay" and "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher" highlights the deep connection between the traditions and daily life. Ezekiel's work reflects his personal experiences with loss and cultural heritage, often serving as therapy for himself. Modernism, a literary movement in India, emerged after



independence in 1947. Ezekiel's work reflects common traits of modern Indian poets, such as social awareness and personal relationships, establishing a unique voice for Indian poetry in English. Ezekiel became an influential poet, critic and professor, receiving accolades for his literary contributions. His modern poetry often illustrates challenges like poverty and monotony of city living. Other poets, like R. Parthasarathy and R. K. Singh, share similar styles reflecting urban life.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The paper takes up a few key ideas and words from the poetry of famous Indian English poet Nissim Ezekiel and in its attempt to establish that the poet have added a new dimension to the treatment of urban life in the poetry. The paper also makes an attempt to show how the significant poet with the help of irony and satire expose the evils of urban life as well as society. The objectives are:

- To explore the realities of life in Bombay through selected poems.
- To achieve insights into how traditional motifs can co-exist with contemporary issues, enhancing their understanding of cultural identity and expression.
- To examine the everyday lives, struggles and environments of ordinary people, showcasing their conflicts and frustrations through the selected poems.
- To critique the flaws of urban civilization and express disillusionment with the chaos of urban society.

- To highlight the dynamic and self-destructive aspects of contemporary cities and has Indian sensibilities at its core.

METHODOLOGY

The paper is based on quantitative and qualitative research and adding to the paper primary as well as secondary sources are used. The paper approach to examine the complex blending of Indian cultural elements with modernity in Nissim Ezekiel's selected poems. The primary sources taken for study are original selected works of the poet. The secondary sources including reference books and other related articles. The paper sought to clear the complex layers of cultural negotiation embedded with Ezekiel's poetry.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ezekiel, Parthasarathy and R. K. Singh present new views on urban life, revealing how urban life can cause pain and dehumanization. They critique the flaws of urban civilization and express disillusionment with the chaos of urban society. The works of poets like Rajeev Taranath and Meena Beliappa support the idea that urban life is a key theme in Ezekiel's poetry, as he is aware of the dirt, wretched, ugliness and bad aspects of places like Bombay.

Ezekiel's poems explore daily life in India, despite his Jewish background and metropolitan perspective. Despite criticism, Ezekiel maintains a deep connection to India, stating that he identifies as an Indian in his youth. His satire is rooted in love and belonging, reflecting his unique perspective as a member of a small community in India. Ezekiel's



poetry reflects the decline of urban life, highlighting how it dehumanizes individuals and damages their values. His work is rooted in Indian moral values but remains modern in style, depicting his own rough city and acknowledging its harsh realities. Modern poets often highlight the dirt and challenges of city living but Ezekiel's work highlights the importance of recognizing and addressing the challenges of urban life. Modern poetry, often characterized by rebellion against tradition, explores the everyday lives, struggles and environments of ordinary people, showcasing their conflicts and frustrations. Nissim Ezekiel's poems is a well-regarded example of modern Indian poetry, focusing on familiar experiences rather than traditional Indian themes. Ezekiel's early work often explores themes of love, longing and disappointment, particularly unanswered love. His poetry reflects a struggle with identity and reality, expressing bitterness and anxiety over his aspirations as a poet and a lover.

The poems explores the misunderstanding of Nissim Ezekiel's poem "Night of the Scorpion", which is often seen as simple and easy to overlook. The poem depicts evil through misguided beliefs and superstitions that influence disease treatment in rural Indian communities. It highlights the struggle between scientific understanding and superstition, highlighting the tension between these beliefs in rural India. The poem also explores a family dealing with a mother's scorpion sting, blending elements of magic, superstition, science and love. The poems emphasizes the importance of Nissim Ezekiel's complex poetic vision, shaped by his outsider status and Indian sensibilities. Ezekiel argues that there is

no single authentic Indian identity and warns against oversimplifying Indian values. He believes that the diversity of Indian culture is best expressed through the individual poet's unique perspective, which goes beyond national borders. The selected poems discusses themes like alienation, identity crisis and personal dilemmas, focusing on the poet's engagement with these ideas in Indian society. It highlights the theme of personal alienation and how it connects to national identity, giving the poet's work depth beyond personal experiences. The poems also uses urban imagery to explore modern civilization and the human condition in cities, highlighting the potential for isolation and alienation.

Ezekiel's work, such as "Night of the Scorpion", "Jewish Wedding in Bombay" and "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher" reflects traditional Indian life and showcases his skillful use of poetic techniques. Poetry reflects one's thoughts, feelings, life experiences and internal conflicts, providing comfort. Nissim Ezekiel, influenced by poets like T. S. Eliot and W. B. Yeats, is a key figure in modern Indian English poetry, focusing on everyday people and their lives in modern Indian society. His unique style features simple language and everyday expressions, creating a strong connection with readers. Ezekiel's poems often view love and women from a male perspective, encompassing various forms such as genuine, physical, emotional and spiritual love. Dr. Mirza Sibtain Beg argues that Ezekiel's love poems diversify the concept of love, encompassing various forms such as genuine, physical, emotional and spiritual love.



**INDIAN CULTURE AND THE MODERN PERSPECTIVES:
AN EXPLORATION IN NISSIM EZEKIEL'S POETRY**

Nissim Ezekiel, an Indo-Aryan poet, often depicts the oppression and decay of Bombay as a symbol of India's urban life. His poetry often portrays an oversensitive soul trapped in the city's claws, struggling to escape its thoughts and developing a love-hate relationship with its ruler. Poets like Amit Chaudhuri, Abhanjan K. Mishra, Dilip Chitre and Aroop Mitra have expressed shock and disgust at the city's dehumanization. Ezekiel's poems, like "Background, Causally" and "The Edinburgh Interlude", reflect the struggles of an intelligent Jew boy growing up in a multi-religious and multi-lingual urban society.

Nissim Ezekiel's poetry explores the urban landscape of his native city, Bombay, through a series of shifts and transitions. The city is a complex space with chaos, vibrancy and hostility, reflecting the diverse modes of existence that often clash. Ezekiel visualizes buildings as emblems of the material and social aspirations of the middle-class striving to rise above its surrounding poverty. Street scenes and marketplaces are vital in his poetry, reflecting the bustling activity of 20th-century and contemporary Bombay. Markets exemplify the planned dynamics of commerce and relationships, imbued with symbolic significance. Urban life is a juxtaposition of various imageries, intermingling with moral starvation, material beauty and picturesque decay, creating a profound impact on the modern psyche, leading to a deeper sense of alienation and isolation. Modernization and tradition are evident in Ezekiel's

city narratives, as he disputes with code of the urban by collecting specific details about city life.

Nissim Ezekiel's poem "Night of the Scorpion" explores Indian culture and beliefs, focusing on urban and rural areas. The poem highlights the symbolic significance of a mother's spiritual purification through a scorpion sting, which is believed to cleanse the mother's body and help her let go of human instincts. The father, a rational figure, uses both traditional and scientific methods to calm his unwell wife. The villagers, who surround her, make knowledgeable remarks and her husband's knowledge of medicine is of little use. The mother is often portrayed as a role model for women with divine traits like selflessness, love and dedication to their children. The poem's dominant theme is the unconditional affection a mother feels for her children, as seen in the poem's last lines. The mother's emotional and ironic approach, as she received a fatal scorpion sting but was grateful that it did not harm her children, is the defining quality of an Indian mother. Despite the cultural setting, a mother never stops loving and showing affection the way she would. The poem also explores the dispensation of sin, karma and dharma and the lessening of misfortunes. The mother twisted on a mat, bearing the pain, while people prayed for her early recovery. Her father tried various remedies but the pain was reduced after twenty hours and she regained consciousness. "Night of The Scorpion" is a representative poem of Nissim Ezekiel, who uses modern idioms and conversational style to express his thoughts through the scorpion-bite. The poem highlights the importance of scientific thought and



superstition in rural areas, highlighting the clash between rationalistic and superstitious thinking. The poem also highlights the importance of understanding and respecting the unique customs and systems of a village.

The poem "Jewish Wedding in Bombay" examines how Indian culture interacts with modernity through the lens of a wedding, highlighting the balance between traditional practices and contemporary influences, especially in urban settings. Ezekiel reflects on the complexities of Indian life, revealing both harmony and conflict between ancient customs and modern changes. He critiques the younger generation's obsession with foreign trends, suggesting a growing detachment from traditional Indian values. 'Wedding' in the poem is depicted not just as celebrations but as significant ceremonial events that mark the beginning of a couple's shared life. These ceremonies bring awareness of the responsibilities that come with marriage, which is seen as a blend of love, social contract and a pivotal life milestone. As a Jewish writer, Ezekiel provides an ironic perspective on a Jewish wedding, noting the bride's mother's emotional display is more of a tradition than genuine sorrow. The cultural variation of the wedding are highlighted, revealing how traditional practices still play a role in modern life. Ezekiel discusses the gender dynamics within marriage, pointing out that men often have more freedom and power compared to women, whose roles often involve sacrifice and devotion. The expectations placed on newlyweds can be high, with the bridegroom seeking loyalty from the bride, while the bride must navigate her new

environment, symbolically taking on a goddess-like role. The poem also critiques the hidden expectations surrounding dowries, suggesting that, despite claiming to be modern, societal pressures still influence marriage customs in India. Overall, Ezekiel provides a realistic view of marriage and the relationship dynamics between husbands and wives, addressing both the joys and challenges of marital life in contemporary Indian society. His work thoughtfully highlights the importance of marital harmony in social relationships while remaining critical of the complexities involved.

The poem "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher" delves into the complexities of the artistic process and the struggles of the poet and lover, balancing their artistic pursuits with their responsibilities as husband and father. The birdwatching aspect introduces the theme of nature and transcendence. Ezekiel's "Poet, Lover and Birdwatcher" is a short poem that explores the creative process of writing a poem, comparing a poet to a lover and birdwatcher. The poem emphasizes the importance of patience and inner inspiration in composing a poem, stating that the best poets wait for words. The poem's texture unites all three elements, highlighting the importance of authenticity in inspiration and the importance of uttering nothing before the spirit moves. In the poem "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher", the poem becomes increasingly abstract, lacking clear definition of roles and interlinks. Ezekiel also explores the concept of consent in courting women, suggesting that consent is a bare minimum in any relationship and that it should be respected and valued. He mocks the hasty ways in which lovers approach women, suggesting



that women should be treated as gently as nature. Ezekiel believes that a woman's ability to show all her shades is the key to true love. The poem ends with the line that poets can regain their senses by waiting patiently, like the birdwatcher waits for the woman and the birdwatcher waits for the birds. Waiting is essential for poets to achieve their peak of poetic creativity and avoid distraction by hasty competition. Overall, the poem emphasizes the importance of patience and patience in courting women. The poem highlights that being patient and observant is important for modern creativity and love. It shows how these qualities help people connect and make meaningful experiences.

NISSIM EZEKIEL'S REFLECTION ON URBAN LIFE AND THE COMPLEXITY OF IDENTITY

Ezekiel's poetry examines the activities and daily life in a large metropolis, emphasizing the luxury of the wealthy and the hardships of the poor. With its residents defenseless and unable to flee its made-up island, he presents the city as a mystery. City people are used by Ezekiel as pilgrims; they are first content but eventually experience disagreements and arguments. He criticizes sly and evil people in urban areas, the decline of morals and the issues of the present era that take focus away from fundamental principles.

As a Jew who was born in India, Nissim Ezekiel accepts the cultural component of his identity and feels that identity is a mystery that can only be fully understood and expressed by the arts. Poets and artists frequently transcend social categories and take on the role of ambassadors for the trouble of

the self that they have learned from their upbringing. In short, identity is a mystery that cannot be completely solved and can only be expressed artistically. The primary subject of Ezekiel's poetry is urban issues; early pieces such as "The Unfinished Man" and "The Exact Name" highlight Bombay's unique local color and complicated Indian culture. Ezekiel has a love-hate connection with urban life and his desire to make living circumstances better shows how dedicated he is to his nation. Urban life and cities are also featured in R. Parthasarathy's poetry, signifying an impersonal world devoid of relationships and alienation. The well-known phrase "a clean break with the Romantic past" by Sudesh Mishra highlights Ezekiel's rejection of the romantic and mystic connotations of Indian English poetry's past. Ezekiel's poetry emphasizes personal crises, daily life, urban imagery, current topics and tangible images while fusing romantic and contemporary aspects.

Ezekiel's use of wit and sarcasm, which confront current situations with gravity, demonstrates his modernity. He stays in touch with the nation and its citizens, concentrating on the pressing problems that they face. Ezekiel exposes the foolishness, weakness and shortcomings of Indians by using Indian English for humorous ends. In order to portray the realities of Indian life, he purposefully uses Indian terms and emotions in his poetry. Another important theme in Ezekiel's poetry is city life, which he frequently compares to Paris and London. He highlights the dynamic and self-destructive aspects of contemporary cities and has Indian sensibilities at its core. Ezekiel's poems



explore “minority” which highlights the struggle of minorities to assert their unique identity while conforming to dominant culture, highlighting the tension between preserving their heritage and adopting majority practices. The poems also explore the sense of alienation and isolation experienced by minorities.

Nissim Ezekiel's poetry explores the anonymity, regimentation and routineness of urban life in Bombay, India, a city built out of imperialistic commercial interest. His identity is woven with the angst of India, attempting to destroy urban inequalities after independence. Ezekiel's language and style reflect his complex identity crisis as a Jew writing in a postcolonial country. His colloquial speech and Indian English expressions place the poems in a specific urban context, yet they retain Western lyric forms. Ezekiel's achievements as a poet are his ability to express seemingly simple thoughts and emotions in straightforward language without limiting the depth of meaning or complex understanding of emotion conveyed. Ezekiel's work is a social commentary, capturing the essence of the metropolis and its various aspects, including living and working conditions and social life. His humour is free from malice and derived from critique of modern times. Ezekiel's approach is an Eliotian one, focusing on restoring moral values in human life. He portrays India with honesty and without attempting to glorify it with false images.

The speaker assumes three roles: poet, lover and birdwatcher, representing their personalities and desires. The poem highlights the transformative

nature of the creative process and the significance of artistic expression for personal growth. Poets face spiritual awakenings and challenges in achieving their goals, as they must travel remote places to observe rare birds and wait for their beloved to surrender. The poem suggests that poets can widen readers' vision and sense of poetry. Indian English literature stands out from English and American literature due to its diverse themes, with early writers being social reformers and artists and modern writers having a more cosmopolitan outlook. Indian Writing in English refers to original works by Indians in English, highlighting the strong interaction between Britain and India and Indian experiences in the English language.

THE REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF CITY LIFE IN NISSIM EZEKIEL'S POETIC WORKS

Nissim Ezekiel uses realistic and beautiful imagery to depict the hard realities of city life. Using his senses of taste, touch, sight and hearing, he recognizes the strangeness, bitterness and futility of city life. Ezekiel is depressed by the city's tendency to minimize human character and the negative aspects of urban life. His poetry, which depicts current social scenes, urban life and actual Indian events, is overflowing with Indian sensibility. Despite the shortcomings and flaws of the Indian people, Ezekiel, who was born in India, is dedicated to Indian ideals, culture, people and language.

Nissim Ezekiel's poetry explores the beauty and ugliness of Mumbai, a city he is deeply rooted in, while also critiquing its urban landscape and contemporary life. He criticizes corruptions and



superstitions in Indian settings, such as the scorpion-stinging woman in "Night of the Scorpion". Ezekiel aligns with modernism parameters, depicting urban life with harmony and commotion. Modern Indian English poets explore tradition to discover their Indian identity, dealing with social issues like rituals, love, marriage and communal riots. Ezekiel portrays various people, including upper and lower classes, bosses, drunkards and dancers and presents their normal and weird everyday lives. He questions the suffering and ugliness in the Indian metropolis. Ezekiel's poetry becomes a perpetual quest for identity and commitment. His poems explore post-Independence India's metropolitan life, focusing on the homeless population and their daily and nightly activities, capturing the gloomiest aspects of city life with great intensity and depth.

Nissim Ezekiel's poem "Night of the Scorpion" critiques the Indian way of life through a scorpion bite case, focusing on a community preparing to cure the mother's suffering. The poem uses ritualistic incantation and simple diction to accurately depict the situation, emphasizing ironical statements and the Indian smell. In "Enterprise", Ezekiel explores the ominous mood of a primitive world characterized by ritualistic behavior, irrational beliefs and innocence. The villagers believe in the scorpion's power and seek to cure the mother through Hindu traditional notions of sin, suffering and rebirth. The poem also highlights the deeper communal harmony and human bonding among the villagers. The adult poet's father surrender to the ancient practices of the rustics, relying on ancient

therapeutic techniques and paraffin to burn the poison.

The poetic character of Nissim Ezekiel exposes the need for honesty and simplicity in contemporary culture and questions the hypocrisy of false saints. His creations, such as "Jewish Wedding in Bombay" and "Night of the Scorpion", are a reflection of his experiences in his environment and his Jewish background. The Indian ethos, which is founded on faith in God and the profound interconnectedness of existence, is frequently reflected in Ezekiel's writings. Love, loneliness, lust, creativity, political superiority, human foolishness and dissonance are all common themes in his poetry. Ezekiel demonstrated how his environment influenced his writing by adopting Indian English vernacular and mentoring up-and-coming poets. In his poems "Night of the Scorpion" and "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher", Ezekiel explores themes of self-reliance, self-examination and consent in courting women. It contrasts writing poetry with being a lover or birdwatcher, symbolizing self-knowledge and creativity.

EZEKIEL'S EXPLORATION OF INDIAN VALUES AND ITS REFLECTION ON INDIAN SOCIETY

Nissim Ezekiel's poetry connects global issues with Indian values, highlighting a decline in moral standards in modern India. His poems often explore the power and limits of language and the writing process, reflecting the poet's struggle for precise communication. Ezekiel's controversial themes include Indian identity, the prestige of the English language and the role of superstitions. His poems,



such as "Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T.S." and "Night of The Scorpion", address issues such as class difference, collective mythology, religion and family. He views his environment as an outsider but accepts it as his own and works to improve it. He often adopts different voices to satirize problems in Indian society, such as in "Ganga", which reveals the insidious treatment of servants. Therefore, Ezekiel's poetry is characterized by directness and succinctness, addressing complex issues in India.

Nissim Ezekiel's poems are a reflection of Indian culture, customs, beliefs, faith, truth and non-violence. His English writings are filled with Indianness, truth, non-violence, brotherhood, natural sight, discipline in language, empowerment, patience and truthfulness. Ezekiel, an outsider born and rooted in India, is considered the father of modern Indian English poetry. His poems often focus on self-knowledge, assisting in evolution. He praises the work of other poets and prays to God for peace and the power to transform uncertainty and passion into human good. Ezekiel's writing process incorporates the natural world, suggesting harmony, ease and independence away from the urban sphere. This project emphasizes that poetry is heavily based on the personal and vulnerable, as the poet shares his demons for the audience to enjoy.

CONCLUSION

Nissim Ezekiel, a modernist poet, is known for his exploration of Indian urban life. The selected poems critiques urban culture, highlighting the decline of moral values and the need for societal reform. Ezekiel's poetic style shifts from romanticism to

modernism, making him a significant figure in modern Indian English poetry. The selected poems of Ezekiel discussed themes like urban life, love, family and identity, highlighting the realities of life in Bombay.

"Night of the Scorpion" by Nissim Ezekiel is a poem that explores the tension between traditional Indian rural life and modern urban perspectives. The poem depicts a night of suffering and superstition in a rural village, where villagers rely on chants and prayers to combat the scorpion's venom, while the speaker's father employs rational, modern methods. This contrast highlights the tension between tradition and modernity and the resilience of maternal love in the face of suffering. The poem is often analyzed for its portrayal of Indian culture and beliefs, particularly the contrast between rationalism and superstition in a rural setting and the complexities of assimilation and cultural change within the Jewish community. While rooted in a rural Indian context, it also reflects on the human condition and the universal experience of suffering and familial love, themes relevant to both urban and rural settings. In his poem "Jewish Wedding in Bombay", Ezekiel presents a satirical and detached portrayal of a modern Jewish wedding in Bombay (now Mumbai). The poem contrasts traditional Jewish customs with the realities of a rapidly modernizing, cosmopolitan city, highlighting the complexities and contradictions of assimilation and cultural change within the Jewish community. In "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher", the urban setting of Bombay is not explicitly the central theme but the exploration of patience, observation and the search for fulfilment. The poem uses the figures of the poet,



lover and birdwatcher to symbolize different aspects of this search, highlighting the need for a mindful and patient approach to achieve meaningful connections in a rapidly changing world.

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