His memorable lyrics continue to haunt the nation

Written by V.S DATTA (Editor, N.I.P Allahabad)
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BIRTH CENTENARY OF KAVI PRADEEP, EX-STUDENT OF E.C.C.,

On February 6, 2015 began the centenary year of Kavi Pradeep, one of the finest and greatest poets of filmdom whose lyrics touched the heart of the layman as much as they moved the politicians and inspired a generation. There may be greater poets than him. His speciality was that he pierced your heart with an emotional dart that went too deep inside you to leave you emotionally enthralled, spiritually delighted, romantically charged and patriotically surcharged!

See what Kavi Pradeep has to say about the kind of songs he wrote, "Love is just a part of life and the love written about today talks about love between the sexes only. But do young men and women have a monopoly where love is concerned. Aren't there different kinds of love - that between a mother and her children, between a father and his children, between a bhakt (devotee) and his deity, between a man and his motherland? I chose to write about all these different kinds of love."

The British noticed him when he wrote ‘Dur hato ai duniya walo Hindustan hamara hai’, Indira Gandhi and her Vanar sena sung him when his songs like ‘chal chal re nau jawan’(Bandhan) were released, freedom fighters marched with great enthusiasm when his song, ‘Dur hato ai duniya walo Hindustan Hamara hai’ was released. The victims of partition riots relived the horrors of the 1947 bloodshed when his song, ‘Dekh tere sansar ki halat kya ho gai bhagwan’ hit the silver screen and Pandit Nehru’s eyes were flooded with tears when his song ‘Ai mere watan ke logo zara ankh mein bhar lo paani’ was sung by Lata on the Republic day(1963) after the Chinese aggression. One report says that Pradeep was declared Rashtra Kavi after this song and that Kavi was added before his name though he himself explained that this he had done so that his name was not confused with that of actor Pradeep Kumar of superhit films like Anarkali, Nagin and Taj Mahal. Kavi Pradeep passed away on 11th December (1998), birthday of Dilip Kumar.

Born on Feb 6, 1915 as Ramchanfra Narayanji Dwivedi, Kavi Pradeep as student studied in ECC at Allahabad too and P.D.Tandon was his class fellow. He stayed in Colonelganj opposite Anand Bhavan; and when he told this to Pandit Nehru during a meeting in early 1964, Panditji gave him a warm hug and told him that Chal Chal re Naujawan, written by him used to be sung...
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by Indira in Anand Bhawan while training her Vanar Sena. Although he began writing lyrics for Bombay Talkies' 'Kangan'(1939), his first bumper hit was Bandhan(1940) that carried his ‘Chal chal re nau jawan’ song that used to be sung at Congress pherries early morning after Gandhiji’s personal secretary Mahadev had approved it. Naya Sansar had a song which begins on a romantic note, ‘Ek naya sansar basle’ but later on he inserts a patriotic verse: ‘Aisa ik sansar k eke jis me dharti ho azad, ke jis me jeevan ho azad, ke jis mein Bharat ho azad, Janta ka ho raj jagat me janta ki sarkar!’ Censors never noticed it. But great sensation was caused when he wrote the daringly patriotic song Door Hato Ae Duniya Walo (Move Away O Outsiders) in India's first golden jubilee hit Kismet (1943). Initially the British could not realise its hidden meaning. The song was allowed to run. But one report says that when the British were subsequently explained its true purpose and meaning, they ordered his arrest and he went underground. That could explain why in the next BT film Hamari Baat, instead of Pradeep, Devika Rani chose Narendra Sharma, also a poet who had links with Allahabad and Anand Bhawan.

It all began in 1939 when Pradeep was invited to a Kavi Sammelan in Bombay where he was offered his first film Kangan by Himanshu Rai of Bombay Talkies. The film starred Devika Rani and Ashok Kumar. Pradeep shifted to Bombay and wrote four songs for the film, all of which became very popular, and sung three of the songs himself. In a career span of five decades, Kavi Pradeep wrote about 1,700 songs and nationalistic poems including the lyrics for some 72 films, including hits like Aao Bachcho Tumhein Dikhayen jhanki Hindustan ki(which became ‘Ao bacho tumhe karayen sair Pakistan ki) across the border! and

De Dee Hame Azaadi Bina Khadag Bina Dhaal in film Jagriti (1954)

In 1997, he was honoured with Dada Saheb Phalke Award for Lifetime Achievement. After Kangan he worked in six more movies for Bombay Talkies which included Bandhan, Punar Milan (1940), Jhoola (1941), Naya Sansar (1941), Anjan (1943) and Kismet (1943). His next film ‘Mashal’ contained the extremely popular song "Upar Gagan Vishal" sung by Manna Dey. Kavi Pradeep zoomed to dizzy heights of fame in films like Nastik (1954) and
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Jagriti
(1954). He even lent his voice for the evergreen song "Dekh Tere Sansar Ki Halat Kya Ho Gayi Bhagwaan, Kitna Badal Gaya Insaan". Jagriti had some rare gems such as Aao Bachcho Tumhein Dikhayen Jhanki Hindustan Ki, Is Mitti Se Tilak Karo, Yeh Dharti Hai Balidan Ki", "Hum Laye Hain Toofan Se Kishit Nikal Ke, Is Desh Ko Raknha Mere Bachcho Sambhal Ke" and "De Dee Humein Azadi Bina Khadak Bina Dhal, Sabarmati Ke Sant Tu Ne Kar Diya Kamaal" to say nothing of Chalo chalen ma.

In 1960s too his musical score in Talaq, a Rajendra Kumar starrer and Paigam starring Dilip Kumar, Raaj Kumar and Vyjayantimala were hits, --"Insaan Ka Insaan Se Ho Bhaichara, Yahi Paigam Hamara" being a highlight. S. Mukerji’s Sambandh
(1969) starring Pradeep Kumar had that classic number by him: "Chal Akela Chal Akela, Tera Mela Peeche Chhoota Raahi Chal Akela". Then in 1975, he hit the jackpot when the movie Jai Santoshi Maa, a low-budget movie, became super hit with such songs as "Main To Aarti Utaroon Re Santoshi Mata Ki", "Yahan Wahan" for which he received the award as Best Male Playback Singer from the Bengal Film Journalists’ Association in 1975.

During 1962 (Indo-China) war days, when he heard about Param Vir Major Shaitan Singh Bhati’s martyrdom he penned down the lines "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon". Asha Bhosle once said that she and Lata were to sing the song together. Another report says that since there was rift between Lata and C.Ramchandra, he chose Asha for the song.

But Kavi Pradeep was adamant that Lata Mangeshkar should sing it as he felt that hers was the only voice that could do justice to the number. C. Ramchandra was unsure whether Lata would agree to sing, so Kavi Pradeep began the task of convincing her to hear the song. On hearing the song she was moved so much that she instantly agreed to sing the song on condition that Kavi Pradeep be present at the rehearsals. Nehru, was moved to tears. A report says that for writing the song Kavi Pradeep was conferred the honour of "Rashtriya Kavi" (National Poet) by the government of India. I give below some of his popular songs

Meera ke jeevan ki Sooni padi re sitar" (Kangan),"Nachho nachho pyare man ke mor" (Punar Milan)" BANDAHAN: Chal chal renaujavan""Chane jor garam babu", "Piyoo piyoo bol pran papihe" "Ruk na sako to jao" JHOOLA:"Na jane kidhar aaj meri nao chali re" "Main to dilli se dulhan laya re", Dekho hamre raja ki aj sagai re ,"Aaj mausam salona salona re" and "Mere bichhade hue saathi" (KISMET:"Door hato ae duniya walo Hindustan hamara hai" "Dheere dheere aa re badaa";"Papiha re, mere piyase";Ghar ghar mein diwalee hai mere ghar me andhera";"Ab tere siva kaun mera" GIRLS SCHOOL:Tumhi kaho mera man kyon rahe udaas nahin:"Ram bharose meri gadi";MASHAL: Upar gagan vishal; NASTIK:"Kahna bahjaye bansari": "Jai jai ram raghurai" :"Kitna badal gaya insan": "Gagan jhan jhana raja" :"Tere phoolon se bhi pyar" JAGRITI:"Sabarmati ke sant":"Hum laye hain toofan se""Chalo chalen maa" :"Aao bachcho tumhen dikhayen" (Jagriti)
Some more memorable numbers:

Tere dwar khada bhagwan" (Waman Avtar)"Kahe ko bisara hari naam, maati ke putle" (Chakradhari)"Doosara o ka dukhada door karne wale" (Dashera) Pinjare ke panchhi re" (Naag Mani):"Koi lakh kare chaturai" (Chandi Pooja):Sambhal ke rehna apne ghar mein chhipe hue gaddaron se " and Mere jeevan mein kiran ban ke" (Talaq)"Mukhada dekhle praani" (Do Bahen)"Insan ka insan se ho bhaichara" and "O ameeron ke parameshwar" (Paigham)"O dildaar bolo ek baar...O Gorinsukumar" (School Master); Sanvariya re apni meera ko bhool na jana" (Aanchal)Na jane kahan tum the" (Zindgi aur khwab):"Aaj ke is insaan ko ye kya hogaya" (Amar Rahe Yeh Pyar)"Sooraj re jalte rahena" (Harishchandra Taramati): ‘Suno suno desh ke Hindu – musalman" (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose):"Bharat ke liye bhagwan ka ek vardaan hai ganga" (Har har gange):"Chal akela chal akela" (Sambandh) "Main to aarti utaron" ‘Yahan wahan jahan tahan"Mat ro mat ro aj" :"Karti hoon tumhara vrat main" and Madad karo santoshi mata"(Jai Santoshi Maa)

Awards:

Sangeet Natak Akademi Award – 1961:BFJA Award Jai Santoshi Maa (1975) and Dadasaheb Phalke Award – 1997.

Never des a day pass when we don’t hear his songs on the radio.He became a legend in his lifetime.