



My Boyhood Days

Rabindranath Tagore

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My Boyhood Days (Chhelebela, 1940) is Tagore's second memoir of his childhood days, written when he was nearing eighty. He describes, without a trace of self-pity, the spartan life he had to lead under his father's instruction. The sense of wonder and delight in the seemingly commonplace experiences of boyhood helped him become a great poet.

My Boyhood Days Details

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Author : Rabindranath Tagore

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From Reader Review My Boyhood Days for online ebook

Pallavi Deshpande says

This book is an autobiographical writing by Tagore. His childhood in Kolkatta. I am a big fan of Bengali literature so I was expecting a lot more from this book since this is my first proper reading of Tagore. I think it is the translation from Bengali to English. Perhaps the translator was unable to do justice to his writing. But I was bowled over the introduction written by Amartya Sen about Tagore and childhood in general. The importance of freedom and exposure to music and the intellectual curiosity that ends up shaping ones personality. I haven't read any of Amartya Sen's writings either but I am definitely going to do so.

Aruna Kumar Gadepalli says

Easy and quick read. This book deals with Rabindranath Tagore's life till 17th year before going to England for studies.

Prateek says

The autobiographic account of childhood of one of the most celebrated poets of our times. The poetic instinct and lyrical flow is evident in the entire reading. A short book to read and preserve.

Utsob Roy says

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Anurag says

To Read this

Alfie Shuvro says

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Eva Inzu says

I like it.. selangkah mengenal lebih dekat Rabindranath Tagore.. ceritanya lompat-lompat dan bagian khayali-nya tampak seperti bagian dari kisah masa kecilnya. Selain mengenal lebih dekat pribadi masa kecil Tagore, juga mendapat sedikit ilmu budaya India pada masanya, serta cara pengungkapan kisah Tagore yang memang kebetulan belum saya tangkap dengan baik, karena saya baru membaca satu bukunya saja, yaitu *Tukang Kebun*.

Cara pengungkapannya unik, saya rekam satu bagian saja sbb.

....., pikiranku berjalan dengan bangga di atas Calcutta yang terhampar di bawah sampai langit biru terakhir bertemu dengan hijau bumi terakhir;.....

ternyata kata "horison" dapat diungkapkan dengan kata-kata yang lebih banyak dengan tidak mengurangi keindahannya. biasanya "horison" diungkapkan dengan perjumpaan langit dan bumi.

Sesungguhnya ada banyak lagi gaya bahasa yang tidak biasa dan bermacam ungkapan yang kaya namun tidak mungkin disebutkan satu per satu. Saya berusaha masuk ke dalam kisah masa kecilnya sehingga kurang begitu memperhatikan secara detail, namun saya berhasil dengan ceritanya (+emosinya) dan saya cukup mendapatkan kesan akan cara penyampaiannya yang unik dan indah.

Safura says

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Utsob Roy says

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Gautham says

Tagore's reminiscence of his early childhood days really comes to picture in this book. He has savored various instances of his boyhood like schooling, life with his family, his imaginative play and many more during his reminiscence. As he himself describes, the way of the world has entirely changed from those times, in his real time the people not even had the time to take a restful nap. Though the world had changed a lot for him when he takes a look back from his age of eighties, the world today is having its shortest breath in the process of change ever in the human history. Even 5 - 10 years seems like a bygone age today. So reading his boyhood days was like a quick peep into an India with its calm and peaceful village life. Ultimately, the book makes one see the young Tagore who in a way was lonely yet very well embraced by the arms of love by his family members. From this book I see that childhood has its own way of relating to everybody. I have to say Tagore really touches ones heart with such a poetic delicacy with prose into ones

own childhood memories via his. The translator has tried her best to not lose the essence of the original work in Bengali which she propounds to be much more tranquil in nature. And I suppose her effort has been
worthful :)

cindy says

Tepat seperti judulnya, Tagore menumpahkan kesan-kesan masa kecil yang tertanam erat di benak dalam halaman-halaman buku ini. Tanpa alur cerita, tanpa dialog, tanpa protagonis dan antagonis. Hanya kesan dan ingatan. Khayalan-khayalan masa bocahnya yang telah melambung tinggi, pelajaran dan guru-gurunya, kehidupan bersama keluarganya, juga kenangan-kenangan saat ia pertama kali belajar menuliskan karya-karyanya. Kita telah mengenal seorang Rabindranath Tagore, tetapi ternyata masih ada Tagore-Tagore yang lain, yang meskipun tidak mendunia seperti Rabindranath, tetapi tidak jauh dari dunia tulis menulis. Dari penuturannya, terlihat bagaimana bakat Rabindranath muda terasah dan terbentuk oleh abang-abangnya, Jyotirindranath dan Dwijendranath yang memiliki penerbitan majalah Bharati, juga pada Satyendranath yang memberi jalan kepada perbendaharaan sastra Inggris kepadanya.

Selain menceritakan masa kecil penulis, buku ini juga sekaligus mencermati perubahan kebiasaan India di masa tersebut dengan gaya hidup di masa tuanya. Saat kehidupan tradisional pedesaan tergantikan dengan hiruk pikuk kota dan modernitas. Komentar-komentar singkat padat melukiskan perubahan tersebut dengan sangat apik, ini misalnya:

"Anak-anak modern tidak mendengar cerita peri dari mulut ibu mereka, mereka membaca sendiri dari buku-buku cetakan"

"Acar dan sambal kini dibeli di Newmarket dalam botol, masing-masing botol ditutup gabus dan disegel lilin"

"...ada sejenis kembang gula mawar yang harus dibeli. Aku tidak tahu apakah kantong anak-anak modern masih lekat dengan gumpalan gula berlapis wijen ini, dengan sekelumit wangi mawar... Masih adakah? Jika sudah tidak ada, sudah tidak ada gunanya diadakan kembali."

Just like the title, Tagore poured out his most memorable childhood impressions into this book's pages. Without storylines, without dialogue, without protagonis and antagonis. Just memory and impressions. His childhood imaginations soared high, his teachers and their lessons, his life with his big families, also some recollections when he first learned to write his works. We all knew one Rabindranath Tagore, but the truth was, there were many other Tagores, maybe not as world wide known as Rabindranath, but not that far away from writings realm. From his words, it shown how young Rabindranath's talent was sharpen and moulded by his brothers, Jyotirindranath and Dwijendranath who had publishing company for Bharati magazine, also for Satyendranath who had given way for English literature repeties.

Beside that, this book also looked throughly the alterations of Indian cultures and peoples of that time with the life styles during his old life. When the traditional rural living had been replaced by the tumult of the city and modernity, his sharp, solid and short comments summarized it beautifully. These are some examples:

"Modern children do not hear fairytales from their mother lips, they read it themselves from printed books."

"Pickles and chilli sauce now have been bought from Newmarket inside a bottle, shut with cork and sealed with wax."

