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The Role of Peasant Life, Culture and Movement in the Eyes of Writers

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In the advent of 20th century came a deluge of peasant movement in 24 Parganas, which got reflected in the thoughts, consciousness and creations of the essayists, lyricists, poets and the Bengali intellectuals. “To look into the socio-cultural history of an area, one should not only take account of the higher social class but also the religious beliefs-rituals and activities of the poor and helpless people living in that place. The signs of folk culture are not always found in the broad avenue of history, rather it is easily available in the changing phase of thoughts in human mind. Sometimes, these secret thoughts bring revolution, which is often’ not visible.”¹

The movement got started under the leadership of the workers, peasants, middle class people and Bengali intellectuals in 30s and 40s of 20th century, This spread naturally in 24 Parganas too. The eminent CPI leader Manoranjan Sur was instructed to lead the peasant movement and it took place in Khulna, Shitalia, Hatgachhi, Bou-Thakurani, Tongtala and Rupmayee under his helm.²

In his treatise, ‘Banga Desher Krishak’ Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote, “Living being is the enemy of living being; man is the enemy of man, The zamindars are greater beings and they feed on his ‘subjects, the lesser beings. It is true that the zamindars do not devour their subjects as the predators do. What they do with their subjects is crueller than to drink the blood of their bosom.”

Karl Marx wrote in his essay, ‘An Article on India’ :

“In spite of depriving the peasants of their hereditary rights over their lands and oppressing in ruthless way, the landlords were unable to retain their lordship under East India Company’s pressure. Their properties were taken over by the clever business pimps of the city. The company returned some of the zamindari ‘to their owners, although the zamindars could not keep them. All the lands were grubbed by those pimps.”³

Famous peasant leader Mohammad Abdullah Rasul wrote in his article:

“During Tebhaga movement, the police of Muslim League Government used 22 rounds of bullets. They committed rape in the districts of 24 Parganas, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Medinipur and Maymansingha. Numerous police camps were posted in different districts among which 35 camps were posted only in Dinajpur. 3119 people were arrested and the