



DELINEATION OF FEMALE CHARACTER AARTI IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S NOVEL 'REVOLUTION 2020'

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ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat has created the character of Aarti in his novel 'Revolution 2020'. When we study his female characters, we remember the heroines of Shakespeare alone and independently fighting against the traditions, protocols and biases of society. Even his characters remind us the characters of real flesh and blood by Charles Dickinson, a great Victorian novelists. Bhagat created his characters to live and visualize the aspirations and the views towards the life of modern girls and boys. He has presented Aarti as globalised modern Indian girl. She breaks all the traditional attitudes of society towards women. Not only Aarti but his all heroines change the attitude of society towards women.

INTRODUCTION

Woman is not only the private property to use, to control and limit her world but she is human being and she has the right to live respectfully as the men have. She is able to equal and compete the men by joining shoulder to shoulder. She is not limited only to the hearth and child as Lord Tennyson says in his poem 'The Princess' (1851) :

*" Man for the field and woman for the hearth:
Man for the sword and for the needle she:
Man with the head and woman with the heart:
Man to command and woman to obey;
All else confusion."*

This situation has changed now, the tendency of men have been exchanged by the thoughts of modernization and globalization. They have expanded their limits of thought about the women. The narrow world of women in the medieval and post medieval period is replaced by the broadness of globalization. The winds of improvisation blowing from one region to another and from one country to another. The world is coming very near. All the countries are exchanging their thoughts and culture and they are imitating one another. Everyone wants to see the world very nearly. So Aarti comes in contact of Japanese and Australian tourists in the Ramada hotel in Varanasi. She is presented very ambitious girl like others in present

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modern world .Her parents has no any compulsion to do a job but she won't like to sit at home as lazy and empty minded. So she decides to join the 'Frankfin' to become an airhostess. She is fully aware about her beauty and her wiseness. She is not clever as Gopal and Raghav are but she is more beautiful than other girls.Though she is not so clever but they both attracted towards her beauty.Chetan Bhagat has applied here the principle of sensuousness once again as John Keats has applied in his poems.As he says' Beauty is a joy forever' in his poem '*Endymion*'(1818) and 'Beauty is Truth and Truth is Beauty' in '*An Ode on a Grecian Earn*' (1820).

Chetan Bhagat describes her beauty, her dressing, scenes of day and night and their conversation and meeting in Ramada hotel and the scene of their intercourse in that room and at Gopal's home,all these scenes offer a feast for our senses. So he presents here an aesthetic view with the warmness and beauty of human mind. The beauty of woman fills the rigourness and happiness into the minds of men as the cuckoo fills the energy in the whole atmosphere by her sound. Men want the beauty in everything. They are hungry for the beauty which scatters the perfumes of joy everywhere .They forget themselves in that fragrance. A woman is able to lose and attract the concentration of everyone. Bhagat presents the beauty is a weakness of men. They don't avoid it. So without beauty, this world is of nothing. This beauty is represented by woman which fulfils the barren and tedious world of men. So both Gopal and Raghav try to fulfil their empty and incomplete world through Aarti.

Aarti's look had always drawn appreciative comments from the school teachers. However, two years ago when she turned fifteen, the whole school started talking about her beauty. The statements such as' the most beautiful girl in Sunbeam school', 'she should be an actress', or 'she can apply for 'Miss India"', became increasingly common.(Page 21,Revolution2020). Her entry into the Sibra stadium cricket ground would definitely disrupt the game. Batsman would miss the ball, fielders would Miss cathes and jobless morons would whistle in the way, they do to give up a bad name" (p.22).

Aarti was so smart but she has not any ego or pride of it.As the cuckoo has the greatest melodious sound but it never comes in front of us,it always sings by hiding itself in the bows of tree. Gopal attracted towards Aarti from her childhood. They don't know the meaning of the word 'love' but the different kind of intimacy was there between them. As Sigmund Freud says that every child has the instinct of libido. She was innocent like a crystal water. It is called that women's heart is very tender and soft. She didn't aware about her relationship with Gopal. She was very good friend of him but he loved her. She didn't realize about it but at last she comes to know that. When Gopal tried to show his love, she never accepted it nor she disclosed to him anything, though she was very careful about him. When Gopal had to left to Kota to join coaching classes at that time Aarti went with him in household items shop in Nadeshwar road.

The shopkeeper grimaced, but she ignored him.

' Thank you for coming.I would not have known what to buy', I told her.

' Have you cooking vessels? Forgot, no?'

'I am not going to cook.They have a tiffin system'.

Aarti ignored me. She went to the utensils section and picked up a large steel bowl and held it up.

'For emergencies', Aarti said. 'If I came to Kota with you,I'd cook for you everyday' (p.43,R. 2020)

Gopal didn't know why does she made a last statement? If she doesn't love to him or anything. Girls always keep in confusion. He was trying to delve her mind ,but she didn't let him to find the bottom of it. He says,-

' Why do girls send confusing signals ? She had rebuffed me on the boat the other day. Yet she comes to shop with me for boring clothes hangers and doesn't let me pay . She calls me three times a day to chek if I've had my first meals Does she care for me or not?'(p. 44,R. 2020).

Bhagat presents here very complicated nature of woman. Gopal couldn't understand how to react. Really they are so close of anyone and that can't decide any thing or can't guess of their feelings. Really she doesn't want to know about him or deliberately she avoids the discussion on such topic.

She smiled and placed a hand on my arm.I hugged her .As I held her, I brought my mouth close to hers.

' What are you doing?' Aarti said ,pushing me away.

' I..... I just....'

'Don't, Aarti said sternly.You will spoil our friendship'.

'I really like you ',I said. I wanted to say 'love',but did not have courage.

'I like you too', she said.

' Then why won't you kiss me?' I said.

' I don't want to'. She faced me squarely. ' Don't get me wrong.You have been my best friend for years. But I've told you earlier...' she went silent.(p.36, R. 2020)

Girls have very self attitude. They don't want to say anything or to let others know about them. They want to keep their secrets limited to themselves. They are very careful about themselves that any wrong message should not spread about them. Then what it may be about their career or about their personal life. When Gopal tells Raghav her that she wants to become an air hostess, she doesn't let him to tell that. Why girls are so aware about themselves?

Really are they conscious about themselves or they fears about their capacity to disclose in front of others?

'Shut up, Aarti ', I said. 'Yeah ,I know you want to be an air hostess'.

' Air hostess? Wow! ' Raghav said.

' That's not fair Gopal!' Aarti screamed. 'You are telling the world my secret'.

' It's only me', Raghav said. Aarti gave a dirty look.

'Sorry',I said.(p.25,R.2020).

Aarti and Gopal had a close relationship. They saw Raghav as a friend but not close one . Everyone wants to keep their secrets and enjoy about it. She might be thought that her enjoy will be spoiled because of disclosing it.

When Gopal meets her at Assi Ghat in the boat of Phoolchand, his boatman friend,he takes her in the quieter western direction. Because on the east the morning Aarti had commenced at the crowded Dashashwamedh Ghat. Gopal describes her beauty again and again. His feelings about her were from the bottom of heart. He says,'Her face had an amber hue from the morning sun. It matched her saffron and red dupatta'(p.35).

Aarti was so close to him. She never frightened to come with him at any time or anywhere. She became his support in his difficult days. She inspired him always. Gopal has not a mother, so he thought that he has no one so close without Aarti .As Madhav gave more importance to Riya in his life in '*Half Girlfriend*', Riya always inspires Madhav and helps to prepare a speech to give before Bill Gates Foundation in his school and he gets the fund. Like that Aarti is very important person in his life. She takes his palm in her hand and presses them. She was transferring her warmth into him. She was trying to replace his coldness by her energy. She holds his chin and stares in his eyes to give him comfort when he failed AIEEE entrance exam. So woman is not only a showpiece but sometimes she becomes a support of man. Bhagat expounds here again her another quality.

' I'm scared ,Aarti', I sad in a small voice.

' Why?'

*'I'll get nowhere in life',I said.
'Nonsense' ,she said.'So people who don't have a top AIEEE
rank get nowhere in life?'.
'I don't know,I feel soso defeated, I let Baba down'(p.35).*

Gopal thought Aarti should not go away from him. He was thinking to entangle her in his love. When he hugged her, he brought his mouth close to hers and tried to kiss her but she pushed him away. She has feelings about him but not those of love but of only friendship, that real friendship like pure and crystal water.

But Bhagat says, when girls decide, they can do anything. They are more expert than men to hide their feelings and emotions. Men can never find the truth in mind. They hide their feelings easily. Even they don't let know their purpose nor their attitude to others.

When Gopal went to Kota for his AIEEE preparation, she came to close to Raghav .Why this happened? Do always girls want someone? Don't they live alone? Bhagat says contrary to Jane Austen that ' Good women are in a wanting of good men'. Jane Austen begins her novel '*Pride and Prejudice*'(1813) with a sentence ,'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in a possession of good fortune ,must be in a want of good wife'. So she came in the contact of Raghav in the absence of Gopal. Because Raghav cracked the JEE and AIEEE exam, so she is fascinated by his talency and success. Bhagat presents here the quality of woman to attract towards the name and fame. When Gopal tried to ask her about him, she was not ready to tell him, she was hiding something.

*'You are with Raghav?', I said.
'So?'
' What are you doing at Raghav's place?'.
' Nothing, Generally'.(p.58, R.2020).*

He was shocked too much by seeing her at Raghav's home. Gopal says when girls say such vague terms like 'generally', it may be for specific concern. They increase the doubt of men. Even they don't think about one's jealousy. Gopal was jealous about Raghav but she doesn't care about that. Aarti sometimes speaks like boys and uses expressions such as 'cool', 'silence'. She tried to hide something from him by using such expressions. When Gopal comes to know about their relationship, he thought that Aarti has deceived him. She has cheated to him. He says to himself that 'she is liar, ditcher and heartless person'(p.73), because his love was only oneway love. He never thought that or tried to know what is going in her mind or does she love to him really or not?. But, if Aarti does not love to Gopal and she loves to Raghav, she should express it openly. We know that Gopal is her very close friend, so she might think that he should not be hurt by it but one day he would come to know and he would hurt.

As a modern girl, she chats on internet with him. He tries to know the feelings about him in her mind again and again. While chatting on internet he enquired to her about herself and she said 'Fine', especially with capital 'F', it is like an iceberg ahead (p.75). Aarti was a very stubborn girl, she never thought about others what they would feel. After their quarrel when Gopal promised her that he would not yell at her, she became ready to speak with him.

Next quality of Aarti, as a girl, has been presented here by Bhagat is that if any girl is wrong and if you are giving any evidence against her or contrary to her, she gets upset easily. Because they don't like that to disclose their secret. It is so hard to figure girls out. They always leave subtle phrases as qualifiers, so we can't put them in a spot later. When she chats with Gopal she says that she missed him as a friend.

' Like If I told her, 'but you said missed me', she would jump and say, 'but I also said as a friend!' as if we were in a court of justice. It is so hard to figure girls out' (p.86).

' Don't be stupid, birthday boy. If you were here I'd pull your cheeks', she said. '(p.86)

Gopal thought that Why she does confuse him again and again with a throwaway affectionate line. He tried to know that really did she like to him or not?, but he couldn't get it's answer, though she was in love with Raghav. When Gopal meets her with Raghav, she says him to wait in the car and she goes behind the tree with Raghav and they kiss there each other. When she comes back, she doesn't show any regret, instead she asks gaily to Gopal that had she took too long? Here Bhagat presents her very carefree nature. Neither she shied nor she frightened or thought about Gopal.

Bhagat says today's modern girls have got more freedom than the before. They speak on phone with friends before their parents or to speak very late in the night. They stay outside very late. It is very helpful to make them strong and independent but sometimes their modernness is rooted in the past. Her parents

Don't allow her to go out of Varanasi to become an air hostess. They thought she should live with them. So she came in depression and tells to Gopal to convince them, because they know well to Gopal.

'Thanks Aarti', I said, 'Speak later then?'

' You don't want to know why I am low?', she said.

' Mom and Dad won't let me leave Varanasi', she said.

'How will fly for airline then?', I said.

' Exactly what am I supposed to become here? A boat hostess?'

' Convince them,' I said,for lack of better advice.'

' They won't listen. I may have to run away'.

' Are you crazy? They will come around', I said

' Will you talk to them?' she said. (p.153)

It doesn't mean to distract her from her career, already her family is rich, they don't think about the need of her job. Even it is their parental love to keep her with them or in Varanasi only. They have only one daughter, because of it, they were not allowing her to go out of city. But fortunately a five star Hotel Ramada opened their and she joined it, so she got a chance to make her career.

Bhagat has presented here Aarti is a typical modern girl. Today's boys and girls always take various kinds of drugs. They are outside for day and night. It is effect of modernization and globalization. They have to join their duty. They work together and come in contact of each other. They share and exchange their ideas, thoughts as well as habits. The same thing happened about Aarti. Aarti always went on boat riding with Gopal. Sometimes very early in the morning or sometimes very late in the evening. But never she feared or thought any wrong about Gopal nor even her parents. Never they barred to her to go with him, because they were from educated family. They understand all these things. They never kept her as a cagebird.

They gave her fully freedom. She delighted by the cool and pleasant air on the shore of river Ganga. She forgot to herself with Gopal. She never realized that she is with that person to whom she does not love. She never thought awkward to do anything with him. Aarti took the benefit of her freedom and do something wrong. She took some puffs of marijuana on boat riding or sometimes whisky at the Ramada hotel without any hesitancy. She spent a night with Gopal in the room of hotel Ramada by telling lie to her mother that she is doing a double duty and enjoyed the sex with him. She felt guilty about that on the next day, she thought that she was wrong. But again at his home, she goes and makes the sex more willingly than the before. There she doesn't feel any guilt. She is compelled to marry to Raghav again. Because Gopal thought that he is not able for her. He has used the corrupted money of Mr. Shukla, an MLA of Varanasi for his college. So Gopal creates a scene of making sex with hired girls on his birthday deliberately to show to Aarti that he is not loyal to her. But Aarti didn't understand the reality, she believed what she saw, she hits him forcibly and went off from his life forever.

In this way, Chetan Bhagat has given a full panorama of modern girl through Aarti in his novel '*Revolution 2020*.'



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