



BLACK WOMAN'S AND DALIT WOMAN'S DISAPPOINTMENT TOWARDS PATRIARCHY (With reference to the selected poetry of Maya Angelou and Meena Kandasamy)

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ABSTRACT

In the Manusmriti woman is supposed to be very filthy human being. Status of woman and the Shudra is considered alike. For the Manusmriti throughout her life woman should be under the control of man. In childhood, she must be under the domination of father, in youth under the domination of her husband and in old under the domination of her sons. It means, woman lives under the domination of man. Manu supposed woman as a prostitute. For the Manusmriti, a woman must obey her father, husband, and son. Even the man has no quality of human being; the woman is bound to follow his instructions throughout the life.

Key words: *domination, exploitation, segregation, oblique, heterosexuality, horror and fear*

INTRODUCTION

Patriarchy word indicates 'male domination', 'male prejudice', or simply 'male power'. It means the absolute rule of the father or the eldest male member over the family. Patriarchy point out the rule of the father not only over all women in the family but also over younger and socially or economically subordinate males. When a man raises his voice in the course of an argument is likely to be described as aggressively patriarchal. If a woman alleged sexual harassment at her work-place and all the men in her office deny that this could ever happen, chances are that she might describe their reasoning a being 'typically patriarchal'.

Patriarchy concerns with masculinity and its privilege over property and woman sexuality. Patriarchy celebrates heterosexuality, female fertility and motherhood. The 'patriarchy' term is widely used in the 1970s, especially in England and the United States of America. In several cultural and social context and different historical periods, women expressed their

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anger and indignation over the manner in which they suffered misery, privation and injustices at the hands of men-in poetry, song and in stories that were passed down the generations from mother to daughter. Such expressions were direct as well as oblique and may be found in literatures across the world: in folk songs, poetry, fairy tales, religious poetry. The majority had stayed and worked for years in the cotton king south without improving their lot. South was an unpleasant sound, an overtone of horror and fear for the Negroes were made to suffer racial persecution, economic exploitation, segregation, lynching, peonage and a host of other indignities.

American social system and Indian social system designate disparity in social-cultural systems. American socio-cultural system furnishes freedom to woman because there is not caste and caste hierarchy which exist in Indian social system. That's why there is also difference in Patriarchal system of America and Africa. So far as American patriarchal system is concern with Black woman it is more treacherous and merciless with Black woman's life compare to Indian patriarchal social system. Caste hierarchy and casteism was/is playing main role in Dalit woman's life style. She was also supposed as mistress of higher man at the work place but he had not any authority and power about Dalit woman's decision. In the following poetical lines Maya Angelou has pointed out ill effects of American patriarchal system in Black woman's life, and her future career such as:

*A thousand powered moles,
Where touch to touch is feel
And life a weary whore (Maya Angelou 23)*

American patriarchal social system played very brutal role with the Black woman's life. White master supposed and declared himself the whole and sole authority of Black woman. She was the slave of white master. More or less she was the mistress of white man but did not ready to accept her as his wife; only for sexual and physical satisfaction he was ready to accept her as his mistress. Her life was not stable; her master could sell her anytime and anywhere. Each master used to exploit her sexually and physically. Nobody master could accept her as his wife or treat as a human being. She was supposed as a whore in the social system. In the following poetic lines Maya Angelou has expressed Black woman's suppression:

*You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise. (41)*



In above mentioned poetic lines the pronoun *You* is demonstrating the white master's patriarchal attitude towards the Black woman. White master never treated her respectfully in smooth words. She had to obey his order at his first sight. He was always insulting by using obscene and hateful words but she never took it as seriously. She was waiting to come over on that injustices and exploitations.

This patriarchy is existed more or less across the world; then how can India would away from this? Indian patriarchal system was/is related with male dominated society. It supposed that woman is secondary and she must obey the order of male (before marriage order of father, elder brother and after marriage order of husband and father -in-law) in family. Indian patriarchy has much injustice and exploited Dalit woman because she is economically helpless and support less. Meena Kandasamy has expressed Dalit woman's to be or not to be or her entangled situation in the following poetic lines:

*The sixteen years old
Gory scars on a wrecked body
Serve as constant reminders
Of disgrace, helplessness. (Kandasamy 47)*

There were/are many more helpless, support less and illiterate Dalit girls in India who could be found in the public places (Railway stations, Bus stands, etc.) for begging food to people. Some people supposed that these girls are devdasi. Some idiot people take unfair advantages with them, meanwhile she become pregnant from them. Even government does not ready to notice these girls. All these things are happening with only lower caste Dalit woman but not higher caste woman.

*How can I say
Anything, anything
Against my own man? (Kandasamy56)*

Dalit woman was/is caught in the both patriarchal systems i.e. patriarchy within and patriarchy without. For Dalit woman within patriarchy is more dangerous than without patriarchy. Dalit girl has not individual freedom before marriage she has to listen and obey the order of father, elder brother, uncle etc. even some times she has to swallow injustice and exploitation of her close relatives which she cannot express bore the society after all she has to maintain social code of conducts. She afraid if she discloses these things, society will at first name her and insults her.



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