



WOMENHOOD IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF JAISHREE MISRA

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ABSTRACT

Among Indian English Writers Jaishree Misra has a recognizable place as she analyses into the psyche of the contemporary womenkind. Misra, in her career takes a deviated path from that of the male writers of the contemporary era also by not regulating her writing by the male literary convention. Though her women characters are presented to be suffers and revolutionaries, they are animated with the spirit of full life and shoulder at the instants of disappointments with overriding stamina challenging the causes that decompose them.

Key words: *women, contemporary, revolutionaries*

INTRODUCTION

Misra obtains an indispensable place among the modern Indian Women Writers in English. She moves profoundly into the tribulations of female's mind. The presentation of the society reaches superb, extraordinary, outstanding and fabulous in the hands of Misra. She is a renowned fictional writer magnificently crafts the women folk with their emotional state, concepts and manners in connection with and in the matters of love and matrimony.

The function of family and the means of interactions with other member of the family vary depending upon community, religion, caste, sect, race, culture and society and so it is

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multifaceted, multi-layered, and multidimensional and highly complicated. The ideology and concept of family and the conduct of the individual are absolutely centred on traditional ideologies.

Misra is not against the institution of marriage. She only aspires that woman who plays the role of wife as she enters into the institution of marriage should have identical status and autonomy in the household relations. Janu the protagonist is a Malayali Nair girl born in Kerala and brought up in Delhi. And it is the same with the writer. She lived in Delhi till the age of eighteen enjoyed her school life and juvenile. She was brought up in a traditional Kerala Nair family setup. Her father was a commodore in Delhi and mother, a teacher.

Being born and brought up away from her native place, Janu finds it challenging to fit herself with her in-laws' family members and also confronts socio cultural discrepancy. She feels it hard to adapt to the new environment and situations of husband's house. The course of understanding temperament and catching the attention of her partner and the family members of her partner make her existence perplexing. Apart from this, Suresh's family members themselves conclude that Janu is a mismatch in their family as she is not able to cope up with the expectations of their family.

Misra presents Janu as a vibrant, energetic, animated and independent character who boldly encounters her life. She gets this vivacious status only after having under gone so much of hardships in her life.

In the attempt to stop her leaving home for good, as a final pace, Suresh and his family members decides to take Riya away from her still she goes to London and to complete her course. In England, Janu and Arjun meet each other almost all weekends. She is in perfect happiness with Arjun, her lover. On the other side, her studies also progress.

Janu leaves the novel with her mother without the help of any man. Her grandmother in a traditional way, warns her of going for another marriage, as her daughter is a psychologically retarded child. She further adds that no man will accept to be a father to such a child.

The protagonist attempts to acquire a place for her own identity in the society. The novel ends on a happy note. In her search for love and self-identity, she forms unconventional move.

Renowned writers like Virginia Woolf cemented the way for the 'New' or 'Other' woman to appear in the field of literature. Mary Wollstonecraft argued against the sex-related



discernments and emphasized that females are to be enlightened by education with the same quests as men.

It is the Indian tradition, that the women's role is to take care of her family especially children. In pursuing such custom bound duties, all women feel they are the victims to the miseries of the traditional male controlled society which Janu also realised. Janu in her long run, in her quest for identity, finds an outlet from the meaningless conventional ideas. It's only about her self-discovery.

Due to the modern industrialization that leads to scientific invention and to the instant development of education the reviving strategy of the social order creates the uncomfortable problem of suppression. She has come to the level of defining her identity. Her multifaceted identity is no more connected with the man with whom she is living.

She encounters a challenge between her individual values and social institutionalised values. The socio-cultural presuppositions avert her from interacting with her own self. In general, a woman feels insecure in the male-controlled society. The mind of the Indian woman meets with the alternate moods of faith and despair, of radiance and sadness in her search for identity and autonomy.

Misra's gained theoretical knowledge of Kerala lifestyle encounters a lot of challenges when she is given in marriage to Suresh belonging to Maraar family in Kerala where she has a troubled life until she moves to England in 1993. It is this troubled life that she experienced after her marriage and rendered experiences gained by the environment in the Maraar family serves the basis for her novel *Ancient Promises*, an autobiographical novel and the glimpses of its effect is seen in her other novels also.

On the contrary to her mother's accusations against the married people of the contemporary generation for devising things individually, she reviews her mind of devising her life independently according to her aspirations. Even though Sameera is aware of the results of her planning, she stands firm footed in the execution of her planning her life independently.

Postmodernism has regularly played an important role in overcoming the sex inequality. It confronts the stereotypes and changes people's outlooks. The unfair relations of dominance between cultures and sexes incline to work in a powerful way to the traditional methods while presenting postmodernism.



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