



THEME OF MARRIAGE AND CULTURE IN THE NOVEL OF PREETI SHENOY "THE ONE YOU CANNOT HAVE"

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ABSTRACT

This research paper spotlights the Indian Marriage and culture in the novel "The one you cannot have" by Preeti Shenoy. Preeti Shenoy is the best-selling novelist since 2011. She describes her writing as presenting reality complex human condition and complicity of man-woman relationships. Her writing's prominent theme is human relationships and marriage that's why she called a relationships expert in Indian English novelist. In this novel novelist Preeti Shenoy portrait, the picture of Indian marriage and culture. She describes various dimensions of Indian marriage and culture. The present research paper aims to study Indian Marriage and culture in Preeti Shenoy's novel "The one you cannot have".

Keywords: Family, Marriage, Community, Parent, Love.

INTRODUCTION

In this novel, Aman, Rishabh, Shruti, Anjali and Mark are major characters. Shruti is the wife of Rishabh Prasad. Before her marriage with Rishabh, she has emotionally attached to Aman. Both love each other madly. They are unable to marry because both are different communities and Shruti is South Indian in Bangalore and Aman from in North Indian in Gwalior. Shruti marries Rishabh only for her family's decision. Her family didn't understand her love. They want to marry their daughter in the same community and cast.

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Aman wants to no trouble in the future life of Shruti that's why he does not request marriage to her parents. Aman marries a beautiful woman Anjali. Aman's mother likes Anjali as a daughter-in-law. Both meet each other before marriage, but Aman sends and reply Shruti's emails.

Aman explains to his friend of UK Mark the complicity of Indian marriage and culture in this way...

We are from different communities. She is south Indian and I'm north Indian. We have a caste system, and marriage outside the community aren't approved by elders', ... In India, it is not just two people getting married, it is two families connecting. Everybody is involved in a wedding, unlike in the UK, where the bride and groom decide the plan everything themselves and even foot the bill for their wedding, and only the closest family and friends are invited.¹ (Shenoy p.18)

Aman explains to Mark how he is unable to marry shruti. The above conversation between Aman and Mark is the reality and current situation of Indian marriage and culture. Love marriage and other community marriage don't accept elders of the family.

Mark and Aman discuss Aman's love marriage at that time Mark listens following shocking things in Indian marriage in this way...

Mark had found it strange and shocking that an adult should allow his or her or relatives to choose a life partner for him or her. But I had not gone into the dynamics of the caste system and how it worked.² (Shenoy p.18)

One of the characters of the novel Mark found a lot of shocking things. it is not accepted other than Indian people. Rural Indian girl situation is different than urban Indian. In some cases, urban Indian parents accept other communities, religions, caste and state in marriage but rural Indian parents don't accept very easily. Lot of times they refuse. In this novel, Shruti is staying in rural a village. She has no option without family support. Her mother got breast cancer. Shruti's parents are against love marriage from the start. Lastly, She wants to get marry someone of family choice.

Shruti marries Rishabh Prasad. Both are staying in Mumbai. He works in the office in Mumbai. He knows about Shruti and Aman's love. A day Aman search Shruti's Facebook account that time he found a lot of profile pictures of shruti's. it is symbolically presented novelist and Aman feels in this way...



*one of the picture of a bird breaking out of its cage and flying to freedom. ³
(Shenoy p. 21)*

Never forget marriage is not a cage for Indian women and an Indian woman isn't a bird. Woman is a human. Marriage is not only a cage but it is bound to the relationship of husband and wife for a happy life. The husband must understand his wife's feelings and share feelings and emotions. Home and cage are different.

There exist some things that gives Indian parents great joy. One is the supreme happiness that they derive out of getting their adult children married. The other great joy for Indian parents is feeding their children... ⁴ (Shenoy p. 218)

In India marriage is one of the most important ceremony. Marriage is the prestige of the family and it is the part of reputation. All family members and relatives actively participate not only in the marriage ceremony but also decide marriage place, date, time and dish. The marriage is a happy event in Indian society.

Shruti's parents reject Aman's marriage proposal and insult his mother in her home. His mother is a widow. Shruti feels guilty because Aman's mother insulting her father in his home. In this case Aman questions Shruti's in this way...

About her property, her cast, her family. Then he went on to elaborate about our wealth and reach and prestige... he wanted me to walk out and get married. ⁵ (Shenoy p. 74 &75)

Indian constitution never opposed love marriage, inter cast marriage, inter-religious marriage and other state marriage. It is a great thing Indian constitution gives legal statutes in this marriage. Court also give document and proof and take the record. One of the most important things the Indian government gives is a prize after the marriage of inter cast and religious. In this novel charter, Shruti and Aman is not only a character but it is a real picture of Indian society and the complicity of marriage.

BIOBLOGRAPHY

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