



AFFIRMATION OF LOVE

Aruna.G* Gopal Shanthi*

*Assistant Professor, Head of the Department, Department of English, Sri Jayendra Saraswathy Maha Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, Tamilnaadu, India.

*Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sri Jayendra Saraswathy Maha Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, Tamilnaadu, India.

Abstract

This paper aims at mapping out the role of Affirmation of love in the novel. The dark holds No terrors by Shashi deshPande. Many women writers of the modern times are concerned with the political, social-economic, scientific & cultural fields, Shashi deshPande pictures the psychological problems affecting –middle class women in their changing attitudes and abilities in confronting these problems. Shashi deshPande portrays the new Indian women and her dilemma. She concerns herself with the plight of the modern woman trying to understand herself and to preserve her identity as daughter, wife, mother and above all as a human being, Shashi deshPande is one of the few Indian English writers, who has portrayed the girl child with deliberation. Shashi deshPande reflects realistic pictures of the contemporary middle class family life. She focuses on women's issues. Shashi deshPande began her writing career with short stories & then moved on to writing novels.

Introduction

Shashi deshPande has written four children's books and twelve novels. Her novel *The Dark Holds No Terrors*(1980) won the nanjaguel Thirumalamba Award. Shashi deshPande's *The Dark Holds No Terrors* (1980) which is her favorite novel, seeks to discuss the affirmation of love and harrowing experience of the protagonist saru. It also deals with the psychological & traumatic experience of a career woman. Shashi deshPande discusses the gender discrimination shown by parents towards their daughters & their desire to have a male child & it portrays the sexual sadism of a frustrated husbands victimization of his wife. Shashi deshPande also makes the readers aware of society's reaction to the auperior status of the wife in a marriage, which deals the husband to develop an inferiority complex.

In Dark holds No Terrors Shashi deshPande succeeds in the portrayal of the heroine saru's mental state. She was a neglected and ignored child of her mother. Her mother kamala was a typical Indian woman, who took much pride & more care and lot of love on her male child Dhruva rather than saru. She was a successful lady doctor. She tried to escape the role of being a wife, when she returned to her parents house fifteen years after she left home with a vow never to return. Her stay in her father's house gave saru a chance to review her relationship with her husband, her children, her parents and her dead brother Dhruva. Saru returned unable to bear the sexual sadism of her husband.

For enlightenment saru has come back to her father to sort out her problems, analyze her life, to review and re-examine her crisis. Saru recalled her conversation with her mother.

Don't go out in the sun. You will get even darker.

Who cares?

We have to care if you don't we have to get you married.

I don't want to get married.

Will you live with us all you life?

Why not?

You can't?

And Dhruva?

He's different. He's a boy.(45)

Saru was forced to obey the orders of her mother. Her mind was filled with feelings of hatred towards her mother. As Adesh Pal observes," For saru the very word "mother" stands for old traditions and rituals , for her mother sets us a bad model, which destroys her growth as a woman, as a being" (75 -75). The death of Dhruva urned a great blow in the life of saru. The sad end of her bother branded saru as a disobedient and adamant child. As she grows up, bitterness and hatred drive her to leave home and seek success in medical college. There she falls in love with a college mate Manu. Saru disobeyed her mother and she wanted to show her mother that she was not a spare or secondary things but an individual.

Saru always feels insecure in her parents' home; her marriage to Manu is a means of that love and security which she had always lacked in life. Manu cared for her feelings as no one has ever done. After saru married manu, the mother successfully erased every trace of her in the household. After becoming a successful doctor, she cast a shadow on their married life and



Disrupted the harmony. Saru succeeded and emerged as a successful, well-known and reputed doctor. At the same time, her marriage began to crumble under the burden of success in her profession. She was happy until she began to establish herself as a doctor. Manu is uncomfortable with saru's steady rise in status, as he feels ignored when people greet and pay attention to saru. She suffers as a daughter and then as a wife.

Saru hears the news of her mother's death and decides to go to her village and to the true substance of the novel lies in the mental processes that saru goes through during her apparently eventless existence at her father's place. This entire process of self – analysis made saru realize that it is her sense of superiority over manu that had destroyed their relationship. This is the message Shashi deshPande conveys in all her novels- that relationship within the family need to be built on human values of understanding and trust rather than on the prescribed rules of discipline. Saru understands the importance of self-confidence, which serves as a source of life. When saru realizes life, she starts blooming into an individual. She decides individually to start a new life with her husband and children. So she is more afraid of darkness and there after the dark holds no terrors. Saru's feeling of homelessness is an affirmation of her sense of isolation.

Reference

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