

# SATI; THE TALE OF A DAUGHTER

The tale of sati bounds no time as there is no authentication on the author of her story, but the story continues to make sense among the masses; as the legacy of faith and belief continues from one era to the other, the main protagonist sati is the granddaughter of Lord Brahma and daughter of Daksha and Prasuti.

The fact that sati is the granddaughter of Brahma “the creator of the universe” itself yields to high expectations from the girl; to add on to her trouble, she had a rich hierarchy of knowledge, tradition, culture, faith and belief in lord Vishnu; the fact of belonging to a hierarchy, most of the times turnout to be disastrous for a daughter because all her endeavors go futile in living up to the expectations of her family. Sati was no exception to this rule; the struggle to know oneself and to play the role of a daughter brought in a wave of discomfort and anxiety in her; the irony here is; if this is a plight of a goddess then what should be the plight of the daughters in the patriarchal society?

The author probably tried telling the readers that; it’s a man’s world and it’s designed by the gods and the ordinary masses need to abide by it. So these stories, passed on the vague message to the masses that daughters are innocent and should be taken care of, just like that of a jewel in the crown.

It is quoted in Shiva Purana that both Daksh and Prasuti were ardent worshippers of Shakti, hence they worshiped her and sought her blessings in the creation of a better society; Daksha had 27 daughters and wanted one more for the betterment of mankind and it would be possible only if the goddess takes birth as their daughter. She agreed on a condition that, she would disown them on the day, they disrespect her. This story determines the fact of, women being the cultural queens and carriers from day one and through the story it is established to the masses.

This myth was adapted by the common masses and believed that daughters are shakthi, unfortunately the patriarchal world emphasized more on keeping shakthi under control as the king himself set an example, Daksha was a very strict father and a ruler and he had made specified rules, for all the species existing on this earth. Daksha’s rule turned out to be disastrous to many and it was prominently disastrous for sati.

Daksha and Prasuti were blessed to have AdiShakthi as their daughter and took care of her as their other twenty seven daughters. Daksh prajapathi; shouldered the responsibility of the world and had set a code of conduct for a civilian behavior to build a model society. Daksha was known for successfully establishing his model society.

Sati; the most beautiful, polite, delicate, well behaved and educated was the most loved daughters of Daksha and well protected from the worlds negativity. Sati had mastered the skills of chanting Vedic hymns, was a very good classical dancer, she was good in playing the musical instrument like veena, she had abundance of knowledge about the flora and fauna around along with their medical properties, was a very good organizer, a host and a very good cook and an epitome of sacrifice.

The above said qualities are and were looked forward in the description of an ideal woman; and the same cultural attributes were passed to the daughter's by the common masses, fathers made sure that their daughters see, only the things that is shown to them because there are many chances of being misled.

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Sati shares a wonderful bonding with her father and serves her father and obeys her father, sati often wins her father's appreciation for an accomplished task; which unconsciously leads to sibling rivalry that goes unnoticed and registered by the parents. Sati being the youngest often gets extra adulation from each of her siblings. Sati is appreciated for being the best at everything.

A father is always a superman or a super hero for a daughter; no doubt! Daughters develop extra adulation towards their father and can never find fault with them; similarly their decisions, with regards to their father could be very judgmental because no daughter would accept, that the deeds of her father could be ever wrong and would never allow anybody to sling mud at her father's pride. She unconsciously develops an image of a life partner; who is as responsible, trustworthy, affectionate, rewarding, loving as her father, there are ample traits that she aspires from her would be life partner in comparison to her father. As her father is the only ideal man that she has come across all her life.

Her-story takes a diversion, with the growing age; Sati had slowly developed an inclination to the story of Shiva and was curious to know Shiva; Daksha often made sure that she doesn't get to know much about the lord Shiva, as he considered Shiva to be his enemy; who cut one of the heads of his father Brahma.

Her-story is the story of a struggle of an every Indian daughter; who wants her father and her husband to be in good terms for a healthy and a lifelong relationship. The suffering of an Indian daughter in the institution of

marriage has been very well escalated to the readers but goes with the view of a patriarchal society and not of a daughter's perspective.

Sati was destined to fall in love with lord Shiva and be his consort; Daksha aware of the fact had made sure that nobody would introduce her to lord Shiva but the destiny awaits none; and the tale of her story continues as already designed by the author..

The above said plot is commonly designed for most of the girls; love marriages have never been appreciated and entertained. Neither can anything be redesigned challenging the destiny. In spite of which; a father always tries to assert his beliefs as the only truth of life to his daughters. The father often fails to understand that his daughter is going through an emotional conflict instead favors to go by the tradition.

Like the other daughters of the Daksha prajapathi; sati is adorned with immense qualities of being the best at her responsibilities. The story opens with an inauguration of a Vishnu temple and the daughters are told to fetch water for the idol worship of lord Vishnu; it is there, for the first time, sati finds a rudraksha and doesn't want to part with it; the moment she realizes that it might cause agony to her father; she parts with it halfheartedly, which signifies the respect that every daughter has for her father. She exhibits her sincere obedience to her father by enquiring the sculpture as to why the idol is not entering the temple and disagreeing with the sculpture; she goes to get 100 different flowers for her father's yagya.

Amongst all of it, there is a deep tussle within her mind on lord Shiva that keeps oscillating and she is not able to accept her father's mistake and she defends her father's deeds to rishi Dadichiand walks back with lots of thoughts in her mind. This dilemma is often seen in all the daughters be it sati or an ordinary girl. In order to protect her father's pride in front of the people, she takes the idol of shivalinga and places it along with the Vishnu idol so that the idol would move. As a daughter, sati feels very happy that her father's pride is not hurt but her agony increases, when her father doesn't appreciate her deed and questions her obedience, for which, she is all shattered and disturbed.

The question of a daughter's obedience is always questioned; when she makes her decisions in life, as a father, he only, believes in the fact that, his daughter is innocent and is misled by his enemies and she is not capable of making right decisions, hence, it's the fathers decision to authoritatively make decisions on her behalf and make her feel even more guilty for no mistake

As a daughter, Sati expects, her father, to boost her confidence and make her independent; the dilemma of being right or wrong only makes her weak with anxiety. The question that arises in her mind is; what's more important a father's pride or a daughter's suffering?I belong to the patriarchal society; which least, thinks about

a woman; no matter, what role she plays. Sati gets punished for her deeds and doesn't realize the reason behind the attraction that she has towards lord Shiva. But blindly accepts the punishment because she doesn't want her father to be disappointed and as her father is upset with her; she tends to believe that she is at fault.

Sati tries to patch up with her sisters by explaining the reason behind her act, but the annoyed sisters only end up making her feel even more guiltier. Being judgmental of her deed, requests her father, to punish her and accepts the punishment. She wants to please her father by acting as per the norms of her father. This is every daughters struggle to please her father and accept his beliefs in which she only ends up being only disappointed and unhappier.

Sati, unknowingly knits all the incidents that connect her to Shiva; and wonders her association with the lord. She constantly gets attracted to Shiva; the punishment in which; she was to right the name of Vishnu as prayashchith ends up writing the name of Shiva, she doesn't understand the change that she is undergoing. Finally Daksha considers it to be her attraction towards Shiva due to her age.

Sati tries hard to overcome the thoughts of Shiva and fails multiple times and believes the words of her father that it could be a conspiracy against her or could also be an optical illusion created for her downfall. She shares her fear of being drawn towards Shiva; in response to it, Daksh tells her not to be scared, because her father is the strongest and she need not worry about anything.

Sati represents the trust that any other daughter has for her father; sati does not realizes that she is a victim of patriarchy. Sati doesn't realize that she loves the one her father dislikes, Madanike; her teacher warns her of the consequences of her love would be disastrous. Sati wins the argument with her, but the story takes a turn on sati's realization that she is in love with a man her father dislikes.

Sati realizes her love for Shiva; while she is saved from an Asura; her imagination of an ideal husband is reflected in lord Shiva. It's natural for sati or any other girl to aspire for groom like Shiva, he keeps warning her, that it is not right on her part to go against her father. An act, where she finds her aspired groom respecting the ideals of her father makes her love Shiva even more as every girl dreams of a husband; who respects her father and his principles.

As sati reveals the truth of her love to her father; he is completely annoyed and blames Shiva for creating this illusion of love in her and draws a line called dakshrekha or could also be called a father's orders, which she is not supposed to break. Daksha fails to understand her love and decides to get her married to an eligible bachelor. This is again a common plight of a daughter, in love, in India. The father never understands the emotional crisis a daughter goes through while she has already made her choice for the life partner and her

father disapproves it; but, as daughter all her life she strives hard to please her father like every other daughter till date does.

It is really difficult to accept the fact that her father loves his pride more than her happiness and continues to blame her for the ill fate she has this day. As a woman thinks from her heart; she gets entangled to set it right, with a lot of faith but it fails regularly and she is not able to make a decision and move on in life. Her flawless imagination of wedding crashes as her parents get annoyed with the groom's guests; there are a series of incidents that only tend to point out each other's mistake and turn it into a bad memory for the bride.

Finally; the wedding of Shiva and sati is organized and then beings another set of struggles; Shiva and his life style is not accepted by the family and one after the other; they start gossiping about it; which brings in a lot of dismay to sati, she is not able to digest the fact that her husband and his guests are ill-treated neither is she able to accept a behavior that is completely disgusting.

She literally gets grinded between two different entities that are closer to her heart and her pain is never understood. The pain of missing happiness among the two families due to their behavior; this incident in Sati's life represents the life of thousands of girls; going through turmoil when they to celebrate. The stress levels increase as there is no harmony among the two families for varied reasons.

As a daughter; she believes that situations would settle down with time but the grudge continues all her expectations fall flat; she loses her peace of mind and picks up a fight on petty issues with Shiva.

Shiva tries convincing sati that a person's opinion cannot be changed but in the fit of being an ideal daughter she fights with her husband and goes uninvited to her father's abode to attend a ceremony organized by her father, Daksha had intentionally not invited Shiva; when sati reaches the gates, she is not allowed and insulted but sati walk in with a heavy heart that a father who once loved her had broken her heart today.

When Daksh crosses all his limits; sati loses her patience and jumps in the holy fire to protect the honor of her husband; the above shared incident is a common incident that most of the Indian women go through, they put their peace of mind in to fire then their body and almost live each day in immolation.

Sati; the tale of a daughter is not just the story of a goddess but of an ordinary women; who more or less goes through the same emotional trauma that a goddess went through; probably these could be the real testing times to turn ordinary emotional woman to Shakti or the powerful and strong women.

Probably their struggles in life make them an epitome of strength and define their lives differently, at different stages of life. From an innocent and obedient daughter to an ardent lover and then to be a modest wife with an

illusion dwelling deep within her is cleared when she immolates herself in the holy fire, because the fire within her burnt her more than her physical body. I wonder; if this is the turmoil of a goddess than how different is she from the thousands of ordinary women.

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