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Blissful Desire And A Sense Of Isolation In Githa Hariharan's Thousand Faces Of Night

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Abstract

Human being's individualistic identity and personality are decided by his or her psyche and social behaviour. Sigmund Freud's three psychic zones—the id, the ego and the superego—are well evident in this select work. The id is the primary source of psychic energy and it helps one to fulfill their desires and the basic needs. It is more oriented towards pleasure without bothering about the social order. Hariharan has expressed this mentality of people in a number of places in her select works. These attributes are deeply fostered and rooted from the family and society in which he or she lives in and where most of his or her major contribution are attributed to. The more, one tends to understand the reason behind one's role in a family and society, the more he or she senses the logic behind his or her desires whether it brings bliss or isolation.

Githa Hariharan's novel taken for this study propagates a blissful desire and a sense of isolation. Thousand Faces of Night is one of her works that showcase her skills in portraying different types of individualistic attributes and its consequences. After analysing her novel, the reader finally understands that one's desire can bring both bliss as well as sense of isolation to the individual.

Keywords: Blissful Desire, Sense of Isolation, Indian Writing, Fiction, History, Literature.

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Human actions are driven by various forces and this paper applies the theory of Sigmund Freud and his psychic zone which is believed to contribute to the behaviour of people. It becomes indispensable to introduce the work of Githa Hariharan chosen for this analytical study by giving out its short summary.

The Thousand Faces of Night mainly revolves around three main characters namely Devi, Sita and Mayamma. Even though this is the first novel, Githa Hariharan has carefully sculpted all the characters and events that take place in this narrative. The author cautiously traces the psyche of Indian women highlighting their hardships along with their inner conflicts. The prelude of the novel serves as the best example for this.

In the pieces selected for this analytical analysis, Githa Hariharan demonstrates the mentality in which individuals feel both a sense of loneliness and a happy longing. Her writing often alludes to the goals and ambitions of different characters.

For drawing attention to the plight of Indian women in The Thousand Faces of Night, Hariharan is particularly deserving of praise. When Devi was in America, she always desired Dan's company in this novel. She made the decision to hang out with him on her final day in America as well. She was always comforted by his presence. Even throughout their two years as M.A. candidates, she discovered that he was different. According to Night 6, "Dan was a friend, an experiment for a young woman eager for experience." Devi's desire to visit London and Paris at least once in her lifetime is another.

She had been waiting years to see these destinations, and she was excited to do so on her return trip to India. They made the decision to watch Casanova as their final movie together. Afterwards, to round out her American experience, Devi smoked a brand-new kind of cigarette in Dan's flat that she had never tried before. This rendered her mind and body feeble. They then went swimming in the sea. Devi was only at ease when she went to her room and looked at her swimsuit and the shirt Dan had sent her after arriving in Madras and in between her interviews with bridegrooms. She also yearned for a well-established husband who would take good care of her. Devi was impressed by Mahesh's candour when discussing his expectations for marriage, after

Sita introduced him to her. However, she quickly learns that the only heroines in his life are his moms and spouses (Paul 114).

Regardless of its merit, it can be said that every individual on the planet will require something at some point based on their circumstances. In her story, Hariharan also beautifully depicts the needs of various characters. Devi always wanted her mother to be close with her since she felt lonely in *The Thousand Faces of Night*. She frequently questioned how close her friends were to their mothers. Devi was thrilled with her new friendship with her mother, whom she had met when they first went for evening walks along the coast when Devi's mother arrived in Madras from America.

Her mother was aware of how important their family's assistance was. Devi brought her relatives together by forcing them to visit their home as soon as she got back from her trip to America. With any luck, she will be able to marry Devi shortly. Devi's mother told Devi during Srinivasans' visit that everything was a show and did not accept what they had said. She also said that all they needed was a bride who was attractive, loving her family, adaptable, and able to converse with their son's friends who is a scientist. Devi's mother finds Mahesh to be the source of her needs. Mahesh spent an hour with Devi every evening after she agreed to marry him. However, Devi's life with him was not cheerful. She leaves with Gopal because "a fleeting relationship with him gives her the superficial feeling of freedom" (Paul 114).

Devi's dreams to be a heroine in the life of Mahesh were demolished by him with his statement that marriage is just one among his commitments in life. She lost all her girlish characters after her marriage and she understood the responsibilities of a wife through the stories of Baba. When Baba too left the house, loneliness haunted her and she found it very difficult to cope with the situation.

Thus, in Hariharan's *Thousand Faces of Night*, the needs and wants of the characters are emphasised. This study of the select novel of Githa Hariharan has led to certain findings and conclusions. A deep psychological analysis of Hariharan's writing shows that it reflects the psyche of people in every form with their multidimensional behavioural patterns. Desire and unfulfilled basic needs of people serve as the motivating

factor to collapse the humanity and the social order. Hariharan's work closely replicates the real-life characters and the desires and loneliness of these characters find their mention in a number of occasions in her novel.

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