



Treatment Of Love And Hatred In The Select Writings Of Ruskin Bond, RK Narayan And Khushwant Singh

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Abstract: Love and hatred are complementary to each other. They are dependent also on the other. They become important variables. Love and hatred are abstract quality. Love is desirable but hatred is undesirable. These emotional aspects are reflected through real life to literature and vice versa. Ruskin Bond is a world-famous writer writing in Indian English with Indian spirit. His novella Susana's Seven Husbands bears the traces of love and hatred. From beginning to end love affairs of Susana is treated with her equal portion of hatred. Love with all lust and hatred with unfulfilled lust make the edible. RK Narayan's post-colonial novel The Guide is a romantic love history among Raju, Rousie and Nalini. This is a trilogy love and hatred story of the two male and one female character. Love is proved to be transitory whereas hatred is proved to be permanent in the lives of Raju, the guide, Rousie, the dancer and Nalini the research scholar. It also testifies that people were not free from superstition. Superstitious mass had love for unscientific faith both consciously and unconsciously. Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan is mostly popular for it's the theme of partition. But love and hatred theme make the partition theme authentic. India's heart is parted with the creation of new country Pakistan and India. Love between Hindu-Sikh and Muslim are divided and bitter enmity is created. That enmity takes the form of hatred, murder and anarchism in the border side Indian village Mano Majra. The protagonist, Juggat Singh is the representative of love and hatred when love a Muslim girl, Nooran and hates communalism and rioters aversely. The two novellas and one novel by the three Indian English writers of different times and temperatures help to heighten the two immortal elements love and hatred immensely.

Key-words: love, hatred, post-colonial, partition, communalism

Introduction: The topic is the treatment of love and hatred in the select writings of Ruskin Bond, RK Narayan and Khushwant Singh. The topic concerns with Indian English writing. The three writers belong to three different ages and time. They also belong to some of them pre-independence era and post independence era of India. They can also be categorized as colonial and post-colonial literature. Ruskin

Bond's Susana's Seven Husbands is a novella. It is very interesting story with the theme of love and hatred. Susana loved 7 times and married 7 times but in vain. All proved to be futile. All the lovers died one by one. All the husbands expired gradually and Susana witnessed these deaths silently and patiently. As she was attractive, sexy and lovely so were her 7 husbands. They were incomparable in appearances and love making but they had to face the supreme destiny. Yet she did not transform herself as a hater. She once injected air instead of medicine into the vein of one of his seven husbands in the name of insulin because the proud and cruel man beat the goonga (dumb) inhumanly. Where there is love there is also the presence of hatred side by side in this fiction of Ruskin Bond. Being a husband hater, it is suspected that she became a husband killer but there has not any evidence in the fiction. At the initial stage of the story Susana has been compared to a widow spider. The widow spider even killed her own husband to suck his blood. The spider had not any amount of the feeling of remorse or regret for killing and drinking the blood of her own kindred. Out of love Susana became a benevolent woman and tried to love everyone from her own angle. She had the utmost love for her husbands after the demise of one after another but life does not go according to one's own will. Everything altered from love to hatred and from hatred to love. She tolerated all of these without complaining anybody in anyway. Begum Samru had also the case like Susana.

The novel "Guide" is written by famous Indian author R.K Narayan and it was published in 1958. The novel was awarded with Sahitya Academy Award in 1960. The story of the novel set in South Indian fictional town, Malgudi, and book story is centers around a protagonist named Raju, a smart guy who work as a guide. Raju grows love for a classical dancer, Rousie who is a wife of a research scholar. The research scholar loves only study and his work but does not love his wife Rousie so much. Next Raju begins to love earning money of his lover Rousie rather than her. Raju committed forgery and goes to jail for two years. After release he never meets with Nalini and goes to another village as a sage. Soon he was popular and acquires the reverence of the villagers. Now he begins to hate his own fake character of the sage but yet people and Velan trust him, believes him and love him like before. This novel can be treated as a novel of love and hatred.

Train to Pakistan is a novella by Khushwant Singh. The major theme of this novel is the partition. All the incidents in this novel occur during 1947. Another theme of this classic is anarchism during the independence of India. This novel is mainly love and hatred. All the characters are involved with love and hatred in anyway. Jugga is the principal character. He is a Sikh. He loves a Muslim weaver girl, Nooran. Jugga hates communalism and violence in his village Mano Majra. Lala Ram Lal is a Hindu money lender who has much love and affection for money. He loves money so much that even his life is trifling to it. He gets murdered by a band of robber yet he refuses to surrender his love for money. Hukum Chand is a magistrate of the area. He is bereft of nay family of wife or daughter because all of them die beforehand. He is a corrupted man with the desire of lust. He satisfies with sexual desire

with the girl of the same age of his own daughter. He has been barefaced and shameless. It is seemed that he also loves communal harmony among the people of different religion and caste. He hates any kind of disputes in the village where live Hindu, Muslim and Sikh so peacefully but the human system is much complicated and to it he is vanquished. The singer prostitute girl's name is Haseena. This girl belongs to Muslim community. She loves to live with her profession. There is Meet Singh also. He is an average people of the village. A social worker by the name of Iqbal comes in the village. He dislikes any kind of riot in the village of Mano Majra. But people are doubtful about his title whether it will be Hossain or Singh. He hates this kind of suspicion but the police make him naked in the investigation room and watch his penis circumcised. Actually, he is of a Muslim community but he is not annoyed with this also. "India is constipated with a lot of humbug. Take religion. For the Hindu, it means little besides caste and cow-protection. For the Muslim, circumcision and kosher meat. For the Sikh long hair and hatred of the Muslim."

Synopsis of the treatment of love and hatred in the select writings of Ruskin Bond, RK Narayan and Khushwant Singh:

Love and Hatred in Susanna's Seven Husbands:

Themes: In Susanna's Seven Husbands by Ruskin Bond we have the theme of happiness, tradition, love, loneliness, insecurity and jealousy. Taken from his Collected Short Stories collection the story is narrated in the first person by an unnamed narrator and after reading the story the reader realises that Bond may be exploring the theme of happiness. Susanna despite being married seven times does not appear to have found happiness with any of her husbands. Whether they died by misfortune or whether Susanna is responsible for their deaths one thing that is certain is the fact that Susanna tried on several occasions to find happiness through way of marriage. If anything, it may have gone against societal norms for a woman to have had a male friend or companion and Susanna may have married because this may have been not only expected by society but it was also the tradition. It is also possible that Susanna was lonely and as such felt the need to marry so often. It is also interesting that none of the men whom Susanna married were men of financial substance. Something which may leave some readers to suggest that each husband married Susanna for her wealth and not out of love.

Fluctuations of love marriage and Hatred:

The fact that Susanna married so many times may also suggest that rather than loving her seven husbands. Susanna may have been insecure. Feeling as though it was necessary for her to have continued male companionship in her life. It is also interesting that Susanna is devoted to charity. Helping others who may not be as fortunate as her. As Bond may be attempting to indirectly sway the reader's opinion of Susanna. It is difficult for a reader to believe that somebody as generous and as giving as Susanna could in fact also be responsible for the deaths of her seven husbands as the narrator suggests she is. Similarly, Naushad

appears to have an opinion on Susanna that is more based on gossip and hearsay than on the truth. The reader suspecting that the information that Naushad gives to the reader is from information he himself got from his father. It is highly unlikely that Susanna killed her seven husbands and got away with it. Even if she was a wealthy woman. Susanna's story as told by Naushad is meant to scare people as a ghost story might scare an individual.

Love Jealousy and Hatred:

That is not to say that Naushad is jealous of Susanna. He after all learnt about Susanna through his father who in all likelihood learnt about Susanna's life through others. The difficult thing about the story is that there is not a first-hand account. All the information about Susanna has been passed down through a generation. If anything, people are likely to embellish a story with their own facts rather than sticking to what is known or factual. Susanna because of her wealth was a talking point for others. That along with the fact that she had seven husbands. An unusually high amount for any woman to have. Which may raise suspicions for some but that is all that they are, suspicions. Nobody really knew Susanna. Which may be the point that Bond is attempting to make. He may be suggesting that gossip by others due to jealousy can overshadow a person's life. With the words spoken by others (incorrectly) defining who a person may be. In reality Susanna may have been a woman before her time who felt pressurized to marry due to the values held by society at the time. True she married seven times and each husband died but there is not enough evidence to suggest that Susanna is responsible for any of her husbands' deaths.

Major Mehta and Susana:

Having lost her mother at a young age, Susanna was looked after by her father who ended up teaching her hunting, horse riding, and racing. Susanna's interests also included going to the Wheelers Club which she visited often. Susanna borrowed books from the club's library where she first met one of her many husbands, Major Mehta.

She ended up getting married to the major who was around ten years older than her and eventually, ended up becoming toxic. Her marriage with the major started out with romance but later became controlling and unbearable. The major got her to open joint accounts with her money and started controlling all her actions and speeches. Owing to his addiction to alcohol and a not-so-great ability to hunt, the major ended up dying and left Susanna looking for love again. The absence of a fatherly figure in her life prompted Susanna to have a dominating effect on the men in her life.

Minor Characters:

The story revolves around many who played a significant role in her life and including names like Arun, Naushad, Maggi, etc. Susanna continued to seek adventure and newness and that could have possibly been the reason for her husbands' untimely passing away.

Strange Love and hatred:

Some other chapters showcase the other husbands, one of whom was obsessed with his cellphone. In another chapter, the husband who was a doctor was bitten by a snake, the brigands killed the magistrate, and the drunkard husband died of overconsumption. All this made Susanna appear to be smooth with her operations as no evidence could ever be found for all the deaths. It was also understood by many that she got them killed as they were only after the money she has inherited after her father's death. This gave Susanna's character an evil, cruel nature that could never be explained clearly.

The Guide by RK Narayan :-

Love and Hatred in the life of Raju:

The life of Raju is full of problems now because he was already facing a financial problem and now his mother and uncle also left him alone in house. When Rosie learns about the financial problem of Raju, she decides to pursue her passion which is dancing, she started practicing her art of classical dance. Rosie dropped her English name "Rosie", and chooses new name which is Nalini. One day, Rosie announced that she is ready to show her dance to the world. Rosie started performing on stage with the help of Raju who became her manager, her debut dance performance became a huge success in town, they made great fortune out of it. The greed for money in Raju increases day after day, he started booking back to back dance performance which makes Rosie tired and bore of dance as her dream was to become a best dancer in the world, not a money making object.

Turning point of Love and Hatred among Raju. Rosie and Marco:

The problem in Raju's life occurs when he get an unanticipated parcel from Marco which is a book for Rosie, but Raju don't want Marco in Rosie life again so he hides the book from her. He also hides a letter from Marco which he wrote to give back all her jewelry. Raju sign a fake signature of Rosie as he wants take all her jewelry from Marco without letting Rosie know. Later on, Raju's crime is exposed and he was sentenced for 2 years in prison. Although he comes across reports of her continuing rise to stardom in the newspapers he reads in jail, Raju never meets Rosie again.

Love and Hatred in the village of Mangla:

After the prison life, Raju moves to another village, Mangla. He grows his beard and takes up residence in a temple by the river.

After releasing from prison disappointed Raju is sitting on the banks of river thinking about his future, there he meets a strange man named **Velan** who consider him as Holy man and starts sharing his problem with him. Raju helps him out in convincing his sister to marry a man to whom Velan has considered for her. As a result Raju became popular in village and transformed himself as a Holy man.

Love to fake Devotion and hatred:

Afterwards, there comes a problem of severe drought in town because of no rain which affects the village and due to misinterpretation villagers starts believing that Raju can bring out rain by taking 2 weeks long fast. Raju started fasting for two weeks to bring out rain, the news of his fast started spreading across the town and he became more and more popular in village. At the last day of his fast Raju became so weak unable to go on the banks of river to carry vigil. Velan helps him in going near the river and in the end, he became unconscious after telling Velan that he has a feeling that rain is coming over the mountain.

The book story ends with suspense, we don't know what happens to Raju, whether rain will come or not.

Love and Hatred in Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh:

Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan was published in 1956. It is the novella dealing with the theme of partition. Another themes are anarchism, love and hatred. It has three sections – Dacoity, Kalyug, Mano Majra and Karma. All the phenomenon in the classic are during the independence of India. All the incidents are among the Sikh, Hindu and Muslims. Revenge may be also the theme of this work by Khushwant Singh.

Juggut and Nooran:

Jugga is the protagonist of the story. He belongs to Sikh community. He is about twenty years of age. Jugga loves his village Mano Majra very with his heart and soul. Besides he hates Malli and his band of robbers. "And now he has brought his gang to my village! I will settle this with him."(page 16)

Juggut Singh has any kind of hatred towards the Muslim. So he begins to love a Muslim weaver girl. Her name is Nooran. At the time of robbery in the house of the moneylender both of them are seen to make love, the sexual love. "Juggut Singh's caresses became lustful. His hand strayed from the girl's face to her breasts and waist." (page 14)

Juggut hated communalism. So he does not want migrate the Muslims from his village Mano Majra. When he was trying to save Muslims he had to sacrifice his life forever. His love to the communal harmony and hatred to communal disharmony remains ever immortal.

Iqbal's Love and Hatred:

Iqbal is a social worker. People begins to suspect him whether he is Muslim or Sikh or Hindu. He has not long hair, beard or bangles on hands. He tries to prove himself as a secular human with humanity. He loves communal harmony and hates communal disharmony.

Hukum Chand and Haseena:

Hukum Chand is a magistrate. He is a lustful and corrupted man. His wife and daughter have passed away long ago. Now his only passion and pastime is making sexual love with a whore whose name is Haseena. "He undid the strap of the girl's bodice. He kissed her on the nose." (page 33) He loves the opposite community much. He hated the idea of any type of dispute in his administrative area.

Lala Ram Lal:

Lala Ram Lal is a money lender of Mano Majra. He loves money very much. Even the robbers threaten him to murder he can not forsake the love for money.

Malli and his band:

Malli is a robber. He does not care of anything. He loves looting and robbery. He hated the Muslim community and therefore he looted their property with his gang.

Other Minor Characters:

Meet Singh, Imam Bask, Banta Singh and many more are the minor characters who react to love and hatred directly or indirectly.

Conclusion:

The three novels Susana's Seven Husbands by Ruskin Bond, The Guide by RK Narayan and Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh deal with the theme of love and hatred. Susana's Seven Husbands was published in 2011. The Guide was published in 1938. Train to Pakistan was published in 1956. Susana's Seven Husbands mainly is with the treatment of love and hatred. In any society love and marriage for seven times is considered as flirtation. Women or females like Susana is thought to be flirts or whore or prostitutes. How Susana can be such an exception! It is very wonderful and thought provoking. It is the immortal creation of Ruskin Bond. Marrying for seven times is as pathetic and also as laughable. If in real life such incident takes place average people will be very interested.

The Guide is a novel that was published before the independence of India. That novel does contain any political agitation, revolutionary agitation. It revolves around the trilogy love-story of Raju, Rosie and Marco. From a railway station shopkeeper Raju adopts the profession of a Guide. But he can not guide the tourists correctly. His conscience begins to prick him. He falls in the love of Marco's wife Rosie. Through Rosie, the classical dancer he started to earn money. He is now lover of money instead of loving Rosie alias Nalini. He is addicted too much to money greediness that he is imprisoned 2 years for forgery of wealth. His conscience rouses and he become a hater of a lover. He becomes a lover of religion in an unknown village Mangla. He secures the love and respect of the whole villagers. But from the core of his heart, he is having hatred towards fraudulences and duplicities. This novel also has the traces of love and hatred through the development the protagonist.

Though Train to Pakistan was published about 10 years after the independence of India, along with the partition major theme of India love and hatred prevails in the development of the plot of the story. In the great turmoil of partition of India and Pakistan, sexual love is noticed. Hatred is not absent from that novella in any way. Hindu and Sikhs hate the Muslims and the Muslims hate the Hindu and Sikhs. "Muslims said the Hindus had planned and started the killing. According to the Hindus, the Muslims were to blame. The fact is, both sides killed. Both tortured. Both raped."(page 1, Train to Pakistan) in this way love and hatred reside side by side evidently.

In spite of being and belonging to the three different times, the three of them smack the sign of love and hatred.

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