

Biological Presence in C V Sreeraman's *Ottuchedi*

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Abstract

C V Sreeraman's short stories are rich in lived experiences. Most of his stories depict selected characters and events from his life. He seeks to present the bloody experiences and realities of human misery afresh. The biological presence of human nature, which transcends any philosophy, is evident in his story Ottuchedi. On seeing his relationships flourish more than that of the graft plant, the writer acknowledges the biological presence in human goodness to be the greatest of all relationships.

Key words: biological presence, Ottuchedi, contradiction, dependence.

Grafted plants are healthier and fruitful than rest of the naturally growing plants. The reunion of the man and the woman who lost their family life becomes more deep and fruitful as the grafted plant. The narrator is amazed at the celestial connection and the growth and elevation of their lives. The remark of the character that one can interpret human beings but not human life reveals the biological presence evinced in the story. This story shows that every human being has the intrinsic capability to survive griefs in life. It is also noteworthy that when scion loses all the benefits and effects of its mother plant, it grows deeper and more dependent on the rootstock. Through this story, Sreeraman makes it clear that circumstances shape man. The story reveals the fact that one is dependent and is the basis of the other.

The narrator is a Malayalee official assigned to rehabilitate refugees in West Bengal from Bangladesh, which became part of Pakistan as a result of the partition of India. In the Andaman Islands, land was allotted to families. In the days of partition, the narrator was frequented by a woman who arrived at a refugee camp with her two daughters, who was somehow separated from her husband. But he was helpless. In the end, he finds the answer to their cries. There was a man in the group who had lost his wife, and came begging to be sent to the island with the two girls. In violation of the law and without even consulting their superior the officer makes all the arrangements to send both of them to the island registered as husband and wife. The next day as he walked around the refugee camp he could see that they were sitting together happily as if being married for years. The story is told as a recollection of the officer who visited the Andaman Islands years later. There he meets the husband of the family he has joined. He realizes that they lead a prosperous life there by farming. The officer is taken home and well treated by the farmer. There he finds that the woman he has joined is too

happy and beatific. That night they share their tragic experiences with the officer. As the husband accompanies him down the road to bid him off, he shares another thing he had not said before. It was about the visit of the first husband of the lady who came in search of her. He was a nice man that the second husband did not feel anything bad about him. But she did not even bother to meet her first husband. She said that it was the officer who rescued her from that painful life and she just needs the present relationship in this life. Through this the writer reveals that the graft plant has reached its perfection. The officer wonders how much pain and sorrow she must have felt while making such a remark. He becomes emotional. The story ends with the officer acknowledging that his eyes water not with sadness, but with the joy in the power of the plant he clung to.

The biological presence of human nature, which survives any interpretation, is reflected in *Ottuchedi*. Mans inherent nature of adaptability to adverse situations is envisioned in the story. Self satisfaction within those who turn as anchor to the helpless is evidently portrayed in the story. The richness of love, care and personal relationships set this story apart from other stories. The story revolves around the experience of loneliness. When CV Sreeraman's short stories are put together, it becomes book of reminiscence. The narrator arrives at another familiar land on a journey. Aspects of nature or other objects take him back to his past. Thus a dramatic and emotional life experience or a sense of awe-inspiring life is formed from the expression of the awakening memory series. Thus *Ottuchedi* becomes an epitome of storytelling.

Entourage of memory in this story is unique. Memory evolves into theme and music at the same time. The experience of the past that comes into the narrator's memory forms parallels between the two periods of life. Their paradoxical conflict is presented here by the narrator. Soil and man complement each other. The new wife and new husband, whose knowledge of how to adapt to changed circumstances becomes one with each other, all becomes a biological experience. Abnormal become normal. Unnatural circumstances are forgotten under natural circumstances. However, the narrator devises a chemical formula that complements each other without losing the biological bonds. CV Sreeraman was literally the narrator of human tragedies. *Ottuchedi* is different with its biological presence, which describes the complex mental states of man and which carries the inner burden of social and emotional conflicts. *Ottuchedi* tells the miserable life of wandering refugees who

have lost everything in their homeland. This story illustrates the biological connection of a man who unknowingly dreams of yesterday and lives in fantasy, despite the fact that the soil under his feet has been washed away by the flood of time. Those calm wandering characters still live here today to bring down the guilt and the burden of sin of the past. Through this story, the writer reveals the human way of life and human interests in adverse circumstances and situations. This story is made more creative by those who are obsessed with the meaning of relationships and meaninglessness of life. Angst of refugee is not presented in this story. They unknowingly become part of the flow of life. The paradoxical conflict of two eras and two value systems is the basis of CV Sreeraman’s short stories. Graft plant is made so with the biological relationship between those two bases.

