ALIENATION THE WORST DISEASE FACED BY THE PROTAGANIST IN CRY THE PEACOCK

R. SUJITHA
II MA ENGLISH LITERATURE
NIRMALA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
COIMBATORE

ABSTRACT

In this novel the story is about the character MAYA how mentally she faced many problems in her life. She was lonely and lost her hope in this novel prophesy shaped the mental attitude of Maya. This novel is based on middle class life of Maya Indian tradition and culture and the problems faced by Maya. After Marriage dreams and loneliness creates very big impact in the life of her.

Keynotes : Alienation, Loss of hope, Failure in Relationship.

Maya was a dreamy sensitive and emotional. She had lot of expectations and dreams about her marriage life, but Maya and his father didn’t know that Gowthama was an unemotional person. Maya was married to him and faced lot of problems, Alienation, Loss of hope and failure in relationship.

Longing for Love and expectations about his life partner. Gowthama was a person of logical, insensitive and practical totally opposite to Maya. Gowthama did not give any importance to Mayas emotions. Everytime he concentrated on work. He was a lawyer. Mostly his conversation to his family about his profession. Gowthamas father was fond of Gandhi so he talks about Gandhism so the characters of family members did not spend any time personally with Maya so only she longs for love of her husband and she expects more love from her husband.

Actually she had a dream about her love of her life partner and she wants Gowthama to spend time with her after the job. But he refused to consider Maya, she use to spend time with her Dog-Totu. She shared her emotions to her dog because nobody was there to share her feelings and emotions. One day the dog passed away. She considered her pet as her emotion and she started to feel more lonely and she wished to share her emotions with her husband gowthama but he refused to hear that because he did not have any emotions even on human-beings, so he did not give much importance to the dog. His mentality about dog’s demise he felt was that all the living things will die one day or the other and it is not an big deal to sit and feel
as you do. This was the opinion he shared when Maya was feeling for her pet demise and he irritated her still more saying why you are simply wasting my time talking about that dog leave I will buy and give you cat instead of your dog. She wished to bury the dog in a proper way by doing all the burial formalities even that Gowthama did not consider and he took the dog and gave to municipality. She was very much disappointed about that.

Maya’s expectation about her life partner that it was not only for his presence, his love that she longed, but mainly for the life that would permit me to touch him, feel his flush and hair, hold and tighten my hold on him and not on Gowthama alone but on all the pulsating world around him, from the freeze of stars silently exploding in the summer sky to the faintly fluttering owls making covert hidden love in the crotch of the factory—all that suggested life and the great, entrancing the world to me who was doomed not to live. This was all her expectation and the reality of Gowthama in her life was exactly opposite to her expectation that he was very workaholic and he never cared about Maya’s expectation and he never considers her feelings and emotions. Since she always asks him for love he just pretends like he is having love on Maya and he just fakes.

Maya thought that women is used as a sexual object in her opinion about marriage life. She wished Husband and Wife relationship is not only for sex, more than that they want to spend more time with each other and to know more about each other. According to her women is used as a sexual object that has not been changed till now. Women always longs for love and the husband always expects only sex from the opposite gender which is thought as crime in her opinion. She wants him to be little romantic and more caring but he was only workaholic and he never cared for Maya’s feelings.

‘Lord, thou hast dealt me so many sorrows,
To bear them, couldst thou not also have lent me another heart?’

Though her marriage life was a total failure and she faced so many problems in her life and Gowthama was least bothered about it she was dealt with so many sorrows it was contrary to her spinster life in which she enjoyed a lot because her mother passed away in her childhood so her father showered lots of love and affection but after her marriage her whole in-law family talks about profession and thinks practically so Maya feels very difficult to adapt her life in that home she was alienated by everyone and finally she breaks a lot and shared her pains and sorrows to the god in this quotes stating god you have given me so much sorrows to deal with but you forgot to give another heart to bear so much to swallow in my small life.

‘And love? I broke in.’ And love?’

During their conversation Gowthama express his opinion about love. Love is nothing with the help of love we cannot achieve anything in life instead of love if we have ambition and desire in life that will make us to grow and help us to achieve many things in life. He asked to Maya that why you are giving more importance to love. So through his conversation Maya feels broken and she can able to notice the egoistic character and she becomes very depressed because he was very much passionate towards his work but he is not even ready to consider her emotions and listen to her talks.
'Not faith but logic,' I repeated stammering. 'But, Gautama, that is terrible—not faith, but logic.'

Maya says her opinion about faith but Gowthama says that more than faith logical thinking is important that will help us to lead a practical life. So, when Maya says her faith towards the religion but Gowthama says that faith towards religion does not have any logic to lead a life. Only if we have logical thinking we can gain more profit in life. So, only Maya says that Gowthama that is terrible when he face no faith, but logic.

'Your skin is burning—it’s covered with prickly heat. Poor girl, it’s a bad night. Shall we go indoors and try and sleep under the fan?'

'No,' I Screamed. 'Not indoors. That fan-terrible!'

'You are still dreaming,' he said. 'Lie down and I’ll fetch you a glass of water.'

'It will be hot'.

When Gowthama says that we can go and sleep in indoors and try to sleep under the fan that time she screamed like that because she was so scarred about the dream so Gowthama said you are still in that dream so don’t worry lie down I will fetch you glass of water. Death is common to human and it may occur at any time even if you dream or not when we have birth we also have death and this is natural for all.

'God why must you always be so negative?'

'You are shouting, Maya, he said, in shocked amazement.

She shares about the fear of death to Gowthama but he says that don’t get scared about death nothing will change in life. We should be practical in life we should not think about death when Gowthama tries to convince Maya she shouted in stress. God why must you always be so negative through this she expresses that all negative thinks only happened in our life. So she expresses her hatred towards god. During that time Gowthama said you are shouting in shocked amazement.

Maya came to know about Friend’s life that she should not depend on anyone for her happiness she should create her happiness by herself. Depending on others for our happiness will completely spoil happiness of our life. And she learns that she should not expect anything from anyone. She also thought that she was not fair and beautiful so only she was avoided by Gowthama prophesy she came to know this by her brother Arjuna that either Maya or Gowthama will be passed away after four years because of Maya. Arjuna asked to Maya it becomes four years and still nothing happened to you both. Prophesy was false. Arjuna was also like Gowthama he won’t give any importance to emotions. He is also another Villain in Maya’s life. She believed in prophesy and maintained distance with her husband.

In the terrace when they both had a conversation during that time he explains about his profession to her. When he talks about that he talked in a caring tone and he showed more interest on that conversation because he loved his profession more than his life. But Maya did not show any interest she was thinking about the death that would happen anytime to him even in the midst of the conversation. When he noticed this Maya is worried about the dream Gowthama says that only a dream an illusion Maya—my very name means nothing is nothing but an illusion. He tries to convince her mind and again he continues his conversation about his profession and in that depth of the talk he forgets himself and he leans on the terrace wall and he fell down from there and he will pass away.
Maya worried a lot and she became mentally ill and passed away. She worries that our marriage was an empty one, a failure. Not that Gowthama was no more than a figure of granite to me, a mound of books that smelt faintly of mould the rice and wisdom. I had been tortured by a humiliating friends of neglect of loneliness, desperation that would not have existed had I nor loved him so, had he not meant so much. By thinking that women had no more right to happiness that I had been taught by Gowthama, to regard as a priviledge, and so there was gratitude amidst all my other feelings when I turned and saw him, come back pulling a fine white muslin shirt over bathed body his face set in a frame that was a remote reflective and yet, not without the tenderness that come from relaxation. She recalls all their memories and she realized her life with him was filled with bitter memories only and he have not given even a small happiness to her she felt so disheartening with his death because she loved her truly even he gave zero importance in her life. She herself yelled for being so stupid on him. Though he is no more and he left her with full of bad memories and she don’t have even a single memory to cherish she loved her truly with all her heart and expected nothing in return except his love and time which he didn’t even care. After his demise she started feeling so broken and she became mentally stressed and she also demised in that agony.

Eventhough this novel has sad ending this novel conveys the message to lead a positive life.

Humanbeings in the world can have dreams and desires about their life. They should not have more expectations about that. They should not depend too much on expectation. Eventhough in their life nothing is happened. According to their dreams and desire they should have the Guts to accept the reality of life. They should know to balance the life. People should have self-confidence in life. They should not have superstitious belief regarding their life. What we believe strongly that will definitely happen in life. Her superstitious belief about prophesy ends both of their life. She also had more expectation about her dream partner so she cannot accept the reality when she got her partner exactly opposite to her expectation. Even he was also not ready to understand her feelings even in an least manner. Both have the mistake on their own way. If we read from Maya perception it is every girls dream to get a caring and loving partner. But in Gowthama perception he thought love cannot do anything with life and only profession can do everything. Life is different for everyone and in the marriage life understanding plays a major role of which both failed, so their life also failed.

This novel taught us we should not search happiness outside “We should create happiness within ourselves and lead a life with liberty”

References:

Cry, The peacock- Anita Desai- Orient Paperbacks

Cry, The peacock is a product of a mellowed craftsman’- Fiction