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MISOGYNY PORTRAYED IN PREETI SHENOY'S NOVEL *TEA FOR TWO AND A PIECE OF CAKE* AND *RULE BREAKERS*

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Abstract

Literature freezes life through words. The word literature etymologically comes from the Latin word 'literature' or 'litteratura' which means 'writing formed with letters'. This paper is an attempt to explore the concept of misogyny where the women are made to feel inferior because she is a woman. Misogyny defines the inherent superiority of men over women. Even Sigmund Freud supports misogyny and created a controversy in one his papers entitled "Women oppose change, receive passively, and add nothing of their own". In all the novels of Shenoy there is a portrayal of male chauvinism and how women are deprived of their rights and freedom. This paper depicts the the enslavement, subjugation and the oppression faced by women and how they overcome the struggle or barriers imposed on women to gain success in their life.

Keywords: Misogyny, Patriarchy, Women Oppression, Thirst for Freedom, Gender Inequality

Introduction:

One thing which cannot be denied by any man is he comes from woman. Sometimes male mind fails to understand the true fact that he is of 'woman born'. As Otis T. Mason says, in ancient times "women hear better, see better, are better talkers than men, and can therefore become successful conjurers of fate" (Feminism and the Individual 15). Marriage is to bring a new life, and she becomes more and more her husband's living thing. On the other hand the work of husband is divided with his wife not only in modern era but even during the mythical times. "Motherhood appears to have mythological, superstitious and powerful status" (Feminism and Family 29).

Portrayal of Misogyny:

Misogyny is defined as the term used to refer to depict the oppression and domestic abuse on women carried by men. It involves the hatred or discrimination against women carried by men. Preeti Shenoy, the famous Indian novelist, blogger, poet, painter, photographer, yoga lover, fitness enthusiast and an animal lover was born on 21st December, 1971. She is also considered as the rock-star of Indian publishing house. She contributed many books in both fiction as well as non-fiction. She is constantly nominated in Forbes List since 2013. She got the "Indian of the Year" in New Delhi for 2017 and also the "Recipient of Business Excellence" by New Delhi Management Institute. She is among the very few who got degree from UK in Portraiture and she is internationally recognized for it. She started to write since her childhood but she became an avid blogger by starting a blog named "21 days of Positivity" in order to cope up with her father's death in 2006. After her success in writing blogs, many readers insist her to publish a text.

In the novel *Tea for Two and a Piece of Cake*, the author brings out the love story of Samir and Nisha which ends up after she has given birth. Nisha lost her mother at the age of five is single handed raised by her father. He appoints a maid Malati Tayi who took care of her till she is fifteen. When she passed away, Nisha is left alone and her father is least bothered about her. The resemblance of her mother created the worst memories to her father which made him to deliberately avoid her.

Nisha, who is in her present middle twenties, feels happy to be an employee in the small travel agency. She feels joyful because it creates an image she belonged to somewhere. She is terminated by her boss Parinitha Sachdev when she hears a gossip about her which is funnily spread by Nisha. The meeting with Samir, the renowned businessman created a blossom in her gloomy life. Samir falls in love for her proposes to her and asks for her hand in marriage. He wants to meet her father who is a just a part of her life. Nisha though not liked the idea still manages to talk to her father about her relationship with Samir. She arranges for the meeting but her father passes away the night before. Though, she sheds tears she is not affected much by her father's death. She happily gets married to Samir and the real nature of Samir turns to show up every now and then.

He made her to resign her job as his personal secretary because he feels low of his assistants. The attitude of Samir shocks her when she invites her friends Akash and Chetana for dinner. He did not try to get involved in chatting with her friends because the little talks never amuse him. He frankly tells Nisha to not invite her friends to home. When Nisha decides to join cooking class he encourages her but when she started to prepare food for him he disagrees with her.

Samir refuses to use any protection when he makes love and blames her for getting pregnant. Nisha refuses to abort the baby, convinces to take care of the baby by herself and not involve him in taking care of the baby. His wrath is kindled when she refuses to accompany him for his mother's funeral when she had given birth before ten days. Again she gets pregnant with baby Rohit and gives birth to him. She never questions him whenever he is late and completely understands him or atleast she thought so.

When the phone call from Samir about their divorce stabs her heart she decides to find out where she went wrong. Still she never blames him and tries to find out what made him to break up their relationship even after eight years of togetherness. She thinks Samir as a good man fails to understand whenever he expresses his grunts. She thought that she solely manages everything without involving him in her children's activities would keep him happy. But later understands that he even feels bothered the children's presence in his home. He did not consider them as his own but as only the nuisance. She could not stay in his home after reading the mail where he expressed his own feelings. She feels she is an also stranger in the home where she walks in before eight years. When it does not involve her children she too does not belong there anymore. She walks out of his home in mid night hiring a cab and moves into the apartment where she stayed with her father. Little Tanya, who did not understand anything what her mom does co-operates with her and she gets use to her normal middle class family life.

Nisha is overwhelmed by seeing her childrens' happy faces and finds joy in them. Their smile made her day and she feels the heavy burden is lifted off from her shoulders. After three days she finds her credit card had been blocked. She decided to use her own money which she saved when she worked in the travel agency. When she decided to get the consolation from her friends, Chetana expresses the bitterness and asks her to go back to Samir. She finds excuses and tells her she did not have enough time to meet her in person. But, Akash visits her home and consoles her telling she can find a way to earn from home looking after Rohit. He asks her to give few days time for a solution.

After few days, he reaches with the visiting card of the catering named "The Magic Sauce Pan". Nisha could not believe her eyes and she feels it's not possible for her. He also got the order from his colleague and brought the cash in advance for buying the groceries. On that day, Rohit fell from the cot and is severely injured. Nisha feels the necessity to inform Samir about this after all he is the father but he ignores her and does not care about it. He does not even show the courtesy to call back and enquire about his son. Nisha is taken aback by his answers started to hate him to the core. Through, Akash constant support she imprints her name in the catering field. On an occasion when she met Samir in an event, he calls her later and asks her to quit doing what she does as it spoils his name. "'Look, Samir,' I say, 'I wasn't good enough for you and you left. Now what I do with my life is my business. I don't think you have any right to tell me how I should lead it. You lost that right the day you decided to leave me. I have finally found my calling, and too bad if you think catering is a demeaning job. I do not want your money, your house—nothing'(225). He also questions about Akash's presence with her. She thrashes him with her words and asks him to fuck off from her life because it is not she but he who walked off from the relationship.

Akash and Nisha opens a restaurant together in Pondicherry named "The Soul Garden". Nisha refuses to commit herself in the marriage or in the nuptial bond. Hence, they decided to stay forever in live-

in relationship. Akash decided to quit his job when the catering business expands and decides to enlarge the restaurant.

In her other novel *A Place Called Home*, the author had beautifully interwoven the plot with the vivid description of the coffee estate where the reader can turn into the nature-lover. Alka, the protagonist is shown as a smart and a timid girl. She has become orphan recently when she lost her mother Seema. She falls in love with her best friend's lover Krish. Though, she is guilty for her behaviour still she could not control herself. Finally, when they are about to confront it to her friend Manasi, she unties the other knot that she is carrying Krish's baby. Alka retreats from relationship with Krish and she did not give him any time to take any decision. Before that, she agrees to marry Subbu when Anandi made proposal for him.

Subbu who is illiterate unlike Krish, marries Alka and makes her as house wife. He ill-treats her and oppresses her curiosity to know anything. The friendly nature of Subbu is completely changed after they return back from their honeymoon. Alka who lost her mother recently feels comforted in Anandi's pampering. She feels Anandi as her second mother and moves with her very friendly. The interest which Subbu showed when Alka visits the coffee estate as Krish's friend vanished after their marriage.

Alka is even assaulted after marriage when there is a fight between Alka and Subbu. Anandi made him to understand his mistake. She also stresses the point that it will create the blame on her because she had brought him up in a wrong way. Subbu apologized to Alka for his mistake and promised her not to repeat the same mistake again.

Anandi's death had changed everything and their life is turned upside down. Subbu and Alka could not imagine the sudden death of Anandi. Each of them mourned in their own way and missed her terribly. Alka who thought Anandi as her mother lost her also in an accident. She felt like she had been made orphan again. Subbu started to spend more time in estate than his home. Alka started to feel lonelier as she had no one to talk to.

Alka background revealed by Ms. Senapathy in Anandi's memorial function had torn her heart into millions of pieces. Subbu came to know about her started to treat her as the disgusting creature. Krish witnessed their fight and how his brother had treated Alka. Alka on the other hand turned into the monster and is ready to attack Subbu when Krish entered the room. Krish could not believe Alka's nature and he did not try to ask what made her turn into monster. After Subbu reveals about Alka's back ground, Krish is taken aback to truth which had been kept in secret for so many years.

Though Krish is startled to hear about Alka's background still he could not understand what made Subbu to behave so wildly to Alka. After Subbu had left the place, he tries to reason with Alka and made her to understand that she should have revealed the truth after marriage. He consoles Subbu and asks him not to see the caste or the social background of Alka because he had been for so long and it does not matter. He also reasons that Anandi would not have taken it so seriously.

He blames his brother for treating her in such a way. But Subbu is very clear that he wants her to leave the house. He does not want to face her anymore. He also tells that he will take care of her daughters because it is born to them. Alka who had waited for more than two weeks to subtle Subbu's anger tries to confront him. But it is of no use. She could not only feel the anger but also how disgusted Subbu feels to talk with her. He termed her "leech" which she could not digest. " 'Ha! Suit yourself. You're nothing but a leech,' Subbu scoffed, gave a bitter laugh and walked away" (260). She decided to stay away from Subbu for few days and informs Tulika and Nisha about going for a vacation.

The sudden disappearance of Alka shocked Subbu to an extent and he started to reach home in evening. He stops getting boozed because he wants to be a responsible father. He is astonished to see Tulika and Nisha knowledge and understands Alka's effort in raising her daughters. His anger is reduced and he feels sorry for his daughters. He decided to forgive Alka for the sake of his daughters.

Alka visits Ranita Shetty's home where she was brought up and confronts Mrs. Shetty for her character. She pours out whatever is in her heart and also warns her not to involve in her life anymore. She visits Renuka, her mother's friend and unties the knot about her mother's death. She also gets to take her mother's possession and feels so happy to have a family. She finally reaches home after three days and could find from the servants that Subbu had missed her so much. She tries to mend the fight with Subbu and apologise for the mistake they committed.

Alka stays strong not to get oppressed and she made Subbu to realise his mistake on domestic violence. Subbu also realised his fault and understands that the society can only blame him but he will suffer if he sends Alka for the sake of society. He also makes sure that he will act as a responsible father and a husband. They understood the importance of the relationship and the relationship of husband and wife had turned into the friendly one. Both started to view their bonding as a pure and a special one. Subbu started to

treat Alka with respect and he tries to understand the trauma which she suffered in her childhood made her to hide the truth.

Conclusion:

Men and women are entirely different based on the biological and natural factor which includes the mental and physical abilities. Here Samir who is a business tycoon fails to recognize his wife's ability and tries to control and suppress her feelings. Though, he is from a high class and educated society he fails to encourage her. He could not accept his wife achieving greater heights than him. On other hand, Akash helps her in dark times and even decided to leave his job to make her succeed. In the other novel, Krish loves Alka so much but he marries Manasi due to the situations. Alka marries Krish's brother Subbu and she falls in the name of tradition. Her wings are completely broken; the girl who wants to achieve greater heights in life lost her interest after her mother's death. She does not try to get up till her mother was called names by Subbu. The stereotypical nature of Alka is born only when she got kindled and refuses to bend after that. The new life of Alka is brought into light when she tries to stand up for herself. The wings of women are in the hands of men from her birth. Firstly, her father, then her husband finally her son. Our society had framed the structure in such a way where the wings are decided to be fully grown or trimmed or entirely decided by the so called-men.

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