

RADHA'S LOVE TRIANGLE IN ANITA NAIR'S MISTRESS

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Abstract- *Nair's Mistress explains the married life of Radha getting entangled in a love triangle. Nair's concept of a free woman surpasses the limits of economic or social freedom but relates to her mental and emotional attitude of wellbeing. Anita Nair describes how the Indian women are exploited even in the modern times both by individuals and the society. The study focuses on love triangle between Radha, Shyam and Chris. It also talks about the power of male domination and concept of new woman.*

Keywords- Love, Male domination, Oppression, Pre-marital and Post marital relationship.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nair holds revolutionary ideas about marriage, man-woman relationship and concept of new woman. Radha is a well-educated woman. She works in a company where she falls in love with a senior manager, much older than her. In fact, the man uses her body. At one point she becomes pregnant and gets herself aborted. Radha's father, who is aware of what she has gone through in her life, feels distress because she is the only daughter of her wealthy parents.

He thinks that marriage is the only solution that will alleviate the distressed temperament of his daughter. She is forcefully married to Shyam by her father. It is a marriage of convenience for her. In those days marriage was the ultimate goal for all Indian women. Radha is not happy with her married life. Shyam loves her but they are an unsuited pair emotionally as well as culturally.

Though Radha is married to Shyam, she is not comfortable with him. She is forced to become a housewife and has to play the role of a traditional wife. Radha accepts her marriage with Shyam but she cannot love Shyam. She does not protest whenever Shyam makes love to her. He says, "When she responded to my touch and I knew that she was trying to block a memory, I closed my mind to it" (M 123).

In the beginning of her marriage, the patriarchy exists in different ways such as she is not pregnant even after eight years of her marriage. So she is called as infertile by the society. She is blamed by the society though Shyam is

impotent. Shyam's dominant nature is to put her end to all her plans. Radha is search for strength and independence from unfulfilled life. Shyam, business minded man who is well versed in all the tactics of business. He is in love with Radha. Even though he knows that she had pre-marital relationship with a married man.

He accepts to marry her. Radha thus makes her objections quite clear. In the Indian society a woman is not supposed to express her opinion against the husband openly. But, Radha is an educated new woman, who has her own dreams and aspirations. She is not ready to tolerate Shyam's chauvinistic attitude and his habit of saying no to everything. Shyam is using her as a sex object and never think of her individual freedom. Radha does not get love and respect from her husband; he treats her only as a partner in bed.

To a certain extent, Radha never tolerate Shyam's dominate character she thinks she is a possession a much cherished possession that her role in Shyam's life. He does not want Radha to be his equal and he protests against her involvement with his business. All he wants is a mistress, someone to indulge and someone to indulge him with feminine wiles.

Shyam loves Radha but his mind is highly clouded with sexist notion and hunger for power. When he forcefully makes physical relationship with her, Radha feels rape is rape, even when sanctified by marriage and the rapist does not have to be a stranger emerging from the shadows. She thinks Shyam is a rapist because without her willing he uses her body as he wished. She feels sore and bruised, invaded and robbed because of Shyam's cruel attitude. But Shyam who hardly understands her feelings ruminates over the incident in a different way. He never understands his act of force and violence. Shyam sees Radha as a supply for the benefit of his pleasure.

Then Radha meets Christopher, a writer and a journalist from London, who comes to India to write about the story of her uncle Koman, kathakali dancer. After seeing him, Radha is attracted towards him. She is not happy in her married life. So she draws her attention to Christopher, "I

look at him. With every moment, the thought hinges itself deeper into my mind: What an attractive man” (M 8).

For eight years, she has lived with Shyam but she does not get any sort of feeling for Shyam as he feels for Chris now. When Radha expresses her interest to start a business of her own, her husband shouts at her and says, she must behave as wife to him and not to spoil his name in the society. Shyam inferiority does not allow her to show her intellectual ability. This makes Radha to hate Shyam.

Psychologically, this incident affects Radha. To escape from her unsatisfied life, she draws her attention to Chris. She feels as a chance of happiness with Chris. Shyam's high handedness drives Radha to Chris. Chris makes her feel respected as an individual. Radha is interested in art and literature, she feels that Chris understands her and appreciates her opinions on arts and politics. While Shyam does not allow her to take part in any of his business deals. Radha is very much hurt by Shyam's attitude. She feels sore, bruised, invaded, robbed and vanished. But she decides to behave like nothing has happened.

In the beginning of Radha's affair with Chris, to begin with it is more a revenge rather than infatuation. She is a woman of independent spirit who is not ready to accept the submissive role. When Shyam is on a tour, Chris invites her for dinner and that night she submits herself to Chris. Radha feels comfort from this relationship. As she picks up her clothes, she looks at him and thinks, “He is painting, I think. A portrait of satiation, of a night of abandon. A moment of languor frozen. I feel a joy: he is mine” (M 172).

Radha's marriage is a compromise. In the beginning, she is loyal to him but the circumstances of her marital life, Shyam's dominant nature, forced her to keep the relationship with Chris. Radha trusts Chris shares the same feeling for her that he cares for her in the same way. Koman, warns her that Shyam's servant will tell Shyam about her affair with Chris. Radha says, “‘I don't care,’ I say. ‘My marriage is dead. And Shyam means nothing to me’” (M 207). Her uncle tries to convince her that she has been married to Shyam for eight years. But, Shyam is a materialistic person. Meanwhile, Radha is not ready to listen to her uncle's words.

Radha's affair with Chris is motivated by her interest to find a man who helps her to realize herself. She thinks that her affair with Chris would help her to find a meaning of her life. She does not think of any consequence of her affair with Chris. When she discovers that she is pregnant, at first she feels the happiness of becoming a mother, but soon it vanishes. She realizes that this is not love but lust. Therefore,

she realizes that her affair with Chris is only an act of defiance and lust. She feels cheated by Chris. She thought she could find her independence with Chris but does not realize that breaking social conventions of married life cannot help her. Radha knows that she is responsible for everything in her life. She feels disgust for herself, for her affair with Chris.

II. CONCLUSION

Finally she remains an independent woman. Anita Nair showcases Radha to be the new woman, a woman liberated from the traditional notion of a wife, loyal to her husband. She breaks the norms of marital life as she likes to be independent. Radha is torn between Shyam and Chris. When Radha conveys her decision both Shyam and Chris accept her choice. Hydro geomorphological studies with the Hydro Geological and structural or lineament have proved to be very effective tools to estimate Ground water potential zones in the Watershed.

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