



Marta Al-Baniyya: A Stigmatized Chapter Of Human Life

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Abstract-

One of the best ways to provide knowledge to society is through short stories. Khalil Jibran, a writer of short stories, attempted, like other playwrights and novelists, to depict society's reflection in his works by examining its issues and happenings. A writer of short stories can depict a society's social structure and norms of conduct. The terrible portrayal of human emotions in the story Marta al-Baniyya is also present. Khalil Jibran, the author, painted a sad and miserable picture of poverty through this writing. Through the complicated existence of the orphan girl, he also painted a neglected image of human behaviour in this story.

The story 'Marta al-Baniyya' can be found in Jibran Khalil Jibran's collection of short stories book entitled "Ara'is al-Muruj" (Nymphs of the Valley). This book was published in America as early as 1906. 'Ara'is al-Muruj' is one of the prominent writings of Jibran Khalil Jibran. In his writings, the Lebanese author Khalil Jubran primarily critiqued social injustice. His writing is primarily inspired by his difficult existence. A terrible portrayal of human emotions, Marta al-Baniyya is the heart-breaking story of an orphan girl. The author painted a picture of human behaviour via the complicated battle of the orphan girl 'Marta' to survive in human society. He also commended the pure heart of the simple and nice villagers while describing the social conditions of the villages. A classification in human society was also made clear by him. In particular, this paper attempts to find out about the human behaviour through the complicated battle of an orphan girl. And a brief discussion of how society views the children of the poor.

Keywords- Orphan, stigmatize, Poverty, Marta, Heart-touching.

Introduction-

Jibran Khalil Jibran is One of the most prolific philosophers, poets, artists, painters, composers, feminists, humanists, and as well as well-known short story writers of Mahjar literature. He inspired a whole generation of writers in the development of Mahjar literature. He has been recognized as an international figure. His works are already translated into more than twenty languages around the world. He was born on 6th January 1883 in the small village of Bisharri, northern part of Lebanon. Jibran Khalil Jibran's contribution to modern Arabic literature is noteworthy. He has opened a new horizon in the field of Arabic short stories.

Ara'is al-Muruj is a collection of three short stories by Jibran Khalil Jibran. These are- المجنون (The Madman), مارنا البانيا (Marta al-Baniyya), and النار الخالدة (The Eternal Fire). Jibran Kahlil Jibran has been able to present a realistic picture of Egyptian social life through this collection of stories. He wrote this book on real events happening in Egypt. Marta al-Baniyya is such a kind of story that will make every reader cry. In the story 'Marta al-Baniyya', the author wants to send a warning message to human society so that such an incident does not happen again in a civilized society.

Objectives

- To study the position of an Orphan in society.
- To explore how lower-class people, struggle with their life.

Methodology:

This study has dealt with descriptive and analytical. The data has been collected from primary and secondary sources. This paper has been prepared with the help of books, articles, and journals relating to this topic.

Main Incident

Marta was an orphan girl. She lived a very simple and pure life. Her father died when Marta was a child. Unfortunately, her mother also died before she was ten years old. So they left her with the family of a poor neighbor who lived in the beautiful valley of Lebanon. Her father had died but inherited nothing for her except her name and a dilapidated shack. And her mother's death left her nothing but tears of sorrow, poverty, and the humiliation of an orphan. Every day she takes a cow in torn clothes to graze in the fields among the high mountains, rocks, rivers, and trees. Where she spends the whole day behind the cow in a turn-out dress singing with the birds, enjoying the flowers and butterflies flying. And being very hungry, she returned to the hut in the evening after the sun had set.

Thus, between these mountains and distant valleys, poor Marta lived. She was growing like the growth of tree trunks. As time passed, her growth produced emotions in her heart as a flower produced fragrance in its depths, and dreams and thoughts plagued her like flocks in a stream of water. She became a thoughtful girl whose life was not sown by knowledge. As the seasons of the year passed, her life began to change. She became a girl of such a great and pure spirit as if she were the shadow of the unknown Lord sitting between the earth, the sky, and the sun. She was living her life like this. Suddenly, one autumn day, the darkness seemed to fall on her life. She went to the fields to feed the cows that day as she does every day. As she looked at the trees and flowers in the field and realized the pain of summer's separation, she suddenly heard the sound of horses. She noticed and saw a horseman coming toward her. Looking at his appearance and clothes, she felt that the man was a member of a noble family. The man asked her about the way to the sea. But Marta did not know the way and wanted to go to ask her owner, but the gentle voice of the rider's youth prevented her from going. He looked at her

beautiful figure and said that he was in love with her which was a lie but the helpful girl Marta could not understand. After a while of conversation, the man took her on his horse. And Marta disappears from that evening.

Khalil Gibran, a writer, and philosopher, went to Lebanon in 1900 to spend his school holidays. And suddenly one evening he met there a five-year-old boy with a weak voice from a broken and aching heart, dressed in worn clothes, poor and with a pale face oppressed by sorrow, carrying some branches of flowers. who requested the author to buy some of his flowers. The author looks at him and sees a painful picture of poverty. The boy also painted a neglected picture of human society whose suffering life made the difference between the poor and the rich. The author questions the humanity of civilized society through him.

When the boy talked about buying flowers, the author looked at the face of the five-year-old boy and saw a realistic picture of poverty and sorrow. The author fell in love with the boy and bought some flowers from him, although his real purpose was to discover about the boy for he felt that his heart was surrounded by poverty. When he was talking to the boy, the boy felt safe and became like a friend because his other friends compared the children living in the street to dirty things. Then Khalil Gibran asked the boy about him and his parents. The boy replied as if he did not know the meaning of the word father. The writer lamented that there are still more boys on the streets in our society who are suffering and deprived of justice and education. When the author knew that he is the son of Marta then he remembered that he heard this story from the people of the village. And when the author asked him to take him to his mother, the boy took him to the street where Martha lived as a stigmatized woman. After a while, when he reached the room, he saw nothing but a man lying there with terrible pictures of poverty and cruelty. As soon as she saw the author, she began to say in a painful voice mixed with pain and sorrow, "Have you come to purchase the fragment of my last breath of life so that you may defile it with your lust? Get away from me, because this street is full of cheap women selling bodies. Go to them. They are ready to sell their bodies at low prices. And I have nothing to sell except a few breaths of my life. The rest will be taken by the grave in death. These quoted lines paint a vivid and cruel picture of society. Marta is one of the women who are repeatedly abused and lusted after by some people. She was raped at will by men, humiliated, and betrayed. No one in the community came forward to rescue her from this inhuman situation.

The author was very emotional when he heard the woman's words and told her, "O Marta, don't be afraid of me. I have not come to fulfill my wishes. I have come as a sympathetic person and I want to know about the injustice done to you. She sat on the bed with a sick body and began to describe the whole incident with tears in her eyes as to how the deceitful gentleman from a wealthy family had played with her pure and spiritual love. The horseman who met in the field of Lebanon influenced Marta by expressing his false love with smiling and soft words. He took her to a beautiful house and dressed her in silk clothes and various ornaments. The simple girl could not understand anything and she

could not understand physical desires also. Although love is normal, it emerges from an event and love felt in the heart is true in society, but visible love remains untrue and leads to evil and ultimately to a painful end. She listened to his lies that she couldn't know and went with him out of pure love. But after satisfying the desires of her body, he impregnated her, creating a blazing flame and leaving her in a dark room where she was helpless with her infant in the pangs of poverty and cold. Then Marta asked him to leave the place by covering his face with a cloth because she was considered a prostitute there. And she forbade him to go to the place where she lived and tell her that Martha was dead. And she looked at her son and said very politely that in a little while, after my death, she would look down on him and call him the result of sin. The author then explained to Marta that she was not a prostitute. Although you live in the grave, you are not dirty. For it is certain that the body cannot touch the Holy Spirit. Instead of coming forward to help her, some gentlemen take advantage of her poverty and weakness to approach her and offer her property and food to taste her body. She was repeatedly abused by those men. A certain section of society played with her body like a doll every day but no one rescued her from the place. And finally, her strength was running low. Death seems to be waiting for her. Marta then asked for forgiveness for her sins and urged her son Fuad to be given security. Finally, a tragic death came into her life.

Conclusion-

The famous writer and philosopher Khalil Gibran painted a vivid picture of the life story of an oppressed girl suffering from a poisonous body on a broken bed in a dark room. He wants to send a message to society with a real story that happens frequently in society by the story of Marta. People living in cities do not want to see the suffering of rural people. Even though he lives in the city, he can easily understand how difficult life is for the people of the village. He describes Marta as saying that there are other victims like her in society who are no less in a position than Marta. The author calls on everyone in society to keep humanity alive. And they want an end to such incidents in the society. One thing is clear from the above story of Marta that there is no place for the poor in this society. In fact, Marta was not guilty. Her life has been destroyed by taking advantage of her simplicity. Humanity seems to have disappeared from society. Because after Marta's death, they refused to give her a place to bury her body. The religious leaders even refused to pray to Allah for her soul's eternal peace. At last, through this story, Gibran is trying to raise awareness in human society and urge such incidents not to happen again.

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