



Struggle for Emotional and Intellectual Liberation in Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence* and *The Dark Hold No Terror*

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ABSTRACT-Women are considered custodians of cultural particularism by virtue of being less assimilated. She is controlled in different ways to preserve the identities of national cultural collectiveness. But the new woman voices out of resentment and she has her own changed notions of life. She wants to break free from the shackles of her traditional positions and attain self-fulfillment more important than the duty of sacrificing herself for her husband and children. This paper attempts to define the struggle of ShashiDeshpande's heroines to attain emotional and intellectual liberation

KEY WORDS: Identity, Supremacy, Relationship, Responsible, Disaster, Individuality, Resentment.

I. INTRODUCTION

ShashiDeshpande is a well-known name in the field of Indian literature.As a novelist her focus is on the Indian women who are urban, middle class,educated and cultured.Deshpande's fiction focuses on the women characters who caught up in a conflict between tradition and modernity. She also focuses on the relationship between a man and a woman and the tension within that family. Deshpande shows how her women characters vehemently deny the supposed supremacy of masculine power and authority. Most of her women characters crave for identity.

'In *That Long Silence*' the protagonist Jaya a stereotyped house wife is actually nervous and timid but gradually emerges as a confident individual. Jaya is a stereotyped, educated, middle class woman, who aims to suppress her own wishes and to act according to her husband's expectations. She never dares to protest against his wishes. In her character there are two different factors. One is that she is unhappy with her husband and the other is, she is anxious for him and keeps waiting for his arrival. Jaya is a creative writer and at first she was encouraged by her husband. But he advises her to write about "light humorous pieces about the travails of a middle class house wife" (148-149) whereas Jaya writes the story of a man. "who could not reach out his wife except through her body"(144). Mohan takes it to be the truth of their life which creates tension in their relationship.. In India the relationship between wife and husband is not only cordial but intimate and enduring. They have to bear their relationship until it becomes unbearable.

Both Jaya and Mohan are from different background Jaya is a modern woman, rolled in tradition, Mohan is rationalist rolled in custom. This difference of background resulted in their failure as husband and wife. There was no place for love in their relationship. The later parts of the novel bring forward the determined character of Jaya. She overcomes her mental crisis and realize that nobody is responsible for her disaster. She leaves her blaming attitude and change has occurred to her. She realizes that pursuit of happiness is meaningless. Nobody can be blamed for our own inner conflict. She understands that people have to do on their own if they want to succeed in their life; she gets a new stamina of doing anything which she was lacking in her life. Now she realizes her own power 'I am Jaya.' 'Jaya for victory.'(137). Through this novel ShashiDeshpande declares that a woman is a being. She has her own existence. She is not only for amusement. She has full right like a man in her own life. Through Jaya's character the author reveals the awareness of the Indian wife of her existence, identity, position, and her way of facing life.

The Indian woman been a silent sufferer for long time has never been able to attain her own individuality. In *Dark Holds No Terror* it is Saru's mother who forced her to stay within the four walls. Women were not allowed to choose their own way and forced to depend either on their parents or husbands. Saru's decision to

join in medical college stunned her mother. According to her girl child is always a burden who has to be handed over to the rightful owner.

Saru is portrayed as an independent and intelligent female. The conflict between Saru and her mother symbolized the clash between modern trends and traditional practices. Her mother was an obstacle in the path of Saru's search for self-identity. Saru marries Manu her college mate against her parents wish and receives indignation. After her marriage Saru is hurt to hear her mother curse her. "Let her know more sorrow that she given me "(197). Her conjugal life was also not much successful and became very bitter as they hardly had time to spend with each other in privacy. Saru a successful doctor is caught up in a dilemma between her personal and professional life. Her under paid lecturer husband Manohar feels jealous of her and takes revenge by imposing physical torture. She hates her husband's violent, virile and vain masculinity. But she learns to face her life's problem with a positive attitude. Saritha's visit to her father's house after fifteen years gives her an insight that even an educated married career woman has to compromise her ideals to submit the traditionally accepted submissive roles for survival and for maintaining peace at home. She realized that the fear is within herself. If she has the courage she would be able to fare life boldly. She has decided to solve her marital problems and make her husband realize that she has to be treated equal.

Dr. S. PrassannaSree comments "Saru desires to liberate herself from the shackles of traditions and exercise her right to As reveal her individual capabilities and realize her feminine self through identity assertion and self-affirmation Realisation dawned on Saritha about her existence, she optimized this struggle for the liberations of the self".

In the words of SP Swain Saru's journey was a journey from self-alternations to self -identifications from negative to assertion from diffidence to confidence, she learns to trust her feminine self.

ShashiDeshpande's heroines always revolt against the social troubles and old tradition and struggle for their freedom, completeness and their identity. They find themselves trapped in the roles assigned to them and attempt to assert their individuality. They seek change but within the cultural norms. They fight against the existing system, tradition of society and express their feeling their anger and resentment. They need to be on their own to come to terms with life, but once they achieved that they return to their normal life fortified by their newly found wisdom.

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