

Quest for Identity Innovation in Githa Hariharan's "The Thousand Faces of Night"

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Abstract- Githa Hariharan one of the important Indian women writers portrays women who face battles with men and society in her first novel "The thousand faces of night". Hariharan has used the legend and belief to convey the deep-rooted civilization of Indian existence. The values and establishment of the Hindu society position a big responsibility in this novel. The three female characters Devi, Sita, Mayamma try to find out their own personality in their own customs. Their prospect is very high about the marital being but they accept the sudden unhappiness. This novel reveals the eternal struggle for their human rights and their investigate for identity character in the near world. Indian women lives and pitch glow on the rising independence if Githa hariharan.

Index Terms- Tradition, transition, modernity, social system, myth.

INTRODUCTION

Githa Hariharan is an Indian author and editor based in New Delhi. She studied BA in English from university of Mumbai and MA in statement from Fairfield. She had worked in public broad casting system in Network. Her first novel, "The Thousand Faces of Night" won the common wealth writers in 1993. She has also published a collection of short stories permitted "The art of dying" and two novels, "the ghost of vasu master 1994", when dreams travel 1999'. She has published a collection of short stories translated from four major south Indian languages. Githa hariharan is one of the women writers who have bending producing a body of Indian literature that is committed to feminist and social issues.

She has started her job as a writer by attempt to write on a subject matter that was close to heart to many writers, that is the female prejudice. She portrays the changing image of woman in the modern and the post modern era. Practice, transition and modernity are the

three stages, which the women in Hariharans novels pass through. Like any other Indian who is raised on oral narratives and the epics, learnt at the grandmother's knees, Hari Haran too grew up on tales and legends. She has used these legends to help observe current women's lives in her first novel 'The thousand faces of night'.

Indian society is conventional and social order based and Githa hariharan has cautiously showed Indian social system and has depicted the patriarchic system in her first novel. The novel is woven around three generations of women Devi, sita, and mayamma. The novel brings the thought how in the face of generation, surroundings and the education that an Indian woman attain, her destiny is to fall back into the century old custs atleast to a small extent. The central character of the novel 'The thousand faces of night' is Devi. When devi returns from her education at America, tradition and the old order of things are ready to reclaim her into an arranged marriage as she gets frustrated with her affected husband Mahesh she learns the vital responsibility of any Indian wife, pretends to be a high-quality wife, pretends to love amusing her husband's family and friends.

When she comes to madras with the recollection of her black American lover, Dan. She is the central character and neither an ideal women like her mother sita, nor is the spiritually superior as her mother – in law. Devi learns the vital duty from her old family payment mayamma, who got marital when she was a girl to a drunken husband and physically abused by mother-in-law, husband as well as her own son. She advices Devi that the key to marriage is the capability to suffer and go on. And Devi s mother sita follows this theory in her life. She sacrifices herself to the gods of reason, order and progress. All through her

life, she fulfills the role of an obedient daughter and wife and compliant mother.

Devi is an ordinary woman, an educated current Indian woman who is flat to requirements and ambitions in the society of her own times. She takes a controlled status of a wife in married life and does not make a compromise with her organic and touching needs. She is ready to reach adjustment with a sense of loss when she decides to stay with her mother. She refuses an offer of marriage from her African- American friend Dan because of her ambivalence towards American background. Dan and Devi are different in terms of their beliefs, culture and traditions. Sita leads her daughter to the altar of marriage, she agrees to a negotiated marriage like a good Indian girls. Before their marriage, openly said to devi about his scenery of work and informs that his father and maid servant will be there.

Mahesh wants Devi in his family manage the house work and to accept his friends well. She is unable to protect touching mahesh's supreme assurance and when on earth she articulate a wish to do something like learning to play cards so that she can be with him. According to mahes, education is not needed in the making of women. Her grandmother was a very happy woman without learning. She understands that Mahesh needs a woman who is subservient and compliant. Devi listens to the legendary stories from her grandmother that has initiated her into the numerous possibilities of woman hood. Her grandmother always told mythological stories to her granddaughter.

This story became so much a part of her life that devi thinks she is the very manifestation of all the avenging deities marriage to Mahesh and his indifferent behavior brings an end to the dream-like life of Devi. It is the physical, psychological and touching closeness that provides the temper and tenor for instigation into the world of women. The three women belong to different generations and are different in terms of learning and social conditions. Mayamma can't bear a child for several years' her husband and mother-in-law have tortured her physically, sita's troubles are more mental and devi are due to her husband's indifferent attitude. For this Indian customs, traditions, rituals and superstitions are woven into a rich literary fabric with a plentiful of ancient myth and not so ancient allusive. at the end of the novel, Devi proceeds to her mother and she

aims to make a fresh start. She knows what will happen in future. In this novel, font truly symbolizes a variety of cross sections of Indian society.

Gender issues continue to decide the scenery and shape of Indian society. In recent years there has been an alarming increase of offering deaths, sexual aggression and pestering of female, Woman's position is aggravation almost in every sphere and gender issues is basically one that affect woman directly and indirectly. The Agony and suffering of woman is the subject-matter of a number of writers in the post-modern stage. Fiction by Indian woman writer are fundamentally anxious with the gender discrimination and other problems related to woman who are showing to both physical and psychological mistreatment and ill action in the male subjugated society. In Indian writing in English fiction has occupied a significant place because of the novelist's vivid representation and clear expression of various hurdles and problems faced by the Indian women. The current Indian creative writing writers repeatedly discover difference knowledge of their protagonist who suffered between tradition and modernity. Especially the feministic writers inspect the matrimony bond through their works because of the total transformation of sociocultural terms.

They also portray how women struggle not only against violent male authority but also touching the social, educational and religious operation common in current society. They also illustrate how legends, myths, orthodox attitudes and traditional belief strengthen the picture of the women characters. modern novelists like kamala Markandaya, Bharati Mukherjee, Nayanthara Sahgal, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Rama Mehta , Kiran Desai and Githa Hariharan tries to bring the pathetic condition of the Indian women and their desperate struggles through their novels to create consciousness among the readers. The fight back to lift this curtain of unequal relationship and wipe out of the hidden scratch from the eyes of woman are the most alarming defy of our time.

Through grandmothers and Baba's stories Githa Hariharan examines how modern forms of patriarchy draw on the ancient diktats such as the planned use of myth. Baba asserts a patriarchal dominance when he speaks in a familiar and direct method. This contrasts with grandma's more complicated and less ultimate versions of myth in the novel "The Thousand Faces

of night”. Githa use of myth illustrates how it continues to support a leading ideology through stories and allegories of unselfishly important women but it also creates spaces in which the traditional legends offer the prospect.

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