WOMEN PERSPECTIVE IN RAJA RAO NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

In Raja Rao’s views of women life, miracle and mystical experience are substantial experience in the same manner as any other experience of worldly reality. However, these esoteric experiences are of two types –

(1) Mystical experience coming from woman, and
(2) Mystical experience coming from the spirit of man himself.

Raja Rao has presented a distinct picture of women character in the novel. He shows a difference between the intellectual belongings of French and Indian women. French women though they present Indian and Hindu intimacy in their relationship. The other side of the coin is the depiction of Indian women characters by Raja Rao that are shown living in complete surrender and submission. Raja Rao has vividly highlighted the higher position of the woman in Hindu mythology but at the same time they suffer in male dominating society in one or another way.

Keywords: Culture; Traditional; Religious; Social; Struggle

Raja Rao has produced many famous novels. Raja Rao has supported the Gandhian Philosophy. He has projected the Indian tradition and culture. His writing has the flavour of Indian mythology and Hindu culture. He has paved the road for women novelists. Khushwant Singh, B. Bhattacharya and Malgaonkar are other famous novelist. The women in India did not enjoy the privileges their counterparts had in European countries. The condition of women was in general backward at that time and the stature of the Indian women was very low. The tradition bound Indian society was slow in accepting changes. Hence, there was not much of an impact of the women’s liberation movements in India. Though the woman was glorified in the Hindu texts and religion, she was in real life subservient and was looked upon as a dependent. The attitude of the Indian society towards woman was, in a way ambivalent. The Hindu Philosophies have reiterated the superiority of man. But at the same time woman was considered as the ‘essential’ half. Samkhiya philosophy considers woman as the Divine Sakti, Advaita considers her as ‘Maya’, Tantric Philosophy extols woman as the creator of the universe. Nevertheless, there was a wide gap between the theoretical status and actuality right from the beginning, as the Hindu laws had prescribed familial roles and structure. Keen observers notice that these norms have many objectionable aspects; the code and rules laid down for woman were in accordance with the wishes of the patriarchal society.

The multi-dimensional strength of a woman’s personality is ignored by restricting her to the emptiness of a stifled life lived for others. J.S. Mill Points out. “All women are brought up from the very earliest years in the belief that their ideal of Character is the very opposite to that of men not self-will and government by self-control, but submission and yielding to the control of the others”

Raja Rao’s important women character Akkayya belongs to the Brahmin family. Akkayya, who becomes: widow at a very young age, remains a dependent and a burden for others all through her life.

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In fact, her death does not perturb but relieves the other members of the family. Again, no one is ready to perform Akkayya’s opsequies. Akkayya remains lonely all her life. Her life would have been different had she married again. A similar situation, in fact a more shocking one, is presented in “Akkayya” Where Akkayya is married to a very old man. This was a common scene in many families in the male dominant society does not question the inhuman treatment of her husband. Raja Rao has described the characters of Savithri, Madeleine Jaylakshami, Suzanne and Murielle with a psychological insight. He depicts the female characters with an understanding of the feminine sensibility. Raja Rao describes the different aspects of Madeleine’s (TSTR) character her moods, attitude, her perception of life, which render individuality to the character.

Raja Rao has a deep insight into the feminine sensibility and is alive to the beauty of women and exhibits a close knowledge of small and big problems of women, their perception of lives and has given expression to all that in his portrayal of women. Raja Rao presents the traditional women in his works. Which demonstrate the novelist concept of the women. He seems to be in the Hindu religious concept that the female principle complements and completes the male. Raja Rao believes that man can do nothing without woman and that the world loses its meaning without woman. He views that the woman is a mirror of the world. So the writer respects woman and womanhood.

The fact is that Rao’s protagonists talk about woman’s surrender but they also talk about man’s Worship of the woman. We have seen different image of woman as the primal power, the ideal companion, the Venerable mother figure, the compliant girlhood, the sensual seducer, the sufferer and the procreator. The experience, character and behaviour of woman have been captured by Raja Rao in a multiplicity of moods and shades: elation and sorrow, vivacity and melancholy, passion and elation, aspiration and rejection, and passivity and tenacity. In the end, a word may be said about Raja Rao’s view of woman and her principle on earth. Man–woman relationship has been extensively explored in modern fiction. D.H. Lawrence, has deeply probed this relationship among the Indian English novelist. Raja Rao has delved deep into the changing colours of this relationship the mysteries of the woman principle. Ramaswamy the protagonist narrator in an interior monologue ruminates: “What a deep and reverential mystery womanhood is” Rama’s attitude to this theme can be discerned in his relation to various Women whom he encounters in one capacity or another—mother, sister wife and beloved. Speaking about the pre-eminent place of woman on earth the narrator remarks: “There is only one woman, not for one life, but for all lives indeed, the earth was Created— with trees, seas, boats, buildings, books, rivers, towers, aero planes—that We might seek her.”

Ramaswamy, in a very reflective mood, realizes that man is incomplete without woman and, Woman and “Life is made for woman – man is a stronger to this earth” Raja Rao’s is an outstanding personality amongst the first rate Indian English fiction writers. He has produced many famous novels. Raja Rao’s sensibility is verily and presents a unified vision of woman life.

Thus Raja Rao projected and delineated the need, desire, and struggle of women for establishing their identity and freedom. Raja Rao has captured the core of the Indian thought and tradition and the attention of the society towards the real demand and life of woman. He understands the feelings, emotions and pang of woman. He delineates the psyche and mentality of woman.

REFERENCES

5. Ibid., P. 230
6. Ibid., P.139