



Eutierria in Manju Kapur's *A Married Woman*

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Abstract

Living in peace with nature has been an essential part of Indian culture. This reflects in a variety of traditional practices, religious beliefs, rituals, arts and in the daily lives of the Indian people. Many ancient cultures tell us how communities lived in harmony with nature, with a tradition of admiration for the elements that constitute environs, drawing their livelihood from natural resources and at the same time protecting the environment that assists them. Manju Kapur is one of the prominent Indian novelists. In her second novel *A Married Woman*, she portrays the essence of the beauty of the nature with the Indian Environment. She addresses how the protagonist enjoys the sea shore experience in Kanyakumari. The literature has become a mode of expression about environment and it's important in human life and universe.

Key Words: Nature, Sea Shore, Happiness, Travel, Environment

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Introduction

Literature is creative and more imaginary in the sense of poetry, drama, fiction and prose. It deals with the human sentiments and touches the heart of readers universally. Indian English literature basically is the contribution of the work given by the writers from India. Henry William Hudson in his work *An Introduction to the study of Literature* says about Literature as,

Literature is the vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language. (10).

A Married Woman is the second novel of Manju Kapur. Astha is the protagonist of this novel. She is an educated woman and an artist. She marries Hemant. Initially, her marriage life is happy.

But later she is disappointed with her marriage life. In this situation Astha meets her friend Pipeelika. In this novel, Kapur explains the incident how the protagonist Astha is united with nature and enjoys the sense of beauty in the sea shore.

Kapur portrays Astha and Pipeelika as political activists. On November twenty sixth Astha calls Pipeelika to accompany her for the Yatra. Pipeelika likes to accompany Astha in this Ekta yatra. She plans to travel from Kanyakumari to Kashmir from tenth of



December to January twenty sixth. So Astha needs her friend to accompany her. Pipeelika enquires Astha about the purpose of the Ekta Yatra. Astha explains the leader wants to unify the country so he arranges the Yatra.

Kapur explains the real situation faced by the married woman in their life. Astha is eager to go to Yatra with her friend, but she becomes nervous. Her voice breaks and her mind gets whirring because she wants to spend three weeks with her friend. She questions herself, how she is going to manage by leaving the family. She thinks of her husband Hemant, she knows that he will not allow her to go for the Yatra. Astha thinks, Yet why should I be nervous, hasn't he travelled, it is my turn, but even as I think this, I know it is the wrong argument to use. I shouldn't seem to want justice, it will create endless arguments, I must seem to want his compassion, his magnanimity. He is doing me a favour, but I must also be firm, he is not going to be compassionate and magnanimous if he has a choice. (248)

Astha wants Pipeelika to spend more time with her. Hemant gets irritated on hearing Astha plans for the travel. When he fights with Astha, she replies to Hemant with anguish. She is not ready to answer him. She just informs him that she is leaving on December eighth and she asks her mother to take care of her children.

Kapur describes what kind of happiness Astha needs in her life. Astha and Pipeelika start their travel and reach Kanyakumari on ninth December night. Astha feels complete and peaceful the whole way and she thinks that her friend also feels the same. Astha and Pipeelika reach the hotel for their refreshment. Astha waits for her friend to come to visit the sea shore. Pipeelika comes after finishing her bath. Both of them go for a walk in the beach. Kapur says how Astha enjoys the sense of beauty in the sea shore away from her husband's torture. She wants to be free from her stress and she likes to be united with nature. Astha says "The beach half a kilometre from hotel. We could see the gulls, smell the sea air" (255). They walk half a kilometre from the hotel to reach the sea shore. On the way they have tea with

the fragrance of the sea air which refreshes their mind. Astha babbles with happiness, "I babble the tip of the continent, the tip of the continent" (255).

Kapur pictures the beauty of the nature through these two characters. Pipeelika laughs at Astha on hearing her babble and she holds her hand and they start to run in the finest sand in the sea shore. Astha says "Our feet sliding in the softness of the sand" (255). Both enjoy the softness of the sand. Then both of them move to the shore line, there where they admire the different colours of the Ocean. Astha describes the colour of the Ocean. "We run to the shore line, where we can see the waters of the Arabian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean merge, grey, blue and green" (255). Both of them are surprised to see the different colours of the sand. "The sands are three distinct colours too; red, black and pale yellow flowing into one another." (255-256).

Kapur shows the aesthetic environment through the characters. The author explains how Astha and Pipeelika feel the smell of the fresh air of the sea and it calms their mind. They hear the sound of the sea and they feel free. "There is something about the sea, its smells, its sounds, you feel small but liberated. There it is before you, vast and eternal" (256). They watch the vastness of the sea and it makes them feel their eternal life. Their troubles in their life diminish as they unite themselves with the nature. They are very happy to spend their quality time together. They are in a happy mood by entering into the sea water. They never mind about their clothes getting wet and they don't mind their heavy hand bag into the water. Kapur describes how these two women behave like kids enjoying the sea water. They watch the little boys running up and down in the sea wave. They also collect separate coloured sands. The author explains the beauty of the Vivekanda Rock in this novel. The author explains how these two women are amazed on seeing this rock.

Kapur portrays how Astha and Pipeelika are delighted to see the sunset. In the evening time, Astha and Pipeelika are excited by standing at the sea shore on seeing

the sunset. Astha stares at the sunset as she never had this experience before. So she is very happy to see the sunset standing on the sea shore. Astha says,

I stare at the sunset as though I had never seen one before. I felt every second of its sinking in my bones. I am scared. No one can be so happy and have it last. When am I going to pay? .(256)

Here, the author explains how the two women unite with nature happily. They

continue their travel after experiencing the sense of beauty with the environment.

Works Cited

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