

SOCIAL RELATIONS IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY IN LESSONS IN FORGETTING

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Abstract:

The paper aims to investigate the relationship of individuals in the man centric culture in Anita Nair's *Lessons in Forgetting*. She has depicted how the working women's life in the urban areas in an insensitive manner by lacking customs and traditions. She tried to change Indian women's distinction; however the women are obliged in day to day life with conventional, men dominated society. *Lessons in Forgetting* is an anecdote about getting the additional opportunity in existence decisively. The novel is an account of two people who figure out how to beat their unpleasant past to begin another life. The author additionally discusses another female person in the novel named Kala Chiti who likewise acknowledged the demands of life. The human relations in the world are influenced by the sensation of strain, love, disloyalty, contest, aspiration and gluttony and so forth. The sensation of uncertainty makes Giriself-centred and he sells out Meera.

Key words: - Feminism, Betrayal, rebel, modernity, Marriage and Patriarchy.

Anita Nair who is a renowned Indian essayist can depict the women condition and woman's rights in her books with mind and humour. Another worry which is very noticeable is

crafted by Anita Nair is the man and woman relationship. Different characters of her book, they have relationship outside their marriage. Anita Nair in *Lessons in Forgetting* has prevailed in depicting Meera and other women characters as a person who can battle all chances of the man centric culture and can make their own reality without their spouses.

In countries like India, Ladies are attached to the conventions. The dreadful conventions become a hindrance to the development of the lady. Unlike foreign countries, the women in India. Are treated as secondary citizens by denying their privileges. Thus, normally this logical inconsistency is shown in her women roles. She depicts delicacy in marital relations and its ill effects on their children which becomes dangerous sign in the society. *Lessons in Forgetting* reflects all the evil effects in the

society. Anita Nair has tried to bring the attention of her readers on a husband who marries only with the intention of acquiring the property of his wife.

In *Lessons in Forgetting*, the character of Meera is a well-disciplined home maker and a mother of two children hitched to be a partner of a city dweller. She is an essayist, writer of cook books and also a guide to the wealthy housewives. Meera additionally plays a special role to the Indian working class spouse, who showers from a nearly helpless public foundation? She has been grown like an ignorant of her selfhood. She maintains of her independent character. Meera is hitched to her husband who comes from helpless. She is wilfully ignorant of her own unique selfhood. She has her own autonomous world. She is connected to Giri, Her husband liked very much attracted towards Lilac's house surrounded by the good garden. He has a plan to pledge or sold out of Lilac's and run his own business. He wants to be an ideal co-organizer help making a film and is captivated to the house just as the

young woman, Meera. Her husband is intrigued as he has never realized high-working class culture and women and their home introduced. Meera's husband hailed from a helpless family, however, he has done his course in IIM, Ahmedabad and he has a chance to do some work in the corporate business field. He is willing to marry Meera because Meera's family has an excellent Lilac's house but in real Meera knows very well that property is not their own. Her grandfather leased it for 100 years. Actually, it is not revealed by any one. Giri and Meera got connected after the marriage, Meera's family members expected Giri to be a member of their family. But Giri shows his reluctance. However, Giri will not move out of the Lilac house. Giri frantically needs to sell the Lilac house and Meera continues to go against it, yet does not come clean with him the house is on a rent with them. They have the argument always about the selling of house. Meera knows very well but she never reveals this secret to anyone even though to her husband. Giri's plan was unsuccessful. All of a sudden he too also won't reveal the secret and he disappears, is not willing to reveal the truth to his wife. He escapes from his family life.

Meera doesn't know have big dreams. But, Giri always tried to sell Lilac's house. She is happy what she has. She realizes excruciatingly her husband never listen to her words. Giri disappears from her life. She has decided to live on her own with her family. In this situation Giri is compared to Zeus, the husband of Hera:

"My Giri is not Zeus. He does not frolic with nymphs or even goddesses. He is prone to fits of rage; he is ambitious. But he is eminently trustworthy. Meera hears again the censorious voice in her head: That's exactly what Hera must have thought each time Zeus disappeared from her horizon" (p-10).

She agonizes that, she has to spend her life without the support of a male members in the family. For this reason, she becomes a dependent of her husband. She feels immensely happy to have a male person in the family. But her happiness may not be for a long time. Within a short span, Giri leaves her a way without any sort of moral values, love and affection. Then she has to start her new life with her grandmother, mother and her two children,

which becomes herculean task to her to lead the family members. The irony in this novel is, most of the characters have been married but without life partner. Nair focused the cursed women of India through the character of Meera. In the words of Nair:

"The woman is just doing her job. And it seems to Meera, wife of Giri, queen of her world, mother of two, author of cook books, mentor of corporate wives and friend to the rich and celebrated, that she who has everything can afford to be forgiving. Meera can afford to be generous. She gleams at the woman..."(6)

Nair shows that the character like Meera as the major character of life. She agonizes many a times her life alone because she has no father and mother. She cannot move without the help of the any male character. Unfortunately, the parents have passed away while she was stepped into her married life and her happiness never lost long as they passed away. Though he is in life it is like a rock having no feelings and emotions as there were no one look after into his life. She has challenged many issues in the life and boldly faced many difficulties in her domestic life. The major issues in the novel is that there is no happiness in the life as there is no life partner.

Nair had taken up numerous significant issues of contemporary world and has outlined them impeccably, effortlessly and effortlessness. She has made her characters win and arise successful and we discover them not kneeling even with emergency. Rather they stay strong with their head held high and with an inspirational perspective. The characters in the original discussion about neglecting lastly deal with their subsequent life. Nair has depicted two altogether different stories in this original which move consistently interlinked till the finish of novel and in which the women characters are delightfully portrayed particularly the hero Meera, who has her influence as a cookbook essayist, daughter, mother and spouse.

"Meera and her husband Giri, son Nikhil, were found in a party there she meets her friends some applauded her for giving such tips to cook in her book and one praises her for Thai prawn recipe"

(P6 Lessons in Forgetting)“She is now at a loss to know how to react to the rejection, being abandoned by Giri. She does not know how to face this situation, in practical life” (Nair, 2010). “She wants to pull the quilt over her head and burrow herself in a warm, dark place where nothing will change and all is safe and restful” (99)

Meera is not only an excellent wife but also a good mother. She is the most example of new woman concept. She is one of the liberated woman. She has started her life from a low level and has reached to zenith. At first she was in helpless condition. So, all the people around her including her own daughter, Nayanatara blamed her. Instead of giving a helping hand with great perseverance, she has grown herself socially, economically and emotionally to the topmost level in the society. The writer delineates by creating the women characters like Meera how far the so called ideal wives are happy under the umbrella of the husband and children. *The Lessons in Forgetting* focuses the sufferings and failures in the marriage system in Patriarchal Society.

The next character in the novel who suffers because of the male dominance is Kala. Sarada is the character in the novel failed woman and the sister of Kala. Sarada's husband when decides to become a Sanyasi. She is accused by her father of being responsible for that. Kala becomes a victim of patriarchal society. She could not cut down her ankle long hair just because her husband likes them. Even though she suffered neck pain because of her long pigtail, doctor advised her to cut them short. But both her husband and father considered it as an asset, a jewel of a married woman and she couldn't do anything but just to lament in anger.

“What am I to do then? Live with this pain till I die?” (p. 194)

Even though her mother did not pay attention to her wails. Like a traditional mother she makes Kala to compromise with these pains and sufferings from which the woman can't get freedom.

She says to Kala

“The pain will go away, Kala. I promise you. Besides there is much greater pain waiting for us woman in our lives. How can you be cowed down by something so negligible?” (195).

The most discussing character in the novel is Kala Chiti. She is aunt to JAK but she also undergoes a kind of mental torture that Meera has faced in her previous life but differently. Her beauty and long hair has become a curse and cut off her locks. When she was disfigured by cutting her hair, her husband rejects her because she is unpossessive of a child. Kala Chiti starts a new life with Sarada and her husband marries another woman. The point here the author wants to discuss is that the life of man should not be on the physical beauty and attraction but on the psychological understanding. Nair indirectly expresses here that the husband may not be happy even with the new woman whom he selected after Kala.

“I finally had a reason to leave him. Not even my father could fault me for this. I was the wronged wife. So I left him. Before I went, I cut my hair at the nape of my neck. I gave it to Ambi. A long braid woven with jasmine and kanakambaram. This is all you ever wanted of me. Keep it. And let me go, I said, walking out.” (P 232)

Thus the characters portrayed by Nair in the novels are a kind of symbolic representations of woman and also presents a kind of life with in the life. All the characters in the novels never lose their life because the petty reasons in which they believed that the life is a kind of struggle. Though their husbands leave them in the middle of life, they boldly stood up and fought with the challenges raised by the society. They openly challenged the male domination and they wanted to lead a life of their own and with their own identity.

All the major characters in the novel challenge the domination of Patriarchy. Particularly, female characters never bind themselves to the male domination. J A K simply called as Kitcha is a kind of nightmare hardly remembers his early days. He visits Nikhil (13) with his mom. But Kitch listens to the words of his father

talking to Sanyas. He exhorts spiritual sayings like Brahmopadeshm and he will leave the house and willingly says that his parents know he never wishes for a wife and children. Kitcha thinks, he should not wish for brahmopadeshm so that Appa would be with me forever. His expectation ends in vain. The ripe time has come and his father leaves his home and Kitcha's mother SaradaAmmal in dilemma says:

"They tell me I ought to feel blessed to have been married to man who has taken up sanyas. I am cursed, Kitcha, that's what I am. Neither a wife nor a window. Who am I, Kitcha? You tell me. He says it's not you. That's what I can't bear. If he left me for another woman, I would woo him back; I would bring him back to us. But this! How do I fight this, Kitcha?" (P18)

Though Kitcha's father leaves home his mother has been in a hope that her husband will come back but oneday her mother receives a letter from her father that he would never come home which becomes a thunderbolt to her. The same incidents have been occurred in the life of Meera She gets married with a teacher and begins a new life. The writer describes through her characters in the novel "a new life after life". It is a revelation in her novels.

In this novel not only women but also their children have been suffered by the male domination in the patriarchal society. Nikhil craves for her father's love and affection but he feels very bad after knowing his father never comes back. This is a repeated thing in the life of SaradaAmmal; but Kitcha knows that his father will not come back home. The cheating of the men characters. in this novel shows the repercussions on the next generation(children) but the women characters courageously faced the situation and started their new life with a great hope. After going through the novel the readers feel that the men characters did not leave the women in chaos but the women characters search for better life with peace of mind.

Conclusion: -

Lessons in Forgetting is about forgetting the sorrowful experiences undergone by men dominated society and the solutions to different types of problems faced by women. In this novel the writer gives us so many solutions and advocating for justice for the women who face through marriage, as a wife, as a mother, as a daughter, and a friend. In male dominated society men show unworthy reasons to push them into troubles. Property, spirituality, and failing to bear a child in womb are the unworthy reasons for male domination over their wives which push them to fend for themselves in the dark. Unlike other feminist writers Nair highlights different types of the problems face by the women at the same time she gives apt solutions to it. But once they find themselves in the dark they are capable enough to bring them back to the light. In a nutshell, Nair delineates the trauma of female characters and leads them towards alleviating life with full of happiness. All they have to do is go further. Whatever happens, their life must move on through a life beyond the life.

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