

An Attempt to Re-envision - Feminism and Science behind Mythology apropos of “The First Cloning” from Sudha Murthy’s Short Stories Collection “The Daughter from a Wishing Tree - Unusual Tales about Women in Mythology”

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Abstract

The women in Indian mythology might be scanty in number, but in the pages of archaic texts and epics, the fables or stories of their potency and enigma are myriads. The collection of tales accentuates entrancing and stout-hearted women who oft-times led wars on behalf of Gods, who factually were the lynchpin of their families and designers of their destinies.

We all have been raised hearkening to mythological stories and epics. Some we inclined to detest whilst rest we crammed up to influence us in our lives. But due to the long-established patriarchal stratagem and deciphering of the mythos and its character, mythoi are constricted by women’s influence and delineation. Feminism being succored by many umpteen activists and philosophers has adduced that archived literature and history seldom have women’s vocalization in them - implies either woman wasn’t present, practically that’s undoable since in the world women comprise half of the population, or else their opinions were never listened or reached the ears or voices remained voiceless. Likewise, opinions and wisdom of women’s mythical characters have been repressed or extirpated by the patriarchal deciphering and narratives. From the inception of the mythos to multifarious interpretations this dearth of feminine and feminist narratives can be overhauled.

This article endeavors to accentuate the concept of feminism and the ancient science behind the myth is determined through selected mythological feminist characters in selected stories of Sudha Murthy.

Keywords: Feminist, Mythology, Epic, patriarchal, Goddess, cloning, Savarna, spaced twins, Playing Gods, genetic, replica, Saturn, Chaaya, Sanjana.

INTRODUCTION

Sudha Murthy, the best-selling and much-loving Indian author captivates the readers’ attention through covets bygone in time galore with stupendous women who evoke the ardent female impacts in an individual’s life. The women in Indian mythology might be scanty in number, but in the pages of archaic texts and epics, the fables or stories of their potency and enigma are myriads. The collection of tales

accentuates entrancing and stout-hearted women who oft-times led wars on behalf of Gods, who factually were the lynchpin of their families and designers of their destinies.

Concealed Science behind Sanjana’s Exploit:

Vishwakarma - the paradisiacal originator and mastermind, his daughter Sanjana’s hand has been tied in nuptial knots with Sun God. As days passed Sanjana couldn’t bear the heat and

glare emitted from Sun God, she devised a master plan and formulated her clone which was termed as 'shadow' also called Chaaya. Sanjana - the first woman cloner and an unsung feminist whose scientific accomplishment has been obliterated and flagged/labeled as superstitious.

Savarna - the Cloning:

Cloning refers to the proliferation of a cell or organism, or a group of cells or organisms, and asexual procreation or replication of individuals from one ancestor or progenitor, who are genetically homogeneous.

The most exhilarating and contentious is human cloning (Savarna) by somatic cell nuclear transfer and concurrently portending the technological-biologic evolution of our days. Generally, offspring are reproduced by and from the mother's womb, but she cannot reproduce/produce herself, what we replicate or protract is our (own) type. Phenomenally, our type of clone is done by recombination of genes. In heeding distinction, there is no recombination of genes with nuclear swapping. To be more precise, we do not procreate our kind or type, instead, we reproduce or replicate ourselves. Thus, theoretically, human cloning made feasible a significant departure from the function of species-typical - which deserves crucial observation.

The word or term 'cloning' appropriately exercises to any technique that generates a genetic replication of an organism or cell. In liberal arts on human cloning, the term oft-times denotes dyad diverse technologies utilized to generate intact entities: splitting embryo (further referred to as twinning and blastomere separation) and somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Cloning a Contrariety to Nature:

Cloning human beings, according to some commons is 'contrary to nature'. The subsequent cause behind this non-acceptance includes the fact that spontaneous splitting of human embryos encompasses naturally but spaced twinning (utilizing both splitting of embryos and freezing), and the transfer of

somatic cell nuclear is a contrived one. Further, Homo sapiens generally practice sexual reproduction which is natural while asexual reproduction does occur in nature but is simulated. This disputation agin humans cloning or Savarna presupposes assimilation of nature as primeval anatomy specifically discrete of, and authentic concerning, all other feasible systems (for instance, societal dispositions).

There are a couple of recurrent responses to this expostulation; the preceding response propounds an unambiguous apprehension of 'human nature' that encapsulates the craving for mastery and the scope for self-transformation. In this perspective mastering oneself which nature includes in designing one's destiny (i.e., constituting excogitates for one's nature). The other response evades impugn on the ambit and significance of human nature and catechize rather waggish: "So what?" then are all other stripes of further interpositions aforesaid are lief embraced.

This condemnation contra cloning humanity substructures, partially on the Kantian opinion that individuals should be served as ceases in themselves, which implies cloning of humans are amoral action since habitually clones are developed specifically as a model for exploiting another. For instance, clones generally may be developed wholly to satiate the individuals' longings including, reinstating an expired or moribund loved one, having a biological child, or succor as a tissue or organ benefactor.

Sanjana's Clone/Savarna Chhaya:

Chhaya the clone of Sanjana has been installed in the place of Sanjana by her and has been instructed that on no account she should make her/ (herself) scarce from the presence of Surya Deva, until her return and remain conscientious in her place. In the original version, Sanjana leaves her children Yama and Yami under Chhaya's responsibility and leaves to the forest for her penance but in Sudha Murthy's story, it slightly differs she leaves to her father's house and Shani/Saturn the son of Surya Deva through Chhaya whom he assumed

his wife is portrayed as the eldest of all other children.

Human clones are categorized as 'spaced twins', 'later-born identical twins', 'delayed genetic twins', and the 'ultimate single-parent child'. Furthermore, prepotent conception for human cloning is one of preponderance creation with multifarious ideas of the homogenous phenotype - 'Xeroxed human beings' and 'carbon-copied humans' - nix an orthodox genealogical chart or bloodline with linkages vanished or unwonted. Thus cloning is delineated not as vertical, intergenerational reproduction, but as horizontal multiplication.

Sanjana's Rational Intellect:

Since its inception, feminism has had to cope with the hereditament of Erudition paradigms of subjectivity and has had to travail to explore the interconnection of rationality with masculinity. Likewise, entailing that space be established for women in bluestocking existence has been an indispensable feminist project. Feminism is an anarchic and still a progression school of thought. It is involuted by its biform extant as theory and implementation besides distinct tinges of feminism have emanated out of contexts which are divergent by nature.

Sanjana's Homecoming:

In Vishwakarma's confrontation about Shani's birth to Sanjana, she confesses about her cloning of Chhaya to her father. As per her father's instruction, she returns to Surya Deva's house and destroys Chhaya's for violating her instruction (in the original version, the life of Chhaya has been revived back).

Chhaya the Symbolism of Life:

Chhaya in mythology is generally termed as the 'shadow' of Sanjana. The shadow which conventionally denotes the darker side which connotes both good and bad deeds escorts individuals at all times which can be termed as Karma the term perfectly coincides with Newton's Third Law. Shani/Saturn is the one who is responsible for those deeds that not

only resemble his mother in corporeal somber but also the responsibilities. Shani/Saturn the King of Karma is appointed to handle the Karmic balance sheets of individuals during their lifetime.

Humanism is a profane philosophy since it asseverates to the universe that elucidation should not theologically or superstitiously be perceived. Rather, the universe can be savvied through rationality, the noteworthy expatiated science. In the principles of freedom, egalitarianism, and the timeless existence of veracity the liberal humanists shared their credence. This philosophical structure arrays the human individual at the kernel of its weltanschauung. The feature of the individual surmised by this *modus operandi* has a quintessential consistent nature; which is also autarchy and cogent.

Sanjana's Manipulative Intellect:

Though Shani/Saturn was her clone's son she ignored him in all aspects and her cold-hearted attitude towards Shani/Saturn left him alone in distraught. She cursed him for his vengeful act of kicking her in her womb for which Surya Deva confronted her for verity she makes a clean breast of her folly of cloning Chhaya and her extermination. Sanjana from then couldn't bear the heat and glare of Surya Deva, she again vanishes into the Himalayan Forest in the form of a mare. Yama and Yami are installed with their responsibilities as Dharmaraj - the God of Death who appears at the time of death and does not mean it. Yami is the Yamuna, the holy river whose responsibility is to wash away the sins of common folks when bathed in her. Shani/Saturn - the God of Karma and Dharma one who governs the Karmic and Dharmic deeds. The supremacy of Saturn, one directly goes through the salubrious power of the universe's supreme myths. The mythic storyline has consistently been a high-octane form of therapy, bringing healing people confronting tribulation. The supremacy of Saturn is a sanative myth, told and reiterate through centuries of myriads. Gotten from the East Indian Vedic tradition, it deifies the planet Saturn, which anthropomorphizes eon,

impediment, impoverishment, and all forms of misfortune.

No person goes through life without sometimes being touched by Saturn. This article covers an explicit narration about Saturn and a perspicuous stance of the cosmology from which the story sprouted. The mode of narration enables the readers to acknowledge its context, which encounters profound assimilation of what it means to be human.

Surya Deva and Sanjana's Reunion:

Surya Deva finally spots Sanjana (on realizing her follies she took the form of a mare) in the form of a mare and reunited with Sanjana in the form of a young stallion and begot twins for whom they cleped Ashwini Kumars/Ashwini Kumaras who has the horse head and human body, also they were products of cloning. The name Ashwini immediately denotes the root term/word 'horse'. They are the renders of honey, the divine healers, who can cure any kind of maladies and rejuvenate the oldies; they were also called Nasatyas since they are associated with Surya Deva.

Conclusion:

We could recuperate mind flabbergasting conceptions in ancient scriptures/texts unfortunately no formulas of genesis were handed down to us. The ancient Maharishis/Sages savvy the human propensity of misemploying the power procured by them. Nowadays the discussion on the genesis of human cloning/Savarna is done in gazillions, at the time when the knocking of the population explosion at our doors misbalancing nature in various ways and triggers privation across the board.

Natheless, the area of interest of modern Genetic Engineers stimulates their curiosity and is accessible to enshrouded knowledge in ancient scriptures/texts. The point of fact is the field/term Genetic Engineering which we realize presently is undecipherable in ancient/atavistic scriptures/texts. But when wading through the deep-rooted genesis possibly behoove as a specialism of 'scientific

quest' with some concepts that are accessible favors humans in traversing nouvelle frontiers of research and knowledge.

It's perchance the juncture once language and subject scholars, pundits, and savants should explore together the concealed knowledge/concepts to 'recuperate' the bygone bequest/heritage of the universe that is can't be lack-lustered any longer as black-magic/dark science/superstitious. Furthermore, conceptions and inceptive views are the foundational strive for any arduous research and sources from Vedas are abounding with 'ideas' numberless (area/fields) are still remaining unexplored.

Finally, in the scientific stance, it's unambiguous that children are carriers of parents' qualities. It's evident enough in the case of Sanjana and Surya, Chhaya and Surya. Sanjana who's the daughter of divine architecture (there is no mention of her mother) has sound knowledge of science which is manifested through her cloning of Chhaya. Likewise, Shani the son of Chhaya the shadow/clone who is responsible for the Karmic and Dharmic deeds of mankind during his lifetime substantially reflects the characteristics of his mother and father neutrally who acts equitably at all times to all. The ultimate concept of Saturn/Shani is to make mankind surrender one's moments of life to Reality which profoundly favors them to be free from adversities and no mourning on fate/fatal events, to attain this status one should candidly be conscious of the immanent of the Realness of the Real. Yama dominantly reflects Surya Deva and Yami who became Yamuna - the River Queen who reflects her mother in healing qualities and wipes out the sins when humans perform a holy dip. Ashwini Kumars/Kumaras who is the manifestation of Sanjana and Surya Deva another clone product with horse head and human body prepotent carriers of mother's brain of science in healing fatal diseases and father's generosity and conscientious twins who perform their duties with dedication. Therefore a thriving family can be deployed when a man and woman lead their life as companions with the qualities of egalitarianism. So, the given mythical feminist characters who we never realized were

feminists. Even in modern symbolic representation of technology replicates the cliché of women as technologically nescient and maladroït, but the Sanjana's clone prevails as an exemplary of scientific intellect, unfortunately, discounted from approbation and simply labeled superstitious myth without scrutiny or research.

Research Finding:

Men and women are equal is the focal objective of feminism, howbeit, in Hinduism, the scriptures show the contradistinction betwixt the soul and flesh. The soul is not identified by gender, whereas gender sprouted out from the flesh. The question here is: from where and how did this fabrication begin? The origination of monastic orders changed the entire scenario of women that doomed their destiny forever. Women were admonished to be vestal, which granted them mystical powers, shielding them against widowhood. Men were admonished to maintain celibacy, which granted them the power to bestow boons and hurl anathematizes.

Duality of the sexes is comprehensible like all duality, expressed in dispute which is perspicuous. It is penetrable that, if out of two one triumphs, the other in obtruding its supremacy, predominantly should institute an explanation of how man triumphed at the outset. It seems itself as absolute. It extant either woman might have accomplished the triumph or the war might ne'er be resolved. Is this world incessantly belonging to men and do things begin to change currently? Is this change a positive thing? Will this change promote equal sharing of the world betwixt men and women?

Not all men gave up but many men desire it would be. The orthodox bourgeoisie is perdurable to regard women's laissez-aller as jeopardy minacious their ethos and their interests. Some men presume women's competency jeopardizes their position. Likewise, days ago in Hebdo-Latin, a student's statement: 'Every woman student who takes a position as a doctor or lawyer is stealing a place

from us'. The student who declared the statement failed to question his rights in this world.

This short story about Sanjana, an unrecognized feminist who through her medical invention proved gender is not a destiny and scientific inventions are not based on gender. In the same way, Sanjana's knowledge and talent are genetically inherited from her father. Ancient inventions are conveniently badged as superstitious because of various misconceptions. The principal dissimilarity between ancient and modern science is that ancient science was seldom theoretical. In ancient times, practitioners conducted experiments out of interest practically for their own sake. Thus, science finding solutions to practical problems are inclined to be more in the nature of technology. Sanjana created cloning of her Chaya for her necessity likewise technological developments and advancements are for human welfare not for misuse. The latest scientific advancements are given in printed form for human understanding likewise in ancient days, scientific discoveries are mentioned in the scriptures in the language of that time for future references.

Feminism - its foundation is based on existentialism which implies an individual's action, liberty, deeds, ethics, etc. Likewise, in the spiritual perspective individual is identified by one's soul which cannot be gendered. Each and every individual soul born in this world is independent, there is no space for patriarchal or matriarchal ideologies in nature. The prime rationale for exploring the responsibilities of Sanjana and Chaya's children scrupulously here is to unveil the feigned patriarchal fabrications against a particular gender. Saturn/Shani's though (male) God, his ideology of existence is common for all without any bias because according to him whether man or woman or transgender the individual is responsible for one's action. In that case, each and every soul carries within it a purpose for its existence which implies the world is like a ground that is open to all, wherein no discrimination is deployed on a gender basis. The cloning of Chaya by Sanjana is a perfect example where she is known for her

independent actions besides, she is the one responsible for her actions and deeds. Likewise, Yami/Yamuna was given responsibility not based on her gender but given as per her wish.

The husband cannot bear the responsibility for his wife's actions, the case is the same in the case of the husband. None can change or interfere in destiny likewise no one has the right or privilege to interfere in an individual's life. Existence has its own purpose, individuals should pay for their deeds it's one of the natural order. The fundamental concept of feminism coincides with nature's theory of existence, which is accessible to all and can be accessed by all without any restrictions. God created nature including men, women, animals, plants, etc. Man (created) manipulated God, laws, culture, tradition, ideology, etc., and subordinated women as 'other' who are expected to be submissive and objective. If 'S'he doesn't enter into the life of 'he', 'his' life is incomplete without her which implies God created 'her' as his 'dual', 'companion' and not as his slave to stand at his servitude.

Freedom is obliged to respect by an individual only when it is preface for liberty/freedom not when it divagates or abdicates itself. Finally, mythological stories can also be read from a historical perspective, wherein we come across many unknown feminists who have exposed their skills and talents to this world. Mythology is just not a mere collection of tales and stories, rather it's a valuable collection of women achievers in the bygone period. The scripture Manu Smriti is believed to be written by Manu, the question here is which Manu wrote the book Manu Smriti what's the name of the person because 'Manu' is a title of respect given to a person. The book of patriarchal ideologies written by an unknown author can be considered an artificial weaving that exclusively supports patriarchy of a particular gender. In that case Goddesses and women legends who have made their major contributions can be taken as exemplary characters because they have proved through their actions and inventions that the world is open access to all, they should play their role given to them independently. Ila - an

androgynous deity who introduced the 'Gender Transformation' to this world. Though her invention is neglected as 'dark science' today many individuals benefit and get themselves transformed into a gender of their wish. The women achievers of ancient ages are quite different from the present time women, they never stood at the servitude of men to seek permission for freedom, rather they progressed spontaneously and obeyed nature's order. They never argued instead, they proved their rationality through their progression. They never pronounced 'feminism' but practiced feminism and lived a feminist life. Feminism is not just a word it's nature's order endeavors to accomplish reimpose the liberty/freedom which is spontaneous in nature. But the patriarchal ideology delineated women in an ambiguous world full of absurdism and ethics wherein emerges by then finalization is precluded in that world.

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