



REALIZING AND RE- ANALYZING HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI'S SISTER OF MY HEART

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ABSTRACT

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is represented as a post Colonialist Writer of Indian literature. She explores the portrayal of women's tactics to maintain her unique perspectives in maintaining harmonious relationship and the essential feature of female bonding nowadays which became a central issue in women's fiction. The main objective of her writing is to disprove and destroy the stereotypes, stubborn like attitude characters. Divakaruni hopes to dissolve boundaries between women of different backgrounds, communities, ages and even of different worlds. She is also tries to justify that friendship is treated as an integral part of man's maturing but the real business of a woman's life is not to develop herself but to serve the man and the implication the relationship with other Women must be relegated to the side lines as she grows up. In spite of all these hurdles she is facing, tolerating and immediately overcoming to become an ideal soul with everlasting spirit. This paper presents how women psychologically and intelligently balancing relationships among her living surroundings besides energetically mould her sparkling identity. To emphasise this perspective, an analysis of Sister of My Heart is taken for presentation. This novel brings a vivid picture of sisterhood relationship in a traditional Bengali household. The sisters protect each other from feeling lonely, unloved, guilty, self-conscious and being fearful. The writer has caught the ground breaking idea in women psychology and exploring the fiction and love in the bond between the sisters.

KEYWORDS : Sisterhood, Relationship, Childhood, Feminist consciousness, Cultural Conflicts, Post Colonialism

Post- Colonial literature contains different categories and stages of writing and migrant literature which forms its most predominant components. Widespread migration that has resulted in the current phenomenon of globalization, demands a post- colonial attention because it was colonization that initiated this fluid movement of people so characteristic of the modern world. In this context, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *Sister of My Heart* is taken for analysis.

"A sister is a gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit, a golden thread to the meaning of life"

-Isadora James

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an Indian-born American author, poet and the Betty and Gene Mc David Professor of writing at the University of Houston Creative Writing Program. She is also mostly represented as an award-winning author and activist. Her themes are the vivid portrayal of the Indian Experiences, Human Relationships, Contemporary America, Women, Immigration and its exposure, mythical history, the happiness and challenges of Living in a multi-cultural world. She has written nearly fifteen books including the award winning Short Story collection, *Arrange Marriage*. Maximum of Her works have been nearly translated into eighteen languages and two of her novels have been made into films. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni was an acclaimed poet before she started her career in fiction writing. She used to write poems from her early childhood days out of her interest and exposure, Later the spark which moved her to engrave her identity in writing fiction. The stories and characters are ultimately portraying the struggles of women caught between tradition and changes.

Sister of My heart is Divakaruni's second novel. In this novel, there are two cousins who are brought together by destiny to be born on the same night in the same home itself. They are supposed to share joy and sufferings of each other heartily. It is also represented as a passionate novel about relationship between two cousins Sudha and Anju. The readers are really expected to move and melt while reading their life experiences. Both are contrasting by nature and attitude. Sudha is extremely gentle and quiet in nature whereas Anju is

rebellious and the questions the traditions and its flow of change. Due to the unavoidable family circumstances and it's poor financial stability which lead them to marriage. One is forced to begin her journey to America and while the other has to remain in India. After the marriage, each woman has to meet and overcome the sudden necessary changes in her life, so they are not exceptional in that category. They have to face all kinds of misfortunes both emotionally and economically. Here the author gave a positive exposure of America which is treated as the land of hope and promise. But, In India people have to digest and tolerate for the sake of good and peaceful life.

Both were born twelve hours apart in the same house, the women heartily consider themselves twins and from the early age of their life, they started to expect lovely life of reverence, counselling and friendship from each other to the day started to experience the joys, pains, mystical tales and tiresome tasks that accompany growing up in a traditional Indian house in Calcutta. Throughout the novel, the author acutely engraves their exceptional bond which remains the core of the novel and aware of how strongly their love and affection for each other moulds their lives. Sudha and Anju were born on the same day after their father's had unfortunately disappeared on a quest to search a fairy tale cave studded with huge rubies. Their mothers, along with a widowed aunt struggle just like anything else to educate them as befits daughter of the respected Chatterjee family. Without the moral support of their fathers, they have to attain success and peace in their life journey. They are forced to survive without any kinds of basic expectations neither from their father nor any other relations in their house. Sudha and Anju both are acted as a moral supporters to each other and also acted as a driving impulse to one another's life. Due to the poor health condition of Gowri ma, Anju's mother who is running the family book shop to fulfill the basic needs of their life but anyway she failed to proceed further. So she plans to marry of the eighteen year old girls as soon as possible. The girls are married on the same day. Marriage entails not only their first separation but also their first battle with each other. A battle is not for the material possessions but of the longing heart. Previously, they even started to blame the material household, literally

irritated a little at the restrictions on them and emotionally troubled by the mysteries surrounding, their fathers. But anyway from their birth they have found pleasure- giving happiness and mutual understanding in each other's company.

From the beginning of the novel, the author either directly or indirectly gives hints to predict how their futures will be diverged in two different roads. The girls acted as a narrator who narrates the chapters alternatively, through that, the reader can emotionally get the attachment towards the life through the eyes of each of them from the beginning towards the end of the novel. Both lively explores their Adventures attitude, memorable incidents and fruitful memories from their childhood to the end of the year marriage.

Two women, their arms intertwined like lotus stalks, smiling down...

Two women who have travelled the vale of sorrow...I will deal with it when it comes. (p. 347).

To conclude, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *Sister of My Heart* may rightly be regarded as a post-colonial feminist writing and a novel of love and affection. She is consciously depicted the flow of each character in a feminine perspectives. Hence, without the help of soil relationships, life will not attain its own fruitful quality, for that woman acted as a root, with the help of her strong foundation, relationships are treated as harmonious and healthy one for happy life. Woman is very much similar to a silent raga who plays her role to maintain and balance healthy relationships besides she never failed to realize and re-analyze her unique identity. The moral support of one another which helps them to seek the meaning of their identity and lead their life in a smooth way.

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