



SELF- ANALYSIS & SISTERHOOD RELATIONSHIPS IN CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI'S THE VINE OF DESIRE

English Literature

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ABSTRACT

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, the Bengal conceived author immigrated to the U.S who regarded as one of the first essayist of the Diasporic writing. She mostly pen down about what she knows and what she feels. And she is at her best exploring the themes of love, friendship, assimilation, self-analysis and discovery. The Vine of Desire is a sequel to Sister of My Heart. The story continues the portrayal of Anju and Sudha, the two young women already portrayed at the centre of Divakaruni's novel Sister of My Heart. They are meant to support each other through a difficult time in their lives. After a careful study of The Vine of Desire, one can find the pattern of life, explore the psyche and the problems of the women especially how the women is badly suffered and emerged as a Phoenix to build not only healthy relationship but her sparkle to engrave her Unique Identity in life. In this aspect, The Vine of Desire is taken for analysis. Sudha emerges as a true female who sacrifices her life for her daughter and her sister.

KEYWORDS

Sisterhood, Reunion, Relationship, Immigrant Exposure, Self-analysis.

Post-Independence Period in India was profoundly amazing for huge development and advancement in different fields like Expressions, Science, Writing, Engineering etc. The advancement additionally happened in human mind that leads to a westernized change in individuals' considerations and way of life, which had both positive and adverse consequence. Outstandingly in ladies started to sparkle in all areas. There was no deficiency in abstract works of this period which portray the cultural status of ladies, diverse personality on account of outsiders and Western effect among proficient ladies. *A Perfect Life* is a brilliant artist work by Divakaruni with dynamic philosophies. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni brought into the world in Calcutta on July 29, 1956. She is a prestigious Indian American author. She got instructed by doing random temporary jobs like Sitter, a Store representative, a bread slicer in a pastry shop, a lab partner at Wright State University and an eating lobby chaperon at International House Berkley.

Divakaruni is granted her PhD in English from the University of California, Berkley in 1985. She started her composing profession as an artist. Her first short story assortment *Arranged Marriage* distributed in 1995, which got American Book Award, PEN Josephine Miles Award and the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award. She has portrayed various themes like alienation, feminism, patriarchy and cultural conflict, social realism, magical realism, self-identity these are mostly incorporated in her novels. Divakaruni appeals her social contribution and the expression of personal experience to the world as the writer herself is an Indian born settled in America.

Sister of My Heart traces out the feeling of sisterhood of a woman towards another woman. The novel is mostly dominated by female characters of three mothers Gowri Ma, Nalini and Aunt Pishi and two young cousin sisters Anju and Sudha. Divakaruni's depiction of friendship in sisterhood as both Anju and Sudha give important to each other rather than their husbands in their life. Despite possessing jealousy, anger, antipathy in certain aspects towards each other, Sudha's forsaking her lover Ashoke to support Anju's wedding fantasy. Anju's struggle in bringing pathetic Sudha to America in order to build future even after knowing her husband's attraction towards sudha's beauty, which exhibits a strong bond between the sisters. Though they happened to undergo many pathetic situations in their life, they never failed to stand and support for each other. As per review, Divakaruni displays the greater significance to relationships of women and their potential to gratify existential motif of life.

Far from Calcutta, the city of their childhood and after years of living separate lives, Anju and Sudha rekindle their friendship in America. The deep-seated love they feel for each other which ultimately provides the support each of them needs. It gives Anju the strength to pick up the pieces of her life after a miscarriage and Sudha the confidence to make a life for herself and her baby daughter Dayita without her husband. Meanwhile, the unlikely relationships they form with men and women in the world outside the immigrant Indian

community as well as with their families in India profoundly transform them, forcing them to question the central assumptions of their lives. Chitra shares many current events, drawing a parallel between the experience of the characters in the book and what is really happening in the world. In this way, a small pulse of magic, or perhaps destiny, vibrates throughout the story. This is strengthened by Sudha's dreams where she experiences the real happening incidents in her upcoming life.

At first, the sisters are delighted to see one another. They focus on Sudha's toddler Dayita whom they worship, especially relationship with her. Anju embraces loneliness and seeks out a solitary space because she is cruelly tortured by her husband Prem. While Anju is recollecting all those bitter past memories, Sudha says, "There is no point in torturing yourself over what's happened already" (P30). At the end of the novel, before Sudha's departure to India, Anju has news for her: "you won't believe it Sudha... I've learn to fly" (P 368). Divakaruni portrays remarkable characters yearn a hope in an alien country where the immigrants venture to set an identity amidst suffering and overcoming tormenting emotions discard the cultural differences exhibit resilience. This exposure shows that how their sisterhood relationship which lead them to the analysis of a particular self.

Divakaruni's women characters emerge as people of substance. They learn to make peace with the events life seems to have thrust on them, they also try to correct their mistakes and they grow as they hope for some kind of happy ending and closure. The tormenting emotions that result when the characters choose to throw the baggage of their culture and create a new identity, the choices they make and the interaction they have with the immigrant community in America and through contact with their family which forces them to question their existence and morality and find answers for the meaning of their life.

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