



PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN PSYCHE IN BHARATI MUKHARJEE'S DESIRABLE DAUGHTER AND THE TREE BRIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Bharati Mukherjee was born on 27 July 1940 in Calcutta to Bengali Brahmins – Members of the highest caste among Bengali Hindus – Sudhir Mukherjee and Bina Mukherjee. Her father, Sudhir Lal Mukherjee, was a chemist who had studied and done advanced research in Germany and the United Kingdom. Her mother though not very educated, ensured that all their three daughters received the best of education. As a consequence, Bharati Mukherjee and her two sisters attained postgraduate degrees.

In Calcutta, Bharati Mukherjee grew up in a middle-class joint family at Rash Behari Avenue. The dominant influence on Mukherjee's early years was her father, and that is evident in her first novel, *The Tiger's Daughter*. In an interview given to Canadian Fiction Magazine, she remembers him "wanted the best for his daughters. And to him the best meant intellectually fulfilling lives". In 1947, after being duped by his Jewish partner, Sudhir Lal Mukherjee left for London to do her research, taking along his family – Wife and daughters – with him. Bharati Mukherjee therefore spent a part of her childhood in London and in Basel, Switzerland, where her father did some scientific research. In 1951, Sudhir Mukherjee returned to Calcutta to take up an active role in business. On return instead of returning to his joint family house, Sudhir Mukherjee steered his family in a mansion in the factory compound, complete with swimming pool, a lake, armed guards, and an entourage of servants. For Bharati Mukherjee this move on her father's part was like a release from a 'terrifying common bonding'.

Her published work consists of seven novels, *The Tiger's Daughter*, *Wife, Jasmine*, *The Holder of the World*, *Leave it to Me*, *Desirable Daughters* and *The Tree Bride* and two works of non-fiction, *Days and Nights in Calcutta* and *The Sorrow and the Terror* and two collections of short stories *Darkness* and *The Middleman* and the other *Stories*, the latter winning her the 1988 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Psychoanalysis criticism is a form of literary criticism which uses some of the techniques of psychoanalysis in the interpretation of literature. Psychoanalysis itself is a form of therapy which aims to cure mental disorders by investigation of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind. The classic method of doing psychoanalysis is to get patient to talk freely so that the repressed fears and conflicts which are causing the problems are brought into the conscious mind and openly faced rather than remaining 'buried' in the unconscious. This practice is based upon specific theories of how the mind, the instincts and sexuality work. These theories were developed by Sigmund Freud.

Sigmund Freud remains a major cultural force and his impact on how we think about ourselves has incalculable. All of Sigmund Freud's work depends upon the notion of the unconscious which is the part of the mind beyond consciousness which nevertheless has a strong influence upon our action. Sigmund Freud was not the discoverer of the unconscious. A similar process is that of sublimation whereby there repressed material is 'promoted' into something grander or disguised as something 'noble'. For instance

sexual urges may be given sublimated expression in the form of intense religious experiences or longing.

Later in his career Sigmund Freud suggested a three part rather than a two part model of the psyche dividing it into the ego, super-ego and id. These three levels of the personality roughly corresponding to respectively the conscious and the unconscious. Literary critics sometimes analyze the actions of literary characters using the three personality structures that Sigmund Freud identified. As critics explore the ego, super ego, and id of characters in a work, they focus on the ways that these parts of the characters personalities influence the work as a whole. This process is called psychoanalytic criticism.

DEPRESSED PSYCHE

Depression is one of the most common psychological problems, affecting nearly everyone through either personal experience or through depression in a family member. Each year over 17 million American adults experience a period of clinical depression. The cost in human suffering cannot be estimated. Depression can interfere with normal functioning, and frequently causes problems with work, social and family adjustment. It causes pain and suffering not only to those who have a disorder, but also to those who care about them. Serious depression can destroy family life as well as the life of the depressed person.

Depression and bipolar depression are presented separately on this website because of the unique problems encountered with bipolar disorder. Individuals interested in information about bipolar disorder should also review the information on depression, as bipolar disorder usually includes depressive episodes as well. Bipolar disorder was formerly called manic-depressive disorder. It is a type of depression, and it is characterized by the presence of mood swings, especially "manic highs" that often result in high risk, self-damaging behavior. Most individuals with bipolar disorder have both depressive episodes and hypomanic episodes.

Depression is a psychological condition that changes how you think and feel, and also affects your social behavior and sense of physical well-being. We have all felt sad at one time or another, but that is not depression. Sometimes we feel tired from working hard, or discouraged when faced with serious problems. This too, is not depression. These feelings usually pass within a few days or weeks, once we adjust to the stress. But, if these feelings linger, intensify, and begin to interfere with work, school or family responsibilities, it may be depression.

The author had developed further into what it means to be an Indian woman coming to enlighten instead of falling into the trap of an imperialist American feminism of other cultures. Finally this novel describes the women consciousness of three sisters. It also describes the two cultures of American and Indian. This novel is about Indian heritage and exploration of the relationship where it shares the two cultures and their adopted home.

POSTIVE PSYCHE

Positive psychology is the branch of psychology that uses scientific

understanding and effective intervention to aid in the achievement of a positive outlook when it comes to subjective experiences, individual traits, and events that occur throughout one's lifetime. The goal of positive psychology is to step away from the pathological thoughts that may arise in a hopeless mindset, and to instead, maintain a sense of optimism that allows for people to understand what makes life worth living.

Bharati Mukherjee portrays Tara as a brave survivor, a caring and considerable mother, constantly trying to approach a problem in the best possible way after weighing all possible consequences. Tara is articulate and fiercely loyal to her family. Tara is visiting her sister in New Jersey. She realizes that her ex-husband and her son are in danger. All she does shopping with her sister. There is a dramatic turn of events, not fit, with the rest of the intellectual content of this book. This would have been a better book without his unnecessary sensationalism.

CONCLUSION

Feminist psychology, is a form of psychology centered on societal structures and gender. Feminist psychology critiques the fact that historically psychological research has been done from a male perspective with the view that males are the norm. Feminist psychology is oriented on the values and principles of feminism. It incorporates gender and the ways women are affected by issues resulting from it. . She is a multicultural performance artist, for local schools and community centres, staging Indian mythological evenings, with readings, slideshows, recitations, and musical accompaniment. The gap between the youngest daughter and oldest daughter, the disparity of our marriages and the paths of our immigration have taken and made us strangers.

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