



SIGNIFICANCE OF COLORS IN THE LIFE OF INDIAN WOMAN WITH REFERENCE TO “THE BANGLE SELLERS” BY SAROJINI NAIDU

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ABSTRACT

The human journey is full of different colors that influence its physical, and psychological state. India has consistently been dignified and remembered affectionately as the country of symbolic colors. Color, in essence, has largely been a part of the Indian consciousness. Colors in India are associated with different religions, dialects, customs, conventions and worldliness. They play a significant role in the way Indians perceive and interact with others. Variety of colors are incorporated into festivals and ceremonies of India which makes it a land of vibrant colors, thereby underlining the concept of “Unity in diversity”. As an enormous and diverse country, India serves as the home to myriad interpretations and representations of Symbols and Colors. However, in particular colours are an inseparable part of women’s life specifically as they are a feeling of womanhood that beguile their life in a mysterious way and are indivisible. The poem taken for study i.e. “The Bangle Sellers” portrays the origination of Indian ladies in a customary social set up. Three phases of an incredible progressions are given reference to the shades of her bangles. Each of these shades are firmly related to the delights and distresses of every one of these stages. This study will concentrate on the essentialness just as the key relationship of women and colors. The study will likewise focus on the poem in the light of modernism. As today no specific shade of bangle is bound to be wore among a confined age group of women. As of now the contemporary time centers around the opportunity of women so it is progressively significant for them to feel free and live with colors that satisfies their spirit irrespective of their age group.

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INTRODUCTION

Sarojini Naidu was one among the foremost famous freedom fighters and played an eminent role in freeing India from British imperialism, With women's emancipation, and anti-imperialistic ideas she became a distinguish orator, crusader for equality, and poet of Modern India. Sarojini Naidu was born on 13th February 1879 in a Bengali family at Hyderabad. Sarojini Naidu has written poems on a variety of themes such as children, nature, patriotism and love and death. She is commonly regarded as “the Nightingale of India” because of her rich and melodious poetry and its themes. Her poems were full of imagery and emotions and well -known for their sensuous imagination, words and the lyrical quality.

In words of Sarojini Naidu

“As long as I have life, as long as blood flows through this arm of mine, I shall not leave the cause of freedom...I am only a woman, only a poet. But as a woman, I give to you the weapons of faith and courage and the shield of fortitude”

Sarojini Naidu played an important role in women’s rights struggle in India. She helped in shaping *Women’s Indian Association* in 1917 with Annie Besant and others. She was the first Indian woman to become the President of the Congress. She also served as the governor of the United Provinces (1947 – 1949) and was the first woman to assume the governorship of a state. Her contributions in field of literature leads to a lot of difference for women in a country where they were simply considered as “caretakers” and “nurturers“; (Schaefer, March 2008)

Her writings left everlasting impression on minds of women in India. Being one among the foremost famous leader of the 20th century, her birthday is widely known as "Women's Day".

Her poem , ‘*The Bangle Sellers*’ explore the life of Indian women, the Indian culture and traditions revolving around women by touching each realm of women’s life .

Delicate bangles are the important ornament for embellishment of women in Indian Society. Colours of Bangles fascinate the sight and create the urge to buy bangles . The Bangle Sellers focuses significantly not only on the lives of Indian women but also weaves a vivid picture on ecstasy and delight of vibrant colours. The differently orchestrated bangles symbolize different stages in a woman’s life as a young maiden, a bride and as a middle aged matron. The colours of each of the bangles is a symbolic portrayal of their state of mind.

Eventually this poem is the celebration of the vivacity of the Indian culture through the presentation of its women in vivid colours and roles.

Theme of Poem

'*The Bangle Sellers*' is set in the background of a typical Indian culture in Naidu's time. Here, bangles and bangle dealers assume a significant job in carrying satisfaction to the general public and protecting the energetic social custom of Indian culture. Bangles are connected to the prosperity and bliss of a family. The poem explores bright symbolism and is an embodiment of the typical Indian scene depicting a temple fair consisting of lots of vendors.

Significance of Colours:

The poem explores the uniqueness of each colour of bangle amongst happy daughters and wives. They are '*lustrous token of radiant lives*'. A beautiful imagery runs throughout the poem to describe the beauty of different colors associated with women of all ages.

*Some are meet for a maiden's wrist,
Silver and blue as the mountain mist,*
(Para 2, line 1 and 2, The Bangle Sellers)

Sarojini Naidu compares few bangles of blue and silver color with the mountain mist. These colors symbolize purity and chastity of maidenhood.

*Some are flushed like the buds that dream
On the tranquil brow of a woodland stream,
Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves
To the limpid glory of new born leaves*
(Para 2, lines 3,4,5 and 6, The Bangle Sellers)

A few bangles, are flushed red in shading like the infant buds that hold tight the foreheads of the forest stream. Likewise, a few bangles are hued in light green like new born leaves. Every such shading represent the happy status of the prime of youth in every maiden's life.

*Some are like fields of sunlit corn,
Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,*
(Para 3, lines 1,2,3 and 4, The Bangle Sellers)

The yellow color bangles are depicted like the fields of sunlit corns. These bangles portray the significant phase of a women's life when she becomes a bride. The shading yellow, hence, alludes to the vast bliss of a would-be bride on her wedding morning.

*Some are purple and gold flecked grey
For she who has journeyed through life midway,*
(Para 4, line 1 and 2, The Bangle Sellers)

The last refrain of the poem mirrors the next phase of a woman's life after getting married. Bangles with purple shading, and 'gold flecked grey' suit a moderately aged lady, as indicated by Naidu.

These colors are symbolic of pride and illustrious living. A woman increases such pride in her middle-age subsequent to running over to such essential phases of life like — bridehood, motherhood. These colors are commonly worn by the women who have battled their life halfway through raising children. Such a moderately aged lady likewise wears bangles of gold-spotted grey that represents the astuteness and development of her age. Likewise, her success through the different troubles of life is anticipated by the shade of gold. It denotes her development just as her womanhood.

CONCLUSION :

Thus different colors have a unique importance in each of the phases of women's life. The whole sonnet 'The Bangle Seller' is a very documentation of praising womanhood. It is a festival through the bright strokes of Naidu's aesthetic twisted of psyche.

If red color signifies bliss in the life of bride, then on the other hand white and grey signifies the hardships they have experienced. Every color is illustrative of joy on one hand and sorrow on the other hand.

But it won't be wrong to say that there are some shrouded angles in the poem that depicts the patriarchal notions which are rebuffed by the modern women. Women throughout their life play different roles and bears hardships and struggles. Being a girl, a wife and a mother are not all that simple for them to experience, these stages are reflected inside the limits of specific hues.

But to look at the poem with modernist aspect, now days there are no limitations or commitments for the women to wear constrained colors in different phases of their life. No particular shade of bangle will undoubtedly be worn among a confined age group of women.



Starting at now the contemporary time revolves around the opportunity of women so it is continuously critical for them to feel free and live with colors that fulfills their soul independent of their age group.

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