



VICTIM OF FATE: A STUDY OF K R MEERA'S *THE POISON OF LOVE*

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ABSTRACT

Indian writing in English is one of the largest read genres in literature. We can view that woman writers mainly intended to communicate their ideal view of the society were, women are free from the orthodox social norms of the society. In K. R Meera's "The Poison of Love" we can see how emotional attachment of love leads to darkest destiny. In the novella, Meera tend to have a tragic fate even by upholding the ideal women image and their role in the society through the protagonist Tulsi. She has to undergo turmoil all her life even without her own faults. Tulsi recollects how she met Madhav when she was an IITian, how his sweet words and actions trapped her to elope from her father's house a day before her marriage. Throughout the novel we can see the destructive love which leads to the incidents that jammed her life because of the ennumber of relationships that Madhav had. For her he was the only love of her life.

Key Words : *Love, Destiny, Darkest, Fate.*

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INTRODUCTION

The heroine of Meera is highly educated, modern women who loved her man with at most passion, who wanted whole him, who was ready to throw away her IIT graduation, just to confine herself as a housewife. Even after years of betrayal, suppression and suffering until she came to know about her husband child was growing in someone else womb she was ready to be with him. Here, Meera try to create a balance between the ideal Indian typical family system and the western idea of self expression of identity by breaking the habit of silence. In *The Poison of Love*, the heroine Tulsi breaks her trapped web of love by killing her own beloved kids by giving poison as she doesn't wanted to live a life alone. She herself moves to Vrindhavan to free herself from the dark experiences of her killing motherhood which was beyond her control.

Though love is celebrated as one the most beautiful feeling in the world but here Meera drive us to the deep and darkest side of the romance. As the introductory line of the novel suggest “ *Love is like milk. With the passage of time, it sours, splits and become poison*”(11) Tulsi's life was having a smooth run until she was introduced to Madhav a correspondent with an English magazine in Chennai by her peer Vinay. Madhav have come to IIT campus, to prepare a detailed report on the psychological pressure faced by the students at IIT. After their first meeting, the protagonist always longed for his presence in her life. Both of them became close very soon, as the years passed, the letter received by Tulsi was also become long. He mentioned openly about the twenty-seven lovers he had in his life. According to his perspective, he never wanted to make any women sad who fall for him, he believed that each women had a certain role to be played and leave like an actor who plays her role in the stage as in drama.

Meera was interested to go in depth with human relationships like marriage “*I will love that man. with bitter resentment, I will love him, In my hollow heart, I shall safeguard that beat of revenge to ensure his destruction. I shall emit the agony of bones falling off. I will hunt him until death – and beyond. When he attempts to kiss another women, he shall be smashed to smithereens*” (06). Though Tulsi was trapped in the tenderness of marriage which was filled with full of unanswered questions. The attitude of man before becoming husband towards women is clearly vary from the next second of the marriage, she become an object of possession, not even an individual nor a human being. Meera coveys about the butterfly treatments that Madhav give Tulsi before marriage and how, he have not even turned to their house until he wanted to sleep with her. Since, she wanted her children's father to come home at times she suffered the rape in silence and never questioned his schedule. As she longs for peaceful home for her children Unni and Kanna she surrendered herself for mans aggressiveness.



In the surface perspective of Indian society, where everything looks smooth in their life from outside. Tulsi is no exception, In *The Poison of Love*, Meera clearly defines the state of highly educated, unemployed, married Indian woman's fundamental issues. Here, Tulsi who is webbed between sophisticated Indian tradition and rise to the modernity of her journalist husband. The women trapped in the hands of love that could even react to the deeds of her husband "seeing the ex-girlfriend resting against Madhav's chest and sharing her sorrows." Meera portrays clearly about the helplessness of an unemployed housewife who once was a brilliant IITian. She was manipulated, humiliated, and significant power of family imbalance as she was controlled over their damaging physical violence. She was just used as an object to showcase and termed as wife.

But once, she came to know from her husband that he was going to be father of another child with other women "*My man. He was going to be father once more*"(89). She got all the courage to kill her own children who completed her womanhood only to purify her husband with barrier of separation before signing the divorce petition. In the Indian society marriages and motherhood remain the priority of every girl's life however liberated she may be from the time of immoral role of sacrificing, loving mother and wife which are assigned duties of womanhood. By this she demolished the typical concept of Indian ideal women, image of mother.

In *The Poison Of Love*, Tulsi is cursed by her own parents, she was fully shattered being a wife, who was helpless and at last to kill her own children to win over her husband's betrayal. Even in this modern secular India, women are not equally treated even at their homes. As she was unemployed, she was fully depended on her husband. Tulsi herself became as a slave to her husband over the years, who would have been a high rated engineer as she passed with top marks from IIT. She was not against the masculinity, she had high devotion for her father and Vinay who had treated her right even after she eloped a day before the marriage. According to Meera she was against the man who used femininity only for his external pleasure, who established a sense of superiority trouble and betrayal. Meera reminds us about the Indian patriarchal society, where women had to try hard to find their real identities. Through the character Tulsi, Meera is portraying thousands of Indian women who are still in the four walls of the house who are silently accepting their fate of betrayal. Her sincerity and obsession for husband made her to lose herself. And finally her quest for the self realization made her to become Meera of Krishna in Vrindhavan but was find stuck in the turmoil of the past life which haunted her throughout.

"I remembered my children then. My children, who had lain dead – their faces twisted, the younger one still sucking his thumb. My children I laughed"(100)



Tulsi was the victim of fate, when Madhav was in a fascination world who failed to love his wife and his children which can treated as his future .Tulsi tried to win over her husband by killing her children by this she was eluded by her fate. Meera showed the courage of women who was left with nothing, who wished to have small happiness in life by facing the barriers before her. Though she is immersed in her past, she undergo metamorphosis. She became to emancipated and mature enough to take a decision. This adds to the new version of Indian womanhood.

REFERENCE

Meera, K.R.(2017). The Poison of Love. Penguin.