



Dejection of Love and Loneliness in Vikram Seth's *The Golden Gate*

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on Vikram Seth's novel *The Golden Gate* that can be observed from John. It tells the story of a young man who is unable to sustain love and companionship in his life, ending much the same way as he began. John is a lonely and depressed human being, searching for meaning and happiness to find self-fulfilment in his life. John's earlier feeling for Janet is passionate and their love is based on concern and mutual respect. But there is a lack of clarity and blindness in their love. John's love towards Liz is physical attraction. John's life deals with unfulfilled love. The charm and attraction is short lived. He could not find the fulfillment of love in his life. Love can become the soul of one's life, John has the power to heal all the wounds and make them endurable. John's bittersweet experience made him a mature and better human being.

Keywords:

Passionate, lonely, love, depressed, life, alienation.

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The Golden Gate is a romantic novel. The protagonist John is a peculiar person. Money doesn't immerse or excite him anymore and the bare thought of a girl fills him with frustration. Janet is a Japanese immigrant girl and she was an artist. She craves identity and attention through music and sculpture. Janet is single like a John and she is better off and well balanced in company. He craves for companionship and opens his heart before his beloved friend Janet for advice. She advises him, John you need a lover and she places a lonely heart advertisement in a newspaper to find a partner for John.

Solvent, sexy, thrilling, thrifty,

A bosomy brunette

Who likes to play the flageolet?

Let me make music with you, baby (TGG 1.34).

John selects three girls. Liz Dorati is the best of all. She is an Italian immigrant. She is a young, ambitious woman and the most important issue of her life is the selection of a suitable partner. She is the hallmark of wise and she can establish the right values for others to emulate. Liz, shares a special relation with her cat Charlemagne. He was with her boring and sad moments, would most loyally and affectionately respond to her loving strokes. John lacks compassion and understanding, he becomes intolerant towards Charlemagne. Liz seriously monitors John's actions and reactions as a life partner.

It's not that we don't love each other.

we're a good match: Liz dresses well:

She's dynamic in bed _ but brother!

Her cerebellum's shot to hell.

I never though I'd have a roomie(TGG 9.11)

Liz is a wise woman and she is now being driven towards Phil for a reason. Phil quite openly speaks for a lungless lab for peace and humanity. This truth brings Liz close to him and she talks about passion, marriage with Phil.

I think I understand the feeling

then, with an effort: well, love's fun.

at first.... but living with someone

If everything's just great in bed

Yet nothing's shared inside your head (TGG 9.36)

Liz has experienced the passionate love of John and he fails to see her true identity as well as her intellectuals want. On the other hand, Phil recognizes it and encourages her goal. Due to a lack of parental love John is unable to see the truth because he himself is full of complexes. Both Phil and Liz's relationship is based on mutual compatibility and not just physical relationship. Liz has made a judgement about Phil as a complete person as well as a good father. Liz views that passion leads to more expectations and more desire. John is obviously a loser, feels dejected and desolate. The basis of the relationship between John and Liz is not compatibility but passionate love. After the death of Liz's mother, Phil and Liz are sorrowful and death brings about a positive change in both of their lives. They appeal to John for friendship through a letter, their letter announces the death of Liz's mother and birth of their children.

The news of the death and birth touches John deeply and considers its relationship with life. Due to the death of Mrs. Dorati there is a reformation in John's life. But he is not accepting the invitation and also prepares to befriend Liz and Phil. John is to revive his love with Janet, which had been ignored six years back in Janet's heart. Janet is still afraid of express her love to him. John is embittered with a world and he is unable to comprehend his love for Janet. Her absence once again leaves John lonely and distressed. However, there is a difference in his reaction. John is not revengeful but guilty that he never expressed his love for Janet.

He realizes that she loved him unconditionally, asking for nothing in turn. However, he gets the final blow when the former Janet dies in an automobile accident. Thus John loses a friend and a sympathizer too. The feeling of alienation becomes more acute as he grieves and ponders over her death. John's demise constitutes a strong minute in the hero's look for extreme fulfilment and excellence as he turns upon him in a trademark push to deal with his past. John is desolate, segregated, estranged and lost. There is nobody to support him aside from the fanciful voice of Janet who is no more. void prompts to only vacancy.

Love is the master key that opens the lock of happiness. The meaning of love cannot be really explained, but to be experienced. To enjoy that happiness John pursues love. John reawakens the love towards Janet Hayakawa is true but as destiny would have it, just when they are on the limit of committing to each other, Janet dies in the accident. John is left heartbroken and entirely alone again. The novel uncovers the real life incidents which are hidden in the layers of belongingness and love.

Conclusion

Love is an intense feeling of affection. The protagonist searches for ultimate satisfaction and beauty as he turns upon himself in a characteristic effort to come to terms with his past. Janet is passionate and transient, and by mutual consent they feel their union would constrict. They agree to part and shelter their friendship from all passion. Passion seen as a force that destroys even as it blinds and no wonders. Janet's death constitutes an unusually poignant moment. It is a balanced friendship and affection which can prove to be longer lasting. John's romantic passion leads to loss since life is too frail to endure ecstasy. Passion is always a disaster. John and Liz's physical communication becomes the point of departure. John has everything but is still deeply unhappy internally. They all chose their professional paths and rejected a conventional profession. John recognizes the

value of space in bonding. Romantic and passion that cannot sustain in a love relationship since it is an expectation to fulfil their own desires. Relationships are based on understanding, respect and mutual affection.

Every relationship has a chance of succeeding, if people are willing to make changes in themselves, instead of just opting out of the relationship when things start to get sticky. If disbelief enters in a relationship the building of love shakes badly and collapses without any hope of reconstruction. The novel surveys the loneliness in modern American society and one should badly adapt oneself and to make an effort to find some meaning in it. The novel protagonist realizes their lacking in the end.

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