



FEMINISTIC VIEW OF SITA- A STUDY ON VOLGA'S *THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN*

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ABSTRACT

The great epic Ramayana describes about Prince Rama protect his beloved wife Sita from the hands of Ravana with the help of Hanuman and his followers. Indian Literature particularly the genre of Feminism talks about the woman power, equality, liberty. Feminist writing breaks the male dominant society. The epic Ramayana talks about the war, love, marriage and brotherhood. It focuses only these aspects. In volga's retells of the earliest epic of Ramayana. Volga's *The Liberation of Sita* give voices of woman through her writings. She highlights the woman characters like Surpanakha, Renuka devi, Urmila and Ahalya. The story is about Sita who after being abandon by Ram who Sita comes out on a journey of self-realisation. This paper depicts about the women characters and how woman faces the struggles and sufferings in their life. *The Liberation of Sita* is a good example for woman to overcome their problems and lead an equal position to men in the present scenario.

KEYWORDS

Feminism, Self-Realisation, Love, War, Domination.

Indian Literature spans a variety of literary forms including epics, songs, dramatic and didactic poetry, narrative and scientific writing, as well as oral poetry and music. It talks about the culture and traditions of India through their works and given to the people in the society. Two ancient Indian Epics are *The Ramayana and Mahabharatha* prior to the Gupta dynasty, a lot of secular literary works are produced.

Popuri Lalitha Kumari (born 27 Nov 1950) popularly known as her pen name Volga, is Telugu poet and writer-activist, well known for her feministic perspective. She won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 2015 for her short story compilation "Vimukta Kadha Samputi" in Telugu. Her works initiate debates across the country about feminism, in times when the idea was hardly accepted. The Library of Congress has a collection of her most popular published works, including the English translations of selected short stories. *The Liberation of Sita* is a translation work by her and published in 2016. This book is translated to English by T. Vijay Kumar and C. Vijayasree.

Feminism which means the belief that women should have the same rights, equality, respect and opportunities as men. It talks about the women facing problems, struggles and obstacles in their day-to-day life. The feminist writers highlight and expressed their feelings towards their writings. *The Liberation of Sita* is originally written in Telugu as Vimukta. This is a translated work by volga. The novel creates interest and particularly this work brings aware to the women in the society.

Volga's *The Liberation of Sita*, she writes the work because of the epics like *Ramayana* only point out the male characters of Raman, Lakshaman and Ravana and so on. The writer only gives the importance to the male characters and dominant the women in the work. As per Volga's point of view she noticed the character of Sita and her sufferings, how overcome their illness with her strong and bold character to be noticed in her work. As her work is a good example for a woman in the society. *The liberation of Sita*, the novel takes place Sita and the female characters like Surpanakha, Ahalya, Urmila and Renukha Devi. She described the characters because they are suffered a lot in their lives.

The novel focus mainly five aspects: The Reunion, Music of the earth, The sand pot, The liberated and the shackled. The Reunion, Music of the earth, The sand pot, The liberated, and The shackled. Sita leaves Rama because Rama is angry on her. So, she leaves with him and live in an independent life. And she meets the women characters gradually. In first she talks about the reunion, it's a sensitive narration of Sita with Surpanakha. Surpanakha is an evil character in this novel because she is the reason for Sita to be kidnapped by Ravana. But sita's kindhearted she moves friendly and sisterhood with Surpanakha. The role of Sita with Surpanakha is angry with her. But she moves friendly with her. This is the character of Sita how she the enemy with her friend and sisterhood. "Sita left with a matured mind. I felt that her maturity may have come from her worldly experience. She must have internalized the strength that she got from outside."(104)

In another aspect is music of the earth, Sita meet the character Ahalya and both of them are women to face a lot of problems in their life. They show the women will- power to the society and they are the bold characters in the novel Volga highlights it. "When I looked at her large eyes, I felt frightened for a moment, finding in them the depth of an ocean that contain both fire and ice. Her enigmatic smile still haunts me. Anger, grace, detachment, compassion, love-everything was there in that smile. (19)

The sand pot Sita to meet the character Renukha Devi, she is the mother of Parashurama who beheads his own mother obeying his father orders after she commits adultery. Renukha tells her that how fidelity of married woman is as fragile as a sand pot. How women are forced to obey norms and be a good wife and a mother. Sita also thinks her husband Ram that she also abandoned by Rama. But in the part, she never goes back to her husband.

The talks about the liberated character of Urmila, she is the wife of Lakshaman, who moves to the forest with his

brother Rama. She suffers a lot and she feels lonely and locked in her room. As the character of Urmila, she lives alone because of her husband, Lakshman moves to forest. Without her husband she is a woman to live in the palace and waiting for him. Comparing to Sita, Urmila suffers a lot. The news heard by Sita. She is worried about that and met her sister Urmila. After Sita meet Urmila and knows the emotions and tears of her deep thoughts she noticed it and gives a solution to her problems. After Urmila meet her sister, she feels happy. "Assume authority. Give up power. Then you'll belong to yourself. Then you'll be yourself. We should remain ourselves." (79)

The shackled portrays the Rama he is the person to lead a life with pain and to feel alone. He is the person to have duty and responsibility after his father Arya Dharma, there is no freedom for him. *The Liberation of Sita* is a delightful narrative, to encourage women and to give importance to the women in the society and they are overcome the male dominant society. It's a great work to create awareness to the women to lead a life in their own way. By her end of the novel, Sita is a role model to all the women in the society. As a woman Sita gives a voice to women in the novel. Nowadays no one like Sita so all the women are overcome their problems and struggles like Sita and to lead a good life in society without the need of men. *The Liberation of Sita* is a good example for all women in the society. Enquiries on women bodies and mind about chastity and purity are violence's practiced for many centuries.

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