



LIFELESS STRUGGLE: EXPLORING THE VOICE OF WOMEN IN THE SELECT WORKS OF ANITA DESAI

VIJAYA C

BA ENGLISH LITERATURE
SATHYABAMA INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CHENNAI -119

MS. MALAVIKA J

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SATHYABAMA INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CHENNAI-119

Abstract : "Fasting, Feasting" is a novel by Anita Desai that explores the lives of two siblings, Uma and Arun, from the perspective of the traditional demands of the Indian society. Arun, being in the United States, comes to interact with different cultural norms from those with which he was brought up. The novel, therefore, brings out the contrast of roles and expectations that are heaped on individuals, especially women, by Indian society. On the other, "Cry, the Peacock" portrays the emotional turbulence of Maya—a young girl who is modifying to anxiety and an unhappy marriage. This novel written by Anita Desai plunges into the psychological turmoil and increasingly isolated mental makeup of Maya. Both novels subtly disclose the pressing influence of society on the mental health of Maya, representing sensitively the labyrinth in the human psyche and the difficulties man faces in reconciling societal demands with their insides. Definition of both novels Isolation and lack of communication inner struggle.

Key words - Isolation and lack of communication, Inner Struggles, Martial discords, Man Women relationship.

INTRODUCTION

Anita Desai is really an author with deep skill to capture such fine points—the conditions which women experience in any world. In "Fasting, Feasting" and "Cry, the Peacock," Desai explores women's flexible navigation among the social mandates, the familial pressures, and their desires. They are powerful looks at the difficulties and desires of women struggling towards independence and fullness in the midst of overweening social structures. The brilliant insight into the characters and the empathetic portrayal of the people that Desai brings to this work help provide a moving picture of women's lives in patriarchal contexts.

VOICE AND TRIBULATION OF WOMEN IN 'FASTING FEASTING'

The book "Fasting, Feasting" by Anita Desai delves into the intricate experiences of women in traditional Indian society. It delves into the expectations placed on women regarding marriage, family, and household responsibilities. Through the characters Uma and Arun, Desai shows the different options available to women in India, showcasing the challenges they encounter in asserting their independence and pursuing their dreams. Uma's journey, defined by selflessness and duty, resonates with the experiences of countless women held back by patriarchal traditions. On the other hand, Arun's story illustrates the struggles of defying societal norms and establishing a sense of self. Through her portrayal of women's hardships, Desai emphasizes the pressing need for increased gender equality and empowerment in Indian culture.

VOICE OF THE PRIMARY CHARACTER IN 'CRY THE PEACOCK'

In the novel "Cry, the Peacock," Maya's voice expresses a range of emotions including longing, melancholy, desperation, and disillusionment. Her introspective narrative delves into her psyche, exposing her profound sense of alienation, struggles with psychic abilities, and futile attempts to find fulfillment in a restrictive marriage and societal expectations. Her voice is poetic and haunting, reflecting the turbulent landscape of her inner world as she grapples with the line between reality and fantasy.

CONCLUSION

Much like Anita Desai's "Fasting, Feasting," "Cry, the Peacock" represents one of those novels in which the theme of oppression and society and individual expectations near the borderline of loss of freedom. But there is one major difference between the two novels: In "Fasting, Feasting," the conclusion suggests a sense of resignation and acceptance of societal norms, with characters like Uma ultimately conforming to their prescribed roles despite their inner desires for freedom. On the other hand, "Cry, the Peacock" concludes with a more tragic and fatalistic tone, as the protagonist Maya's descent into madness symbolizes the devastating consequences of societal constraints and the inability to break free from them.

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