

PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERS IN BANKIMCHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAY'S RAJMOHAN'S WIFE

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Abstract

The novel Rajmohan's Wife gives clear cut picture of the society during nineteenth century. This is considered as first Indian novel in English literature. This novel projects the positive and negative issues of society through characters. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay brings the idea that money serves as a major reason for separation relationship. This novel projects the transformation of Matangini from submissive home maker into a brave woman through the character Matangini. She serves as a redeemer in the life of Madhav by sacrificing her life. Novelist begins the novel with beautiful description of the Madhumathi River. Though novelist gives importance to all characters, he presents Matangini's character in a brilliant manner. In the beginning of the novel she is fragile but in the middle of the novel she brilliantly tackles dacoit and saves Madhav that shows her intellectuality and bravery. This novel vividly projects psychological sufferings of men due to greediness towards money and women due to lack of love from spouse.

Keywords: Separation, Transformation, Fragile, Brilliant, Greediness.

The novel provides detail description of everyday activities during the time of novelist. Novelist brings the idea regarding suppression of women in the hands of demonic men. In the beginning he shows devilish character of Rajmohan through the words of Matangini. She is not allowed to go out of the house and fetch water. Though Matangini has fear, she later vociferates her need for freedom. Kanak, her friend encourages going and fetching water. On returning to home her veil is removed due to wind. She requests her friend not to reveal about the removal of veil to Rajmohan because he will accuse and slap her for such incident. This reminds Jung's idea that "Skepticism and scientific conviction exist in him side by side with old fashioned prejudices, outdated habits of thought and feeling, obstinate misinterpretation and blind ignorance" (96).

Matangini returns home and sees Rajmohan waiting in the kitchen for her arrival. He pours water in the ground which is fetched by her. He scolds her for moving out without his permission. Matangini replies that she is his wife and needs no one's permission to do her activities. She expresses that she has freedom to do whatever she wants. Novelist brings how women long for freedom in male dominated society "Even when she marries, she will preserve some illusion of freedom, despite her ostensible act of submission to the archetype of marriage" (Jung 137).

Bankim brings the idea of wife as soul supporter to husband through the character Matangini. She requests Hemangini for Rajmohan's employment. Madhav, Hema's husband gives respect to his wife's words and gives the position of Zamindari to Rajmohan. He has capacity to understand his wife's feelings. So he is more concerned about his wife's emotions and feelings. This shows lovable relationship between them "Man's knowledge (Logos) then encounters woman's relatedness (Eros) and their union is

represented as that symbolic ritual of sacred marriage" (Jung 134). Rajmohan's intension is cynical which makes him to have affair with beneficiaries. He also makes a plot to usurp the property document from Madhav. "As a clinician one encounters a variety of shadow phenomena which include envy, aggression, greed laziness and jealousy" (Jung 94).

Matangini overhears the plan of Rajmohan and decides to give caution to Madhav so she starts journey towards his home. She overcomes many hurdles on her way. Dacoits searches her but she escapes from them in detective way of submerging her body in the pond. She is also frightened by roaring of wild animals in the forest but she doesn't gives importance to all those sounds. Though she is fragile in the beginning of the novel, she losses her feminine nature to safeguard Madhav. "The concept of animus on other hand is often used to minimize a woman's accomplishments- even by women themselves 'she just has good animus'. Someone will say meaning that she has lost a lot of her femininity" (Jung 120).

She reaches Madhav's home and intimates the issue to her sister and servant- maid. They are stunned on hearing the news. Matangini's behaviour shows her civilized nature. She feels awkward to enter into Madhav's bedroom and inform issue so she requests her sister to convey news to him. Madhav is shocked on hearing the news; he arranges security to safeguard his documents. Though he doesn't believe matangini in the beginning, he accepts her as his saviour after seeing robbers. His respect towards her words which safeguards his property. "The guide he mentions is presumably his analyst. Yet he does not see himself as a patient who is being traced by a doctor but as an important spectator whose opinion is respected" (Jung 116). Madhav's knowledge and lack of egoistical attitude makes him to respect the words of Matangini.

Matangini's departure makes Madhav to think about his love for her in past days. She returns home and sees Rajmohan is waiting for her. He enquires about her visit to Madhav's home. She refuses in the beginning but later accepts courageously that she only informs his plan to Madhav and safeguards him. "He added 'did you or did you not go to Madhav Ghose's home this night?' 'Yes I did,' she said, suddenly excited beyond herself by the sound of the name, 'I did – to save him from robbery you had planned'" (61). She also advises being a partner in robbery is illegal according to law and conscience. On hearing such words, Rajmohan tries to kill her. He is interrupted by dacoit and they accuse him for revealing the plan to Madhav. Rajmohan says his wife is the reason for collapse in the plan so he wants to kill her wife but they couldn't find her in that place.

Next day morning Kanak sees Matangini sitting near the pond. She goes and enquires about reason for her sadness. Matangini narrates all incidents that happened in the previous day. Kanak as a friend wants to help Matangini so she sends her to Mathur Ghose's home. There everyone invites her except Champak who is the second wife of Mathur. "Champak liked not that it should be under the auspices of her rival that the stranger should obtain a footing in household" (81). Mathur gives more importance to Champak because she satisfies his sexual desire that shows his lusty behaviour. He couldn't reject her idea about Matangini's arrival so he consoles her and exposes his inability to live life without her presence. This shows a sense of anima in him "So a man who behaves in a very masculine way (his persona) would have a very feminine anima" (Jung 115). Rajmohan finds his wife and takes her to home again.

Mathur is a juxtaposition of love and lust. His humanity makes him to allow Matangini to stay in his home. He understands the situation of homeless woman. Though he is lusty, he also has some humanity in him. He is an amalgam positive and negative. "They argue naively that such an assumption implies the existence of two subjects or two personalities within the same individual" (Jung 23). Meanwhile Madhav thinks about his love affair and cries during night. He finds someone behind the tree so he moves there. He is hijacked by group of people. Mathur's super ego questions him when he kidnapped his brother and Matangini which is seen through his abnormal behaviour. Tara starts to question her husband's abnormal behaviour. Mathur rejects her question that shows women nature of being soul comforter for her husband, though he has no love for her.

Tara discloses her husband's attitude of thinking her as an unimportant person in his life. She gives him hope that she will serve as a soul supporter for all his problems

"Tara might love her husband, she was too pure-minded herself to sympathize with his crooked policy. Tara felt sorely grieved as well as disappointed" (115). Her husband doesn't share anything to her so she plans to find a problem. She follows her husband and rescues kidnapped Madhav and Matangini. She reveals truth to the police. They go in search of Mathur but he hangs himself. Matangini also files complaint about Rajmohan's partnership in robbery so he is arrested and thrown into the prison "Since every feeling after attaining a certain strength, releases physical innervations, thus becoming an affect" (Jung 522). Through these incidents Bankim proves that women are both physically and psychologically strong. Women serve as negative energy for men's illegal activities and prejudiced thoughts. "As a naturalistic writer, Bankim has put out all the codes and taboos of that society in which he portrays the contemporary life where characters like Matangini are setting out to challenge the established codes and ethics" (Sultan 4).

Through this novel Bankim portrays the nineteenth century Indian society. This novel also serves as a warning for readers that they must face the punishment when they indulge in illegal activities. This idea is expressed through death of Mathur and imprisonment of Rajmohan. He also portrays women as a peak of courage and they are ready to face any obstacle to safeguard their life and society. "The character of Matangi stands alone and shines in spite of her disappearance in to cruel fate and even the attitude of other characters like Kanak and Tara can't be forgotten for its beautiful examples of early Indian English novel" (Parmar 4). This novel can be revisited in Ecocritical perspective, Feminism, Post colonialism and Deconstruction.

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