

MYSTIC PERSONALITY CONSTITUTION OF DILNAWAZ IN BAPSI SIDHWA'S *ICE-CANDY MAN*

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Abstract

Indian History marks the partition of India and the terrible incidents associated with them as a major historic event. The Sub continent writings took the pains of the commons as the major theme in their writings after the Independence and Partition of India. Bapsi Sidhwa is an award winning internationally acclaimed Pakistani writer. Bapsi Sidhwa reveals about the evil facts of advancements, beliefs, traditions and customs in her writings. This paper endeavours the trauma on the basis of partition and the agony faced by the common people and their transformation of their character through the character Dilnawaz in *The Ice-Candy-Man*. Finally the paper is concluded with the findings that the morale and character of a person is not fixed and it changes according to the change in Society.

The Literature of Pakistan faced a drastic change in style and texture after the partition of India and its Independence. Bapsi Sidhwa, Pakistan born novelist holds a prominent place in the English fiction and is also named and a major south-Asian Novelist. Racy style, thematic orientation, wit, narrative technique serves as the unique qualities of her writings. The theoretical words are made into practically for the upliftment of the feminine society in Sidhwa's writings. The power of society more than the individuals is highly proclaimed in the writings of Bapsi Sidhwa. *An American Brat*, *the Pakistani Bride*, *the Crow Eaters*, *Ice-Candy-Man*, *Water*, *Their Language of Love* are the notable novels of Bapsi Sidhwa.

Ice-Candy-Man counts the admiration on several counts. Though *Ice-Candy-Man* is the second novel of Bapsi Sidhwa it discusses the serious issue of partition and its consequences. The female characters are shown as an inferior being with a will to pursue their career whereas the male characters reveals the patriarchal setup of society and the masculine nature of domination, self assertion and action which forces women to become a symbol of subjacent.

The reality of the human world with the lose of humanity and Love is projected through the lame young girl Lenny. The character of Lenny is preceded with through the poetic lines of Iqbal's poem *Complaint to God*

"Shall I hear the lament of the nightingale
submissively lendind my ear?

Am I the rose to suffer its cry in silence year after year

The fire of verse gives me courage and bids me no more to be faint"(1).

Lenny is attended by Ayah Shanta and was medically treated by Colonel Bharucha, the surgeon who helped her to place the limb on her leg. Ayah was admired by suitors of different religion and culture like the Hotel Cook, the Gardener, Sharbat Khan, *Ice Candy Man* and many others. The emotional turmoil and mental trauma arouse in the country after the decision of Parsi community that they will not support the British government and withdraw themselves being an Indian nationalist. Religion brought up a separation between the people. "I don't know what to say.They talk of a plan to drive the Muslims out of East Punjab... To divide the Punjab. They say they won't live with Mussalmans if there is to be a Pakistan. Owlsh talks that, You know city talk...its madness can't amount to anything" (107). Dilnawaz is the reverting character in the novel *Ice-Candy-Man*. Though he is claimed as the antagonist of the novel his character holds a heroic admiration. He is a Muslim street vendor who comes to the readers in a variety of roles. He is introduced a carefree chuckling person with lots of love and care. He is pictured as a gifted poet, poetic interpreter, at times an *Ice Candy* vendor, a bird seller, a celestial connector to Allah. In summer Dilnawaz sells *Ice candy* whereas he plays the role of a bird seller who sells sparrows and other birds in winters. He is a Man of Knowledge. Lenny comments Dilnawaz as "*Ice-Candy man* talks. News and gossip flow off his glib tongue like a torrent. He reads Urdu

newspapers and the Urdu digest. He can, when he applies himself, read the headlines in the Civil and Military Gazette, the English daily" (28).

Lenny finds a friend in Ice-Candy man and interested to know about the current situations and emerging politics. Ice-Candy Man had a passionate interest towards Lenny's Ayah, Shanta. He comes regularly to Lenny's house to meet Ayah and to spend time with her. "Talk to me for a while...Just a little while," pleads Ice Candy- Man so piteously that Ayah, whose heart is as easily inclined to melt as Ice-Candy-man's popsicles, bunches her fingers and says, 'Only ten minutes'. (28)

Dilnawaz is characterized as a jovial life loving person with only intention of collecting penance as a keen popsicle vendor. He is designed as a pretentious Sulfi with copper wiring wound around the neck and neck claiming it as a telephone which is used to communicate with Allah. Ice Candy Man had a fervor attraction towards Ayah Shanta whereas Ayah was heavily infused by the love songs of Masseur. The mysterious death of Mr Rogers brought the partition into complete scene. The communal Riots between Hindus and Muslims took place in Pirpindo villagers were killed, Children were butchered and women were mercilessly raped and killed. The mentality of Ice-Candy Man about love and relationship changes after witnessing the mutilated bodies of the Muslims. Ice Candy Man started using Love as a tool for Disgrace enmity betrayal and adamancy. The transformation of morale in Ice Candy man changes after the shocking sorrowful incident of Gurdaspur tragedy. The Ethnic fanatics protested announcing Pakistan Zindabad and wanted a separate Punjab province. Dilnawaz waits for the arrival of his sisters in Lahore railway station. Everybody in the platform saw a strange sight when the train arrived. Every compartments of the train were filled with the mutilated bodies of the Muslims. "Everyone in it is dead. Butchered. They are all Muslim. There are no young women among the dead! Only two Gunny- bags full of women's breasts!" (149).

Dilnawaz, the sweet hearted Ice Candy man turns into a hatred frenzy man with the only desire to kill Hindus. The transformation of Dilnawaz is depicted as "He appears to have grown shades darker, and his face is all dried up and shrivelled looking. I can see that beneath his shock he is grieving".(149)

Ice Candy Man turns as a human beast and uses the love and concern of Lenny as a tool of betrayal. He masks himself as sweet hearted and gets the truth of Ayah from Lenny. Lenny was gloomed into grief after the revelation of

Ayah's placement. She brings out her agony by stating that "For three days I stand in front of the bathroom mirror staring at my tongue. I hold the vile, truth—infected thing between my fingers and try to wrench it out: but slippery and slick as a fish it slips from my fingers and mocks me with its sharp rapier tip darting as poisonous as a snake. I punish it with rigorous scouring from my pricking toothbrush until it is sore and bleeding".(184)

Ice-Candy Man abducts Ayah marries her and ill treats her. She was shut inside a Kotha, a place of dancing girls by Ice Candy Man. Once when Dilnawaz comes to meet Godmother and confesses that he is a man and hence he will not be faithful. But Godmother reacts wildly by saying that Dilnawaz has made his wife disgraced and destroyed her modesty and now talks about poets and princes. God mother calls Ice Candy Man as the son of pigs and pimps. Lenny grieves over the tearful displacement of Ayah's life and feels more troubled with a spontaneous tearful placement in her eyes. The Government machinery took Ayah from the Kotha through the influence of the Godmother. Ice Candy Man felt dejected and wandered like a desperate lover singing songs and placing flowers for Ayah over the wall of the camp every morning and his he rose with a clear voice everyday and showered Ayah with poems. He has acquired a new aspect of a moonstruck fakir who has a passionate love for his beloved. This routine of offering of flowers and singing of love songs continued for many days.

Anita Desai comments that Anita Desai, comments on Ice-Candy-Man that the characters of Sidhwa triumph due to the rich hilarious style with accurate details live realistic portrayals which are projected as extraordinary and wonderful feats before the readers eyes.

Economic Times remarks that "Sidhwa captures the turmoil of the times, with a brilliant combination of individual growing –up pains, and the collective combination of individual growing-up pains and collective anguish of a newly independent but divided country. Sidhwa's work- particularly the dehumanizing effects of communalism she movingly reveals in Ice-Candy-Man – is painfully relevant to our present day India". Dilnawaz, the Ice-Candy man is shown as a reality based character with aspirations, emotions, moods, frustration and nonetheless attitude to life influenced by social political and moral world. Hence the antagonist turns into protagonist in Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice- Candy- Man.

References

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