

AUTHENTIC DELINEATION OF PARTITION: A FEMINISTIC VIEWPOINT

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ABSTRACT

There is no doubt in denying the fact that the theme of partition is one of the recurrent themes Indian Writing in English, and the Indian fiction is no exception in this direction. After the independence of India, it has developed into a new genre. Partition has never been the theme for many of the Pakistani and Indian authors. It was an event that not many can forget. Families were torn apart, toddlers were left orphaned and women were left without any shelter. The tragic and momentous event has stirred the creative imagination of many writers who weaved the fabric of tragic tale highlighting untold and unbearable atrocities of communal violence between Hindus and Muslims. Hindu and Muslims used to live together along with other minorities in the sub-continent. Although, there were traits of individual disdain but overall, they shared tight bonds. The best example of people belonging to different cultures and religions having harmonious relationships is portrayed in many works.

KEYWORDS: Agitation, Harmony, Historical, Partition, Riot, Socio-political, Unity.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that the trauma of partition that led to the mental agony of millions of people, shaped the ideology of contemporary authors of the time. Writers from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh portrayed realistic picture of socio- political and socio- historical event of partition in different languages. The women, in comparison to men, become the largest sufferers as they were tortured, sexually abused, raped and paraded naked in the streets by the men belonging to other

communities. In this way, partition of India and Pakistan become one of the burning issues of the time due to which there was an emergence of new type of genre, 'Partition Literature in different languages of India. Like the male partition authors, the contribution of female partition authors cannot be overlooked and underestimated. The male partition authors depicted the picture of females in their work according to their own view point. The sufferings, hardships and predicaments of females were overlooked and ignored by male partition authors. The works of partition written by female authors provided a realistic and grim picture of millions of females who were doubly exploited-first, they were the target of sexual abuse and malafied intentions of males during this historical event. They were raped, paraded naked, abducted and exploited sexually on the basis of sex and gender; and second, they were the common victims of partition like males and children.

Taslima Nasreen, a Muslim partition novelist from Bangladesh, occupies a unique position in the realm of Bengali literature so far as Bangladesh is concerned. She voices her demands against the oppression on the harmless and innocent female counterparts of the society by the male dominated members of the families. For her philanthropic outlook and humanitarian activities, she had to face criticism and was even ostracized from her own country and community and she was also deprived of citizenship from her own motherland.

Taslima Nasreen, a Bangladeshi Muslim novelist, depicts the horrible picture of displacement and evacuation of Muslim people (men and women) from one country to other. In her remarkable work, *Phera*, the novelist projects the idea that they are not geographically isolated and refugees, but from social and emotional point of view also they remain refugees.

Jamila Hashmi is one of the significant female Muslim authors writing about partition event. She was a Pakistani novelist and short-story writer. Most of her works are written in Urdu language. Her first novel, *Attish-e-Rufta* was also produced as a serial on television. Her work, *Talash-e-Baharan* received Adamjee Literary award. She also wrote some short-stories which earned her a worldwide name and fame. Born in 1934 in Amritsar, Jamila Hashmi writes her works related to Punjabi and Sikh culture. She was also a social activist. She wrote many works based on the historical event of partition in which *When Memories Become Traumatic*, *Dasht-e-Soos*, *Chehra ba Chehra Roo-ba-Roo*, *Talash-e-Baharan* are worthy of detailed consideration.

Her short-story, *Banished* is a powerful rendering of a Muslim girl who is torn between Hindu and Muslim riots during the partition of India. She has very faithfully and sincerely depicted the automatic experience of millions of Muslim people who were displaced from their native land.

Khadija Mastoor as a Muslim partition and short-story writer, occupies a significant and prominent place among the Muslim partition authors. As a partition novelist and a short-story writer, Mastoor's contribution cannot be overlooked and neglected. *Aangan*, a book on partition issue by her was published in 1962. It is a masterpiece that won her a worldwide recognition as a partition author. The novel, *A Promised Land* occupies important position among the partition novels. It is a powerful description of mutilated reality of partition.

Another work by her, *The Women's Courtyard*, translated from the Urdu language by Daisy Rockwell, is a masterpiece of patriarchal set-up of society. The novelist has depicted females behind regressive patriarchal households before and after partition. It also depicts the life of women in refugee camps where they faced gross discrimination on the basis of sex and gender.

The Great Partition by Yasmeen Khan, A Muslim female writer, brings out the dramatic account in much needed ground level details and open of partition stories to more varied interpretation. Here the author recalls the partition of the Indian sub-continent into two Nations states in 1947. The author delineates beautifully the story of partition from the painful experience of traumatized common people during the evacuation either to Pakistan or India. Further, she says that how this partition was based on messy and turbulent foundation is the key-concern of the book. After the independence came there was the much after the independence came it's this novel

Yasmeen Khan provides the readers a realistic and authentic delineation of partition event. Through her eye witness details, she tries to piece together the story of the novel, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan*. She reveals how the population was blind to the obvious effects that partition is going to take place and how it led to catastrophes. The author has analysed the event with a fresh insight. In order to present realistic and convincing picture of this historical event, Khan assembles an impressive array of sources from all levels of the social and political spectrum. The political leadership who should have been better prepared for the possibility of violent mass migration, remained changed after the power was transferred.

Sunlight on a Broken Column by Attia Hosain is a powerful exploration of trauma of partition. This novel presents the grim legacy of partition and in fact, is truly regarded as the hidden gem of partition literature. It is a faithful reflection of anger and violence against common masses in general, and women in particular. Being a part of progressive writers' movement, Attia Hosain, like Sadat Hasan Manto and Chughtai, depicts the life of people victims of partitions. The novel beautifully illustrates the loss and longing that reflects upon personal journey as women, even as the country she is closely intimated, is torn apart.

The first three parts of the novel are an authentic delineation of Laila's growing in a rich and cultural land-owning family in Lucknow. During this period, the conflict between Congress Party and the Muslim League has been described vividly and graphically. It is the time of political upheaval when the politics has divided the people, and even father and son in family find themselves in opposite camps of ideology.

Not only Laila's life, but also the life of his two cousins-Saleem and Kemal is affected by partition of India and Pakistan. It divides and distances them as Saleem makes his choice for Pakistan, while Kemal opts for India. The enigma of partition is the subject of their discussion as both reflect and argue over the merits and demerits of their decisions. After the departure of Saleem and his wife to Pakistan, Laila's asserts: "it was easier for them thereafter to visit the whole wide world than the home which had once been theirs."

The present work is a brilliant castigation of communal frenzy between the Hindus and the Muslims in contrast to the agitation against the British regime. The novelist has perceived the divided and rule policy adopted by British authority. This is evident through the novelist when he says: "hate each other, loves us." When the fear regarding it is expressed by Zahid with some apprehensions when he says: "There might be riots that year during the festival of Muharram." This fear is very well expressed in the words of Asad when he says: "May be because there haven't been any for too long, not even Hindu Muslim ones. Something must be done to prove that the British are here to enforce law and order, and stop skilling each other."

In this way, after making a close and incisive study of different female partition novelists, we can safely and rightly aver the fact that their contribution to the partition novel was equally important and significant. They depicted the situation of females from feministic viewpoint which was totally different from the image of females projected by male partition authors.

II. WORKS-CITED

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