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**A SERIES OF MISFORTUNES, SORROWNESS AND REJECTION IN THE LIFE OF ANITA  
DESAI WOMEN'S CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL OF FASTING, FEASTING**

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**Abstract**

Anita Desai gained a remarkable position among the contemporary writers. Her women characters stand unique in their own style and expression. As encircled the emptiness and the inner journey of a characters expressed the extreme sensitive and thinkable situations in while they placed, it is mirroring that there is a journey of misfortunes and rejection, writers like Shashi Deshpande, Arundhati Roy also focus the women problems and depicts the women characters that face the challenging situation in the indifferent society. Deshpande somewhat presented the middle class educated women. Desai's fasting feasting presented the circumstances in which parents clearly expresses the harsh attitude towards their daughter, on the other hand favorable circumstances are provided to their son, concerning his position in the family he is enjoying all sorts of beatings, getting good education, caring affectionate progressive environment in which he lives. On the other side when daughter upbringing is concerned, she is surrounded by the rejected suffocated environment and at every step faces the ignorable behavior which leads to alienation, boredom, distress, anxiety and tension. Uma's life is a journey of boredom and rejection, having not completed education and heavy rejection by parents so that life goes to the unhappy and unsuccessful marriage it clearly seems that she comes in this world only to care others and always burden with the defined duties of serving and feeding others. While introducing Uma's father sense of humor, Desai remarks that "his success of a joke was measured according to the amount of this comfort it caused others".

Keyword- Misfortunes, Affection, Rejection

Fasting and feasting is a novel with a unique title. Both the words fasting and feasting are contradictory to each other. Desai introduces many female characters in the novel.

In one of her statement, Anita Desai declares: "All my writing is an effort to discover, to underline and convey the true significance of things.... Next to

this exploration of the underlying truth and the discovery of a private mythology and philosophy it is style that interests me most— and by this, I mean the conscious labour of uniting language and symbol, word and rhythm.... One must find a way to unite the inner and the outer rhythms, to obtain a ascertain integrity and to impose order on chaos".

A famous critic argues about Anita Desai that, "Her novel is concerned with the emotional world of women, revealing a rare, imaginative awareness of various deeper forces at work and a profound understanding of feminine sensibility."

At the many steps of the novel when goes deep into the life of female characters of the novel. There is a realisation of emptiness. A different attitude is shown by the parents towards their daughters and son is prevailing all over the novel the two daughters Uma and Aruna, one gets attention and other rejection. While portraying the female characters by Anita Desai there are Uma, Aruna, Anamika, Uma's mother Mrs. Patron and Milani all have gone through a feeling of incompleteness, gloomy and dissatisfaction in the beginning novel is focused on Uma's life who goes through a series of misfortunes, rejection and unhappiness and a feeling of boredom, when a brother. Arun comes in the world her life changes completely. Some of reasons she has to leave her school where she wants to continue her study and also follows many rejection and dissatisfaction in her married life, in this house there is Uma's mother who sees the things only through the eyes of her husband whatever her husband decides and feels then watering by her in his husband thoughts.

When the novel opens Uma's life is focused on her life Anita Desai conveys the many horse reality e of the indifferent society even in the educated family where parents take different attitudes and opinions towards their kids.

In one of the incident, Uma's mother said that

"In my day, girls in the family were not given sweets, nuts, good things to eat. If something special had been bought in the market, like sweets or nuts, it was given to the boys in the family."

Uma's wishes are shattered by the parents authoritative nature she wants to join music class after her school time but gets rejection due result not allowed to attend the class. Being a overweight and aged Uma's mother has to accept the pregnancy for hoping that new baby will be son at that incident Uma's father remarked that

"Would any man give up the chance of a Son"

Uma goes through the feeling of rejection when she has to leave the school only due to get less grade in exams and also so there is a need of a person in the house who looks after the newly born baby who is Uma's brother on this episode mama says-

"you know no you faded your exams again you are being moved up what's the use of going back to school stay at home and look after your baby". Uma is always busy to look after her brother indirect activity like to bathing, remove his nappy then always hears the same repetitions by her mother."

"Girl have to learn these things too you know, she said"

A feeling of pride runs through Uma's father's veins when Arun is born. It seems that he not only made Uma's mother his wife but also, he has made her the mother of his son, when Arun was born, her mother looks-

"Mama ' chin lifted into the air, she looked around her to make sure everyone saw and noticed she might have been wearing a medal."

"Mama sailed out with an added air of achievement. She had matched Papa's achievement, you could say, and they were now more equal than ever."

"At this Uma feels disgusted by is this romance or love between mama and papa all this is fake at one moment she realizes."

Uma's brother Arun is one in the family who enjoys and taste all sorts of life.

"He is the only one who is given left in and finger bowl they are emblems of his status

when papa retired from the office he would demand to know how much is son had consumed and answer head to be given it had to be free size and it had to be one that pleased."

All this pattern of incident in the novel reflects that there is a tremendous difference between saying and doing in father's working. All over the environment severely hurts Uma's life.

When Uma goes through much feeling of boredom rejection and in security, She always refuses to attend any occasion in which the parent takes part. Whenever they go outside at the same time she feels privacy and to collect the card and bangles in order to arrange the past memories, makes a reserve circle of memories around her, feels delight and comfort, soothes her emotions. There was silent all over that was what Uma felt her own life to have been full of box ovals message and now offence.

. Always busy in doing household work she is continuously supervised by her parents. One of the incident first half of the novel, when Miramasi visited the Uma's home and sitting in the veranda due to fever, Miramar is lying on the mat while murmuring the prayers and goes to sleep at the same time whenever her eyes opens ,glance at Uma to supervise which makes her uncomfortable.

"Uma was perfectly happy not to be noticed she had never been more unsupervised or happier in her life"

Anamika also faces a lot of rejection, disappointments, frustration and misfortunes throughout her life not only led by her fate but her in-law family. She is always bitten by her mother-in-law while her husband stands there and approves. She spends most of the time in the kitchen to feed the large family who takes food in shifts and after remaining time in rubbing the utensils when the pots are not clearly washed then her mother -in- law throws them on the ground and again, she has to clean the pot again. She never goes but to house except to the temple with the other woman, Anamika has never been out alone with her husband due to wild beating by in- laws family. She has miscarriage and at last she is killed by her in-law family by pouring the kerosene oil on her body and burns.

Melanie is another character who travels through the many sufferings and disease in her life who is introduced in the second half of the novel. She is suffering with the disease bulimia in which a patient wants to eat something every time under the hysteria. She leads a life of loneliness and never engage with other family members, always eating

candies and does vomiting after that at one of the moment in the novel after vomiting she falls down on the ground and other family members think that she has dead while going through the attack of anxiety, depression, hysteria living a disaffection and disquiet life.

Arun notices her crying eyes, the loneliness, and the confusion.

There is an expression of frustration on Melanie's face "against neglect, against misunderstanding, against inattention to her unique and singular being and its hungers. She has grievances against everything and everyone around her. The reason of all these seems to be absence of a sense of belonging in the family where it is all mechanical and monotonous

Every pattern and intrigue of the novel reflects that there is an environment of hollowness, depression, frustration, loneliness and rejection in which the life of female characters is burning and patriarchal system forcing them to live a suffocated life and discontented life.

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