



UNCONSCIOUSNESS LOOMING OVER CONSCIOUSNESS IN 'THAT LONG SILENCE'

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ABSTRACT

That Long Silence has written by shashi Deshpande deals majorly with feministic issues along with the '*Stream of Consciousness*'. The female protagonist *Jaya* engulfs all what she sees or hears from others and develops her own thinking taking everything in her own way Throughout the novel she seems to be silent from outside but in reality she is struggling with her own identity with a tumult of thoughts in her mind. A great impact of her father's death in her early age whom she loves the most and who loved her the most supposedly is the major cause of her psychological change in behaviour .secondly, she feels distressed in her relations with her husband partially due to her husband *Mohan's* reluctance to lead a love life rather simple husband-wife relationship and partially due to sufferings of people around her she gets highly affected. The novel gives a critical study of psychological aspects in a human if he /she is not able to reveal their innate feelings and their life reaches on the verge of shattering.

Key-Words:Psycho-analytic study, Mortality, poverty, Domestic violence and so on.

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INTRODUCTION

'Self-Revelation is a cruel process. The real picture, the real you never emerge. Looking for it is as bewildering as trying to know how you really look. Ten different mirrors show you ten different faces.'

As self-exclaimed by the female- protagonist *Jaya* of the novel 'That Long Silence' *Jaya* reveals to the readers that nobody is able to reveal himself/herself perfectly and openly to others .She says it a cruel process as the person has to undergo some complex analysis of himself/herself .There are so many aspects which we feel easy to explain about us while some aspects fee la bar to be explained because we cannot explain how the others feel about that form of ours. So, it's really very difficult to be naked in front of

others, as it may expose those parts which you never wanted to show others due to the absurdity you feel about them.

When *Jaya* enters in the 'Dadar flat 'with *Mohan*, She remembers the bits of past spent with *Kusum* when she would come to see her before. She starts thinking about the incidence as it is really going on in present also, while actually, *Kusum* is no more.

'My God, *Kusum*, why have you let the place get so dirty?'Dramatically I had to flung the tiny window wide open. 'It's stinking. Can't you at least open the window? And flush each time?'

'I can't', she had confessed humbly.

'I pull the chain but nothing happens.'

'Look.....!'How I had enjoyed the moment, it

came back to me clearly, both my triumphs and my pleasure in it, and Kusum's crushed, bewildered face. 'Look, this is all you have to do.'

Jaya gets irritated with funny and quiver behaviour of Kusum since their childhood. She remembers one special thing about Kusum in childhood that she used to do.

Whenever Dada was about, she would sidle past him a kind of exaggerated modesty that had both enraged me and made me want to laugh.

Though Kusum was never liked or appreciated by Jaya but she always felt connected with her in all matters. From the beginning of the novel, till the end, Jaya talks about Kusum. Kusum had made a deep patch on the ground of Jaya's memory. Kusum was alive in her memories. Kusum was the sufferer until her end. She was an unlucky child of her mother. Her father never worked even for a day and spent all on smoking and other evils. Her mother could never get palm off bearing the kids. Her lap was full of Kusum's youngest siblings. All the children suffered due to this environment but Dilip. Dilip, the brother of Kusum was the eldest son among all. Kusum could no longer enjoy her wedded life as she engrossed herself in setting up house. The burden of kid bearing and her declining mental status led her to depart from her own kids by the strict decision of her husband. She wanted to remain with them but could not manage. Finally, just before her husband was to leave her back her to her mother's home, she committed suicide by jumping into a dry well and died. Jaya had developed a great sympathy for her even though she felt upset to see her around. She started observing herself under the same perspective. This led them both in a union even being so different to each other. She could not forget her so she always used to talk to Kusum in her mind.

Kamat was none of importance to Jaya, as Jaya herself mentioned. But from secretly she had a specific yet deep root of connection with him though the novel suggests unawareness of Jaya about her feelings. The early portion of the novel starts with the recalling of a memory related to Kamat.

"Jaya-your name is like your face," Kamat had said. And I asked him, "How?"

Although, Jaya herself feels there no necessity to talk about Kamat and proves that he meant nothing to her. Still, there is something deeper from the roots the reader can recognize between them both. She tells about him that he was after *Appa* and *Mohan* who had given her a touch.

Physical touching is for me a momentous thing it was only Appa who hugged me as a child, and after him there was Mohan.....and this man.....I can remember how his gift of casual physical contact had amazed me.

Her short life experience is not revealed in a series but the bits of her memories and a serious conversation with *Mukta* leads us to know what actually might have happened to Kamat and what the main story between them two was. Jaya could never confess it openly that she would feel much cozy with Kamat than with Mohan, because she thought it would affect her married life. She was not attracted towards Kamat but was amazed to see how correctly Kamat would understand her always. She never talked about Kamat to Mohan because she felt a sense of danger in telling anything to Mohan.

Jaya's Appa was the biggest reward and motivation Jaya had ever had in her life. God had bestowed upon her His blessings in form of her father. Her father named her 'Jaya'. Jaya recalls of her birth date i.e. 3rd of September 1939. She says it would have seemed an ill-omened date by itself.

"I named you Jaya," he said. "Jaya for victory."

She was deeply attached with her father and was proud of the affection her father had bestowed upon her. Jaya was very upset to hear from her brother about his death. She could not control her emotions in various situations. She would become upset.

Jaya when comes to know of Nayna's miseries, concerns about her situation. Actually Jaya is a very sentimental character. She soon gets affected

with her outer environment and behaves in that particular way totally unaware. Nayna is facing the agony of poverty, male child mortality, and domestic violence.

As Mohan tells Jaya about the accidental situation with him, he takes Nair's name by which Jaya starts imagining the whole incidence of Nair's life and death. It also happens so naturally in her mind that she can see them live. All this is just her unconscious mind's creativity. She sees from the far to herself and Mohan following their relationship. She compares her couple to a pair of bullocks yoked together. When she enters the Dadar flat she comes in contact with the ghosts of Makarandmama, Ravi, Chandumama etc. And astonishes if Mohan can also see them .In fact, she always at all situations at all places keeps on pondering the various issues which makes her mentally absent from her recurrent place. She is always indulged in thinking, yielding a complex state of mind which makes her unaware of her round-about. The novel totally presents the psycho-analytic study of human relations and human issues.

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