
Sujata Parashar's the Temple Bar Woman: A Study in Revenge Tale

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Received: 01 October 2021 **Accepted:** 26 January 2022 **Published:** 01 March 2022

Abstract: Sujata Parashar is a blooming Indian Writer in English. She has credited more than half dozen of novels. Her fictions are labeled as bollywood in book. Her novels are like a Hindi film. Romance, thrill and suspense are the core part of novel. The Temple Bar Woman is the best example of bollywood movies. The present novel is the picture of a girl who is victim of this unjust system. She is simple woman of character but due to the social system she enters in political filed to take revenge of her enemy. She is gang raped by the Vikram Singh the son of political leader. She is a daughter of headmaster and she herself is the teacher. With her friend she encounters with Vikram Singh. He misbehaves so she insults him in the village fair. Virkam takes the revenge of his insult by raping her. The story does not end here. She was in unconscious state and she was left in brothel. The place of prostitute and red light area, here she meets the Rkshit Singh a budding business tycoon and leading politician. He is unknown about her past life. With the help of Rakshit Singh and Habiba Bi she decides to take revenge and achieves success. Tit for tat is saying proved, reaction to action take place and she becomes the role model for the next coming generation. She stands as a model of rise, revolt and raise her voice.

Keywords: *Tale, Revenge, Brothel, Temple, Bar, JSP, Cabinet, Impulsive.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indian Writing in English and with special reference to women's Indian Writing in English is concerned; it can be observed that it's a stage of total maturity of women's writing in Indian scenario. Women have their own world of suffering, subjugation, suppression, depression, physical and mental level torture. But as on today we can see a changed panorama. Women have their own power to rise, revolt, and revenge. Now she is not Sita, Draupadi or Savitri of Satyawana. She is Kali (Durga) the goddess of revenge. She is mother sister and friend but she is too revenge taker. She has been given this power only because of education. She can speak, writes, protests and takes revenge. In ancient time her life was limited to cooking and



bearing children now her role is changed from modernity from suffering to tit for tat. She is aware of her fundamental rights of human rights.

Sujata Parashar is an activist and author of several fictions. Which are suitable to Bollywood movies. She is representative of post-post modern era. She is the recipient of Karamveer Chakara Award. She witnesses LPG woman in power and women empowerment in all walks of life. Creative writing and political representation in local and assembly polls is the controversial issues. Besides these hurdles so many women have imprints in the field of politics. They have proved their need and importance in the political field. Some of them come in politics accidentally but few come due to reservation policies and very few due to their intention and purpose. The main purpose of this paper is to learn, how to deal with the Gundas in political field and take revenge. Not to surrender to situation instead of it face the critical situation and come over the problems or insult. Seek justice, take justice, and become an exceptional example before the forthcoming generation. Scope of this paper is limited to this novel only. Its exploration limited to subject. Analytical and comparative approach will be preferred to judge the novel. Here an honest attempt is made to show the writer is successful to relate to the present situation in Indian politics. What is revenge? Everybody knows the word, it is an anger or a strong feeling of reverse, rise and react. The reaction is always negative to any situation or incident. But thoughtful reaction always gives justice to victims. Now let's see how the writer Sujata Parashar is successful to depict a tale of revenge in her popular fiction *The Temple Bar Woman*

The present novel is an apt example to show the intention of female character like Radhika Choudhari. She enters in politics with purpose to take revenge. She is very close to the case of Phoolandevi. The only difference is that she belongs to off stream and Radhika belongs to main stream. Radhika is a daughter of Choudhari family and her father is a head master of Eklavay High school. She is too a school teacher. She encounters with Vikram Singh in village fair. She goes with her friend and gang raped by the political leader's son called Vikram Singh. When she was in unconsciousness state she was carried in van. This is turning point in her life she is kidnapped and left in brothel called The Temple Bar. It is a prostitute area and under the control of Habiba Bi and her agent and customer. She is very popular in that red light area. Many elite class and rich political men used to visit this location. Rakshit Singh and Bharat Singh both are the regular customer of Habiba Bi. Habiba has illegal son from Bharat Singh but Arif Khan is denied his right as Singh it is spark of quarrel among both side. Habiba Bi is helpless in this situation. She does not want to cross her limitation. Power can spoil the character of man and position can harm the common man and women of society. Habiba Bi and her maid servant Jhumki tries to convince Radhika, her life as a prostitution but Radhika is not ready to accept it. She decides to forget her past experience and start a new life but with different vision and mission. She tells her dream to teach a lesson to Vikram Singh. She was in search of an opportunity and Habiba Bi is the main source and medium to reach at him. Radhika swiftly changes the mind set of Habiba Bi. Habiba is a local, famous sex worker with a huge network of landlords, rich politician, businessmen and many more. Rakshit Singh was too her regular customer, once Rakshit Singh visits the Temple Bar. He is introduced with Radhika who was not ready to entertain him as customer. He was a business tycoon and upcoming politician wants to develop his image does not disturb Radhika after several meeting he does not harm her. Close relationship develops between them as intimate friend, he decides to appoint caretaker of his lonely



daughter Neer. Later on in the course of time she becomes his advisor. Time goes Radhika becomes more firm and dominant in Rakshit Singh family as member of his family she attends many meeting and parties.

Now let's see the first decision and encounter of Radhika, "Besides she herself did not have any proof against Vikram and without it, none would believe or accept his felonies. Still she knew that if Habiba agreed to help her, thing would become easier. For one she needed a place from where she could execute her plan without having to look for help elsewhere or reveal her real identity, and Temple Bar was just right place"(TWB.109) This is beginning of revenge process in which she appeals to Rakshit Singh as well as Habiba Bi. Whose strong support can make her revenge easy? Once just glance at the following conversation, "please think about it Habiba Bi; we are both victims of his atrocities and if we work together, we can expose him in front of very people, who you think highly of him. Radha repeated her request, gathering all her courage. Besides, I am not going anywhere from this city, till I avenge myself. Even, if you don't help me. I will find a way to destroy him" (TBW.125) above request is enough to judge and evaluate the revenge that is the main aspect of this story.

When Rakshit Singh proposes to Radhika for marriage let's see her reaction of Radhika on this proposal, "why does he want to marry me? She asked herself. Why did he have to spoil our friendship? I can never marry, does not he realize that I can never feel anything for any man after what that bastard and his friend did to me" (TBW.190) In the course of time a care taker turns into a life partner but the last part of novel reveals the real revenge. She becomes an advisor, from advisor to MLA and part chief. She takes the revenge when she dishonors Vikram Pratap Singh and his father Bharat Singh. In this way she destroys the political career of Vikram Pratap Singh.

The following conversation proves that really the present novel is a tale of revenge by Sujata Parashar. Its an epilogue of this novel, " yes there is! A lot that you don't know ! And today you will have to hear it out, Rakshit Singh, said Radhika raising her voice. I am not what you think. I am and I did not come here to live with you to take away anything. I come here to avenge my dishonor." (TBW.207) Taking into consideration of above statement it true that the main purpose of Radhika is to take revenge and not to achieve the political post and position. Her firmness and efforts make her successful in her mission. The main goal of her life is to punish for her insults. Really it was or it is the mentality of men to look a woman from the sensual point of view. She wants to give justice to all the women in the world.

Radhika clears in the following words, "That what I am doing. Look Rakshit I don't want to be Chief-Minister. I never wanted to be one. You are better suited for that role. But now I have this opportunity. I want use it to my advantage. I want to punish that rascal and friends in public. You have to help me! Please! She said finally breaking down. (TBW.210)

However, Rakshit Singh, an upcoming politician get intrigued by her plight, asks her to be his daughter's governess. Radhika aka Rani after the tragedy turns out to become a stronger than ever woman whose life's motive is only to take revenge from Vikram who has destroyed her life. Luckily, she gets a second chance through Rakshit Singh to avenge but not all rape survivors are as lucky as her. How she takes her revenge? How Habiba and her son help her to take her revenge is worth-knowing.

In the last part of tale Rakshit Singh becomes the CM. Bharat Singh accepted Arif Khan as his son and Habiba Bi as his wife. Vikram Pratap Singh is given custody for life



imprisonment. The end of the story is quite a Bollywood style that the female lead finally gets justice.

2. CONCLUSION

the present novel realistically narrates a story of woman who has taken the form of *Kali* and gives punishment to monster like Virkam Singh. Radhika is representative of twenty first century women. A decision can change your life and a changed life is role model for the forthcoming generation. Radhika is the fit example of firm decision of making and action taking woman. She once decides and completes mission of her life only because she believes in herself and not any other. Helps and cooperation comes to her automatically. The above discussion is enough to prove that Sujata parashar's *The Temple Bar Woman* is a tale of revenge. There is no need of other parameters, her explanation and conversation explains and proves that revenge is the recurrent theme of *The Temple Bar Woman*. Tit for tat is saying proved, reaction to action take place and she becomes the role model for the next coming generation. She stands as a model of rise, revolt and raise her voice. To underestimate the power of woman is very dangerous. Now a day's women are fully aware of their fundamental rights. They are not now a suffering puppet in the hand of man. She has her own thought, opinion and world too. The present novel is the best example of women in power not in the process of empowerment. She is separate entity. She is fully independent.

3. REFERENCES

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