

GLIMPSES OF FEMININE CONCUPISCENCE IN KHUSHWANT SINGH'S THE COMPANY OF WOMEN

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I quote, "**The natural thing, my lord, men and women joined,**"⁽¹⁾ says Homer the great Greek poet of Illiad fame. In his masterpiece poem he has advocated the universal truth that joining of men and women together in physical form is as natural as fall of water from a cascade originating from any hilltop. Marilyn Monroe, the great American artist also quips, "**I think that sexuality is only attractive when it is natural and spontaneous.**"⁽²⁾ Right from Vatsyayana to D.H. Lawrence and a host of other philosophers have opined that sex relationships are natural and it must not be treated as taboo. Only then it can be truly enjoyed. It should be above gender restriction and age-restriction. Only the two souls agreeing to each other at a particular time be allowed to perform coitus that too in a secluded or natural surroundings. And, these facts have been aptly established in Khushwant Singh's magnum opus "The company of women". The present paper deals with feminine concupiscence in the fiction. Mohan Kumar, the chief protagonist of the novel "The company of women" is a Delhi-based tycoon who is a great womanizer. He is a Don Juan type who easily wins women of different kinds by dint of his extraordinary seductive power. But, the women who come closer to him also become equally active in the games of coitus because of his magical art of love-making.

This novel is revolutionary in a sense that Mohan Kumar's feminine counterparts are equally **proactive** right from the beginning of the story to the end. In chapter two of the novel when Mohan seduces his sweepress Dhanno and gropes her body erotically she reacts as follows and I quote :

Not like this, sahib, she murmured. 'you must be like me.' She unbuckled his belt and pulled his trousers down she gasped. 'Sahib, I have never seen anything so big.'⁽³⁾ ***I unquote.***

This reaction of Dhanno is enough to establish the fact that such a common women of India does not want to stick to one relationship today. The 21st Century women have started breaking the restrictions imposed upon them either by the orthodox society or the family. They have begun to love flirtation and they have started playing equal role in the game of copulation.

Next to Dhanno, it is professor Sarojini Bhardwaj from Rewari who causes to Mohan Kumar to enjoy the blues of carnal life. She belongs to a middle class family and is a single-mother. Her concupiscence is evident in chapter four when she boldly utters these words during her coital rapport with Mohan Kumar in her private conversation :

***He kissed her nipples and took
One breast in his month. She began
to gurgle with pleasure. ‘Don’t
neglect the other one; she murmured.
He did the same to the other breast.
He unbuttoned his trousers and she felt
His stiff penis throb against her belly.
‘My God you are big!’ She exclaimed
in alarm. This thing will tear me
to pieces’. She clasped it in between
her thighs to prevent it piercing her.⁽⁴⁾***

Thus, the above excerpt sufficiently establishes that the western values of life is rapidly overtaking Indian life-style. Hunger for satisfaction of concupiscence is natural both among men and women. But some decades back women were not allow to express their sexuality in our patriarchal society. But, in course of time, this taboo is taking shape a liberty. Today girls and women in India have started enjoying their **coital rights** assertively--- of course with the partners of their choice, persons closer to them, above caste, creed, religion and age. Today, they want to satisfy their orgasm by hook or by crook. High literacy, bolder films, modern fictions and different **genres** of internet have played vital role in bringing about this drastic change in the status of modern girls. Modern Indian girls are no more imprisoned birds. They franking follow the philosophy of the world famous English novelist D.H. Lawrence who says and I quote :

***“As long as we live, we
are the transmitters of life.
sex is a flow, a real flow
onward. It is the dirt to check***

***check its flow.... a sexless person
transmits nothing.***⁽⁵⁾

It is said that literature mirrors society. We find it true in case of “The company of women” too. Almost all the feminine characters of the novel represent the changing feminine psyche of India. In true sense modern Indian women of urban and sub-urban surroundings are fast becoming modern. Almost all feminine characters of Shobha De’s novels testify this fact. The female protagonists of all the novels of Chetan Bhagat undergo pre-marital copulation. Many modern Indian novelists– both men and women are writing ingenuously and making their female characters speak out with all freedom, without any restraint.

How a western girl can be reciprocal about her concupiscence is evident when Mohan Kumar’s American girl-friend breaks **his virginity** in Princeton, USA. It was in her company that Mohan experiences his maiden coital pleasure. Her name is Jessica Browne. The following statement of Mohan tells all about her initiative in the sacred game of coition. I quote:

“She took me to her bed, pulled me above her and directed my thing into her. I felt giddy and breathless--with sheer joy as she took me in. She gasped with pleasure as I went inside her. I could not control myself. This was my first time and I spent myself, moaning helplessly, almost as I entered her. I never imagined sex could be so thrilling. But I wished it had lasted longer.”⁽⁶⁾

I unquote. Here it is the narrator who explains how Jessica guides him to enjoy his maiden feminine contact in which he loses his virginity. Jessica is a western-bred girl and, therefore, it is somewhat natural if she takes initiatives in course of coital games. But, the focus of the author is Indian feminine psyche which is now-a-days quite close to the **Occidental** feminine psyche in such cases.

Though, many young women come in the company of Mohan Kumar in this novel, but some are unforgettable because of their high reciprocative gestures. One of them is Molly Gomes of Goa who is a trained nurse specializing in physiotherapy. It is her honest confession in conversation with Mohan that is

both sizzling and truthful. She acknowledges that she *enjoyed sex* at the age of fourteen only when her own maternal uncle forced himself upon her and I quote :

“Anyway it happened one afternoon when he came to cau on my parents and they were not at home. I was still in my school uniform–short frock which ended above my knees, barely covering my thighs. He kissed me, as he always did, but this time on my lips. He sat down on the sofa, pulled me onto his lap and started kissing the back of my neck and my ears. I could feel his prick getting stiff and large against my bum. He began to fondle my breasts, the squeeze them roughly. He was all out of breath. I knew he was up to no good and should have stopped him. But I was pretty worked up too and let him go on. He put me on the sofa, pushed my frock up and pulled my panties down roughly.

Then he fumbled with his trouser buttons, managed to get his fat dick out and shoved it in me, all in one go. He was an impatient man. It hurt and I screamed in agony. He pulled out after a few violent thrusts and split all his gooey stuff on my thighs.”⁽⁷⁾

The aforesaid confession of Molly Gomes is actually historic in a sense that there is hardly any character like her in any Indian English novel who accepts that she actually ‘enjoyed’ sex at a young age, while many of them do enjoy it in Indian families in *incestuous relationships*.

Thus, on the basis of above survey it can be said that women are globally becoming **expressive as well as reciprocal** in the matters of carnal relationships. They are equally liberated today. Yes, in Eastern world, specially in rural surroundings, the change is slow. But, time is not far when they will also start asserting their coital rights and choices. Social media and television is playing

vital role in making them free and liberated. Khushwant Singh's "The company of women" is undoubtedly a classic novel so far as delineation of feminine concupiscence is concerned. A great advocate of feminine freedom *Roman Payne* has rightly said,

***"A woman must prefer
her liberty over a man.
To be happy she must."***¹⁸⁾

*Thanks for hearing
me patiently. If there is
Any question. You are welcome.*

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