

Breaking the silence in That Long Silence

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That Long Silence by Shashi Desh Pande is a fantastic novel which exhibits the inner emotions and the quest myth of a middle class woman whose feelings and the individuality got suppressed by her husband. Jaya, the protagonist of the novel was at not at all recognised by her husband in the family life. The cultural barriers and the society made her life extended and she never wanted herself to lose her position as being a mother. Any way a woman is need of the domestic cover 'a family woman. Only under the cover family woman, She has much respect and divine dimension. The love, attachment and the passion she has much focus with the life and with the family concern. In the novel, *That Long Silence* Jaya, the protagonist has been portrayed as a strong woman of silence who stooped herself to make her family life to conquer in the society. The love and affection she had over her children helped her to bare all the problems she faced with her husband. She did not want any domestic crisis because of her longing for individuality. Her husband has not showed his love to her. But when once she faced a problem that he indulged in some mal practice in his office he has accused her that she was the Cause of all his problems. Instead of getting the love she has received only abuse. In the family all the decisions have been taken only by him. He has not felt any illness to feel of being unscrupulous words he said on. It has been a great blow in her mind that her heart felt heavy when she heard it. The protagonist has no chance to reveal her inner and feelings over him. The main concept of marriage has torn out and the phenomenal structure got thwarted. Jaya felt a oscillation between herself and the pretending inner Jaya. Her inner mind is longed for the quest myth, but because of culture and other family barriers she never wants to exhibit herself as a self longing person. According to Jaya, she and her husband Mohan was two bullock yoked together in a bullock art. It was heavy for Jaya to move in the same direction it has been shown by him. From her childhood she has been enveloped by her parents and later with the orders of her husband and the society. Her silence has not been known and she kept quiet. Her longing for life and for herself respect is long the past seventeen years. Once she has written a short story and it has been recognised but even then she could not continue because of her husband's attitude. All his behaviour makes a great obstacle in life which hinders not only her improvement but also for the self identity. She wants herself to come up beyond him. But on seeing his problems she has total onfusion and she could not get any motivation or moral support from his friend. She says, " Looking at this stricken face, I had been convinced. I had done him wrong. And I had stopped writing after that" (144). She has also changed to Jaya from Suhasini according to his wish. All the words must be his words and his work. But when he has faced the problem in the office, he needs her to be a moral support. That support and feel she could not give due to the lack of communication gap and the silence she maintained. When she had good friendship with the neighbour Kamat she has unable to feel

herself as a free bird. Her life has a devoted life to her husband. Even being in his adamant domination she wants to sustain her life as a mother for the kids. The love and longing was great. When the situations come in to a track a both of them were advised to move to Dardar flat the old place. They felt a great pain and they left the child with the neighbour and moved to the Dardar flat. The long silence and the communication gap moved the life in the silence. Jaya could not comfort herself of being lonely in the Dardar without the child. Everything went wrong and the life goes harsh without the smart move in it. Due to the misunderstanding and the grown up attitude that he should be obedient to the in laws, she maintained the silence and remained for ever. She did not have enough space to show her expressions or emotions for ever she has to keep everything in her inner heart. Things went on with the same ill feelings and so on. She has thought in the way a woman has no right to be angry at all. “ She asserts a woman can never be angry. She can only be neurotic, hysterical, frustrated” (147). Whereas Mohan got confused and insecure. He needs Jaya ultimately. He thought that he did everything he did is for Jaya and the two children’s. All this is because she kept silence between the two. She wants to break and want to live in a happy life. Always the mythological reference was given to have better grown up for the daughters. Once she has felt that why should all people expect the attitude of suffering and stooping in woman’s life. Is for that woman have her birth for to feel the pain and sufferings. She took the mythical reference for her life. ‘Sita’. How she behaved to her husband and family. She asks herself “Is Woman born to suffer and that too without complain? Hence, she decided “I will have to speak, to listen, I will have to erase the silence between us”.(192). Thus, the great silence between him and her has to be erased and moved to proceed in the life with love. The decision she made to break the silence has the highlight of each woman to take a decision and to move further.

Reference:

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