

IDENTITY PREDICAMENT AND SEARCH FOR VALUES IN BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S JASMINE

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Abstract

Identity is fundamental to each and every human being, because it stands as the means by which a person discovers his/her belonging in society and culture. As in the situation of migrants, several people face identity crises composing their integration into the host community. Jasmine, by Bharati Mukherjee, is a narrative of an Indian rural teenager who settles in America and faces many identity crises in order to find her position in the US culture. This paper delves into Jasmine's expedition of changing distinctiveness, correspondingly depicts how the woman protagonist arises as both a survivor and a strong immigrant in America. Therefore, it is found that the various identities are important especially to subsistence as an immigrant. Bharati Mukherjee, an author who discovers the significance of life via her novels. Her writings are mostly concerned with issues related to women. She primarily focuses on women and depicts the issues of the Indian workers. Moreover, she illustrates the battle of worries and terrible problems by Indian women. The issue of cross-cultural predicament and identity for personality is likewise one of her authoritative subjects. Similarly, the author's writings mirror the current American society's state of mind as observed by Indian immigrants in America.

Keywords: *Identity, Transformations, Immigrant, Survival, Predicament*

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Introduction

Bharati Mukherjee illustrates the problems of adjustment faced by the Indians in the West. Her works projects the descriptions of Indians, who look for a superior life, and challenge the issues of adjustment and survival. Additionally, Mukherjee delineates the social conflict between the East and the West. At one stage, while leaving a country where a person is born, the life in a new country of a person goes into a new ethos. A unique culture collides with the new culture, unlimitedly which she treasures in the outsider land. Moreover, this social transformation accelerates to identity predicament of a person. As migrants are uncertain amongst two distinct communities, the search for identity becomes critical and unquestionably necessary in their lives.

In the novel *Jasmine*, Mukherjee receipts the subject identity crisis. She composes how the female hero attempts to handle the concern of hurt of culture and tries to project character in U.S. In addition, the female hero, Jasmine abandons her own nation to satisfy the desires. However, she works hard to attain it, and eventually realizes that her new identity is not to be an Indian or an American. Previously, it was to find pleasure in her. Jasmine, the heroine of *Jasmine*, is searching for her identity from the day she was born. Eighteen years after the Partition Riots in that area, she had born as Jyotiat Hasnapur in Punjab.

Jasmine investigates Americanization process and highlights the tension between assimilation and cultural preservation. It is a moving narrative of

survival, expediency, concessions, losses, and the adaptations that come with acculturation to American life. Jasmine is an undesired addition to the family members as she is the fifth of nine children. Further, her mother wanted her to be assassinated so that her daughter would not have to go through the misery of India's dowry system.

The woman hero was nearly strangled to death as a girl child therefore her parents may liberate the protagonist from troubles of marriage; nonetheless, the woman in question escaped the assault. In her thought, Jasmine not ever let go of her childhood reminiscences, and she never forgot them. An astrologer predicted the widowhood and exile when the protagonist was seven years childhood. Nevertheless, Jasmine was unconcerned about her fate. She made an effort to rise above irrational beliefs and superstitions in general.

Bharati Mukherjee deserves credit for changing a country teen-ager into the divinity of strength besides demonstrating that women stay not submissive and subservient by nature, on the other hand rather resolute and outspoken. The quiet protects the most powerful storm within her, and when it comes to personal dignity, she, like the goddess, can punish the wrongdoer as well as slay and finish the most powerful demons. She also exposes the society's excruciating wicked side, in which the other becomes a devil when it originates to physical fulfillment. At one place, Jasmine says:

"For the first time in my life, I understood what evil was about. It was about not being human....It was a very simple, very clear perception, a moment of truth, the kind of understanding that I have heard comes at the moment of death." (116)

When Beulah's spouse destined to decease to snakebite on the marriage night, she thought it is fate. Even in adolescence, she realized that she could battle, win all fights and build up a solid personality.

Jasmine, as a result of her religious and cultural upbringing, has been conditioned to believe in fate. Regardless of Jyoti's quality and certainty, she was undermined by dangers, obstacles, and various impediments on her path to individuality. Despite her capacity to understand concepts of influence and control, she is educated by the society into which she was born. Furthermore, it is the primary purpose that she chose to conceal her own self more often than not and conform to the pictures shaped by others. In addition, the protagonist's fathers' announcement that brilliant women are behavior splendid children, that is nature's framework, the girl outrages her father through uncovering her desire that she need to wind up a Doctor.

At the same time, Jyoti's father's unwillingness to obey regulations did not deter her from conveying a small bit of her wish or desire. She realised a little part of her vision when she started staring at Prakash, an extraordinarily young and promising designer. He needed Jyoti to lose the past and become a different thoughtful of woman. Here, Prakash needed toward isolate Jyoti and transform her into different type of metropolitan woman. Therefore, to dissolve the past, Prakash offered her another name: Jasmine, which is the start of another trip for her.

Jasmine marries a contemporary Indian person in the end. On the surface, her existence appears to be nothing more than a break with tradition, a trade of new values for old. Jasmine additionally dealt with her husbands' driving aspiration. At that point, she understood the battle to demonstrate the forecast, which followed the strides since her youth, which she endeavored to flee from it. She is give a new names Jasmine and was

planning to travel to America with her husband to complete his education. The woman was joyfully sharing her husband's wish. Nonetheless, extremists - Khalsa terrorists – assassinated her husband Prakash on the eve of their voyage to the United States. Jasmine felt distressed then upset, her fantasy destroyed and shattered as a result. Rather than spend the respite of the life as a helpless widow in Hasnapur, she elected to travel to America and confer Sati after arriving at the University where her husband is anticipated to study. It is a way for her to prompt wrath at breaking spouse's fantasy. In such a situation, her internal will helped her achieve her main purpose efficiently.

At that point, Jasmine travelled to USA on a bogus passport. Moreover, she cleared out India to get by in contradiction of the powers of fate, however shockingly the American expedition started on a tragic message. Half-Face, who had lost an eye, an ear, and the most of his cheek in a paddy field in Vietnam, assaulted her. He was the Head of the ship that brought Jasmine to America. Half-Face attacked Jasmine in an inn in America at the same time. Subsequently, Half-Face assaulted she do not need to kill herself as she caressed that the main goal is not hitherto finished. Furthermore, she slaughtered him by getting to be Kali embodied, the Goddess of Annihilation. Moreover, she additionally played out a sort of bereavement by consuming the shamed garments emblematically. It is just the death of her hoary personality and the confinement of a novel one. As a result, she embarked on her journey to America. Jasmine's voyage to America to achieve her goal spawned her interior search — to discover her true self and identity. She takes on the shape of the furious goddess Kali. Accordingly, she springs out her tongue and slashes it, the lifeblood spilling out creating ideal picture of the goddess of demolition. Therefore, she kills the wizard besides becomes concerned for a little period, at which point she responds:

“No one to call to, no one to disturb us. Just me and the man who raped me, the man I had murdered. The room looked like a slaughter house, blood has congealed on my hands, my chin, my breast...I was in a room with a slainman, my body blooded was walking death, death incarnate.” (119)

Jasmine was present day young woman who challenged the difficulties of life strongly and battled hard to make due despite all evils. At the time, Jasmine met Lilian Gordon, who became an expectation in her life. Mrs. Gordon was the one who taught her, persuaded her to let go of her former memories, and strengthened her determination to live. She proceeded to visit Professor Vadhera, who assisted Prakash in anchoring affirmation in a designing course, with her guidance. She first stayed at Professor Vadhera’s house. In any event, Jasmine perplexed once she found Mr. Vadhera made his money by teaching and exchanging human hair. In addition, she is not procuring through rigid culture in the home she had to survive as a widow. Consequently, she chose to go out and the transfer demonstrated that self-realization is creating in her life.

This one may be because of cultural assimilation to American mindset and wearing. It is a challenge ready by Jasmine not in contradiction of Indian philosophy, but rather contrary to its retentiveness. Before long, Jasmine acted as a parent figure to Tylor and Wylie Hayes’s diminutive daughter Duff in Manhattan. The name is reformed commencing Jasmine to Jase there. Although acting as a parent figure, she similarly worked in low-wage occupations like as responding phones and teaching graduate scholars in Punjabi at the University. Moreover, she devoured strange philosophy with zeal. Jasmine had developed a personality and was quite self-assured about it at this point in her life. The tug between these two opposing powers, the Indian and the American, prepared not frighten her, but instead stimulated her. Regardless of whether alternate migrants stayed suspended between

these two powers, Jasmine was glad that she could acclimatize the new culture.

The foreign nation instructed to live painlessly besides certainty, disregarding her shaky personality Jasmine provided care and adoration to the individuals who required her as well as who accepted and facilitated her. As a matter of fact, Taylor assisted Jasmine particularly independent of whatever she is. Subsequently his significant other Wyle left him, he caressed that he required enthusiastic help and admitted his adoration to Jasmine. Ultimately, she is overpowered by the genuineness, delicacy, which turned out to be nearer to him.

An additional milestone in Jasmine's lifespan is once she cleaned out Taylor and Duff out of dread, because due to the proximity of Sukhawinder, Khalsa psychological oppressor who executed Prakash in India. At that moment, she travelled to Iowa and met another advocate, Mrs. Ripplemayer, who served as her mother. She obtained a job at a bank in Iowa. She also persuaded bud Ripplemayer to take a position in the broker's core.

Jasmine obligated a serene existence in Bud's home. Meanwhile, she is upbeat of landing another position and of the eminence as a stage mother to Du, a sixteen-year old Vietnam War casualty embraced by Bud. He is isolated from Karin and adult children abandoned him. Around by, she accepted another character and she moved toward becoming Jane from Jase. She viewed herself as a stimulus and not the explanation behind separation of Bud and Karin. Inhumanity collide with her life over again subsequently a disappointed rancher report, Bud from a point clear range, which left him wounded midriff downwards. It endeavored to ease him and brand him certain. Furthermore, she wound up pregnant conveying Bud's tyke, nevertheless, did not desire to wed him she influenced Karin to comprehend

that she was not her foe but rather it was Bud's satisfaction that made a difference to them two.

Jane ensured peaceful life in the American domestic family; however, this woman is sitting tight for tangible love. At that point, abruptly, she received a dispatch from Taylor notifying her that he will soon emanate to take her. Similarly, it is an unforeseen pleasure for her. Thus she is stressed over the effect on Bud, Du chose to vigor to California and remains by sister and family.

Jasmine understood Du's predicament since she too is an outcast, then she broke the news to Bud moderately. Taylor returned to her life at that point and persuaded her that leaving Bud would not be a mistake. At that point, she quit Bud's existence and approved to run with Taylor and Duff as a caregiver. Till these days, she fulfilled her commitment to others, nonetheless at present she is thinking about her admiration and herself. She felt no remorse and simply did what she assumed is proper for her. The craving need to make the best choice would prefer not to be an appalling individual demonstrated that she did not feel regretful and never again is thoughtful of herself as Jane. However, she survived the most noticeably bad piece of her life in America and is allowed to influence to put in Taylor's life.

Jasmine felt relieved rather than guilty after leaving Bud. She was excited about doing something she had wanted to do for a long time. It can be seen that Jasmine had officially cracked free from her chains and had returned to her true nature. Bharati Mukherjee's Jasmine is now the progression of Jasmine's lifetime toward achieving authentic character.

Conclusion

The voyage to America is part of the quest for authentic self. Despite the fact that the character drives through the nastiest events of her life, however, she overcomes the hurdles and achieves self-awareness and a novel individuality, ultimately overthrowing the previous existence. Jasmine, female hero, relocates her leads in the welcomed nation by choosing to endure as a maternal figure to Duff, from whom she derives genuine tranquilly. Jasmine is a conqueror at every stage of her life; she ensures not to permit her inconveniences and conflicts to stymie her evolvment through life, besides this woman is making a name for herself in the general public. At the end of the day, the female hero is a true women's activist who tackles every single encounter in existence in order to institute herself in the public eye. The genuine uniqueness of an individual, according to Jasmine, does not lay in actuality of an Indian or an American, on the other hand in individual's inward soul to be at harmony with her. Bharati Mukherjee used transformational changes in Jasmine's lifespan as she searches for her actual identification.

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