

## Who is More Innocent – Adam or Eve?

✧ *Subrata Kumar Nayak*

Literature has always been the manifestation of life in its finest expression. It deals with life as it is seen and experienced by the individual writer. Every forms of life have been expressed through various genres of literature. In other words, Literature is the expression of life in its variety of forms from spectrum way. Every form of human life whether be it love, hatred, repentance, sorrow, happiness right from every mode of feelings to relationships. Many great writers have tried to portray the relationships, specifically the man-woman relationship.

Man and woman – the most beautiful creation of God. It is believed that he has created them in his own image. A man and woman goes through many roles in their lifetime. But the most crucial period they go through, is the conjugal blessed life. The basis of this relationship has been manifested by many writers in various genres of literature. Right from Tulsidas to Shakespeare to present, So many writers have tried to peep into this complex phenomenon of life. An artist is a product of its own age. Every artist tends to highlight his age, history, political or religious concepts through his creations. Both Tulsidas and Shakespeare are such writers who have whatever they have written always tried to express their thought on their social issues. Tulsidas was born probably between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> century. That was the age of Mughals and Pathans. So was Shakespeare's London, being the center of international commerce like Venice, was a cosmopolitan city, where the Bard might have met all the nationalities and race on streets. So, both the writers seemed to be influenced by their age and period.

Man and woman are the two wheels on which the cart of a family runs. And the bondage that binds them together is called Relationship. Tulsidas in his *Shri Ramcharitmanas* through the characters of Rama and Sita has tried to establish the moral and aesthetic values of a pure conjugal life and that's why he calls Rama the Head of the family as in a family the husband is always the head. So he says –

**'Mukhiya mukh so chahiye, khaan paan sab ek Paley posey sakal jag tulsī sahī vivek'**

(*Shri Ramcharitmanas*)

Even while describing the husband-wife relationship between Rama and Sita he has brought out the beauty and charm and purity of the relationship. He has tried to reveal the purity of love. Thus he expresses the feeling of Sita for Rama in such words as

**'Dhari dheer kahe chali dekhiye jaai jahan sajani rajani rahi hai ! Kahi hai jag poch ne soch kachhu phal lochan aapne jo kahi hai Sukh pai hai kaney suney batiyan kar aapas mein kachhu pai kahi hai! Tulsī ati prem lagi palkein pulki lakhi ram hiye mati hai' (Shri Ramcharitmanas)**

In comparison to Rama of *Shri Ramcharitmanas*, Shakespeare's Othello suffers for his very virtues, and the noblest qualities of his mind and that became the instruments of his crucifixion. If Othello is simple as a hero; Desdemona is simple as a saint. From first to last, while she is unconsciously knotting the cords around her, there is no trace, in any speech of hers, of caution of self regard. She is utterly truthful; she gives herself away, as the saying is a hundred times. She is insistent like a child, but she never defends herself, and never argues.

Desdemona is Shakespeare's portrait of the great woman in the true sense of the term. She in every inch a noble woman. If Lady Macbeth is 'Magnificent in sin', the divine Desdemona is 'magnificent in virtue'. Desdemona is Shakespeare's portrait of 'the Eternal Feminine'. It is the heroine's 'wretched fortune' that makes Othello as painful as a tragedy. 'Desdemona', derived from Greek 'dusdaimon', 'Ill –fate' means the ill fated woman. Shakespeare himself never believed in Juliet's theory of 'What's in a name?' And in spite of his 'small Latin and less Greek' must have realized the great significance of the name 'Desdemona'.

But if Othello is the most painful of all Shakespeare's tragedies, perhaps it is also the most glorious. The Glory of the play is due as much to the character of the 'noble' Moor as to that of the nobler Desdemona. She was a noble lady, a Devi / Goddess / if ever there was one. Love is the basic theme in Othello and Shakespeare might as well call his play '**Othello and Desdemona**'. When we consider Shakespeare's tragedies of love, we generally think of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Antony and Cleopatra*, but as a love tragedy **Othello** is, in a sense greater than either. Desdemona is even more of martyr. Death as such is the least part of Desdemona's ultimate misfortune. She is killed by the person to whom she has given her all, and for what earthly reason, she has no idea. A true tragic heroine, Desdemona retain her Love for her husband till the very end, and this is what fills us with awe and admiration. Thus, what Shakespeare shows us is the passionate love; the love shows the bondage is so weak that it was tear up in just a few moments by a handkerchief.

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Student of M.A. (English Literature) Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur (C.G.)

But in Shri Ramcharitmanas, a bond was so strong and firm that even Ravana's kidnapping of Sita and keeping her a hostage, didn't able to tremble Rama's faith on Sita.

This is called a divine love. A love so pure so divine so aesthetic that raised them from human beings to almighty god. In comparison to love of Rama and Sita, Othello's love for Desdemona or rather the love of both Othello and Desdemona for each other is not artificial or spurious but it lacks the base of this pure feeling of love that is the 'faith'. Othello failed to keep his faith on Desdemona. Othello does love his wife, but its foundation is so frail that just a handkerchief is strong enough to ruin their kingdom of love. Whereas in Ramcharitmanas, Tulsidas has shown that the very thing faith in each other is the core of a relationship whether be it between a father and a son, brother and a brother, a mother and a son, between king and its subjects or be it between husband and wife. Rama was a faithful son and so he went to the forest for 14 years, by just one word of his father. Rama was faithful and generous not only to his father but also to his mother, brother, his subjects and most significantly to his wife, Sita. This faith among each other kept their relationship firm and stable even in the worst scenario of circumstances. Rama's love care, affection and faith towards his wife pays him Sita's support and help in every steps of his life. Even when Rama went to the jungle for 14 years Sita too went with him saying –

**"Jiya binu deh nadi binu vari Taisiya nath purush binu nari" (Shri Ramcharitmanas)**

And that's why if Rama was called 'Purushottam' by Tulsidas he has also claimed Sita as –

**"Adishakti Chhabinidhi Jag Mula" (Manas Baalkand 152.2) And**

**"Bhrikuti bilaas jaasu jag hoi Ram Vam disi sita soi" (Manas Baalkand 152.4)**

Even Rama's love for Sita was ecstatic, that Rama expresses his love in such poetic lines –

**"As kahi phir chitaye tehi orai /siya mukh sasi bhaye nayan Chakora Bhaye vilochan charu achanchal / manahu sakuchi nimi taje drigunchal" (Manas Baalkand 234.6, 7)**

In contrast to Rama, Othello is not merely a romantic figure, his own nature is romantic, but the major drawback of his nature is his jealousy. And love can never be established on the thorny and pricking throne of jealousy. Othello confesses himself as "One not easily jealous, but being wrought perplexed in extreme". Perhaps this is the best explanation of his violence of passion. And thus even Iago warns Othello of his jealousy –

**O, beware my lord, of jealousy, It is the green ey'd monster with doth mock The meat it feeds on. Thus cuckold lives in bliss who certain of his fate, loves not his wronger, But, O what damned minutes tells he o'er Who dotes yet doubts suspects, yet strongly loves! (Othello, III, iii)**

Desdemona is quite sure that Othello has been beside himself due to some unsettling intelligence from Venice:

**"Something sure of state Either from Venice, or some unattested practice Made demonstrable here in Cyprus to him, Hath puddle his clear spirit."**

It's really pathetic that what Desdemona has realized Othello fails to understand and that thus brings out their tragedy of relationship.

Tulsidas was not only a pioneer in poetry but was also a social activist. He knows that during his age the relationship between man and woman was not agreeable, especially in terms of woman that they were looked upon just as a productive machine and nothing else. In that age Tulsidas wrote Shri Ramcharitmanas not only for the purpose of bringing out the true essence of feminism but also to make aware the people what true man and a woman must be and how the relationship should be followed. But in comparison to Tulsidas Shakespeare, however has tried to show the true face of the society and how the relationship is played upon like a game of chess, where either you have to do or die. The feelings of love, care, affections relationships hardly matters. But that doesn't mean that Shakespeare was pessimistic, he has very much optimistically tried to establish the relationship and the basic of relationship – the man woman relationship, the husband wife relationship.

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