

‘Wapsi’ of Usha-Priyambada: Age Psychology and the Transformation of Human values

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000 Introduction:

Usha Priyambada is a well known name in the world of modern Indian Hindi literature. Usha Priyambada is one of the writers who pioneered the new story movement in Hindi Literature and guided women writers into the creative world. Along with Usha priyambada writers like Krishna Sowati, Mannu Bhandari, Mridula Garg, Maitreyi Pushpa, Chitra Mudgal, Prabha Khetan, Alka Saraugi and others initiated a new direction in Indian Hindi literature and broke the conservatism of the male tradition and creates a new genre with new themes and styles. Usha Priyambada is renowned for her stories and novels Through writing short stories collections like ‘Banaras’, ‘Kitna Bora Jhooth’, ‘Shunya’ ‘Zindagi Aur gulab ki phool’, ‘Ek Koyi Dushra’, ‘Meri priyo Kahania’, and novels like ‘Pachpan Khambhe Lal Deeware’, ‘Rukegi Nehi Radhika’, ‘Shesh yatra’, ‘Antarvanshi’, ‘Bhaya kabir Udas’, ‘Nadi’, ‘Alpa biram’, etc. Usha Priyambada has enriched Hindi literature. Usha Priyambada has transformed the fatigue and loneliness of modern urban life into her stories with a modern perspective. Portrayed with the author’s subtle observation and deep sensitivity to life her stories are unique.

1.00 Methodology:

This study is primarily analytical. However descriptive and cooperative methods have also been applied where appropriate.

2.00 Subject Entry:

Among the entire collections of Usha Priyambada, ‘wapsi’ gives the reader a special level of feeling. The story is about the family of an India middle class family and introduce the reader to the brutal aspects of the larger social reality from a limited perspective, wapsi is

a heartfelt expression of how modern civilization has sweet feelings and devalued pure family relationships.

The story begins with an emotional scene of Gajadhar Babu, a Railway employee, heading home bag and baggage after completing his thirty five years of service. Gajadhar Babu retired from his service after staying along in the quarter at a small station far from his home. Gajadhar Babu becomes emotional as he is about to have Ganeshi (who shares his happiness and sorrow) who has been taking care of him for so long. But Gajadhar Babu, who had dreamed of spending his retirement happily with his family all his life, after boarding the train with his luggage, a feeling of happiness took over his mind. Gajadhar babu is a very affectionate and emotional person by nature. He has built a small house in the city with his hard-earned money and kept his wife, two sons and daughter Basanti in the city so that his children can get higher education and he himself fulfills his duty staying in the small station completely alone. After retirement he came home with great love and hope in his heart. But contrary to Gajadhar Babu's dreams of love and hope, no one was waiting for him. His two sons, daughters-in-law, daughter and wife are also busy with a strange, unfamiliar customs and modernity to Gajadhar Babu. The chaos of his house was easily apparent to his eyes.

To put all there in order, Gajadhar Babu imposed certain rules on cooking, eating, dressing, etc. for everyone. But instead of order, it became a cause of domestic unrest. It is significant that there was a lack of room for Gajadhar Babu in his own house and he was arranged a bed in the guest room. Over time Gajadhar Babu realized that the dream he had dreamt his entire life had no value. He is simply the source of income for the family. He was identified as the cause of growing unrest in the family, which resulted in the desperate elderly man lying in a quite corner of the house. He simply thought silently- A wife's duty ends when she provides two meals a day in front of the man, whose existence gives her the right to wear sindoor on her head and her establishment in the society.

As time went on the chaotic lives of sons and daughter became the same. Not only did the members of the household ignore Gajadhar Babu, but they started criticizing him and this hurt him deeply. Overcome with mental lethargy, depression and loneliness, one day he sought employment in the sugar factory of his former kind friend Ramjimal. Receiving the appointment letter, he got ready to return to his workplace. Everyone in the house seemed relieved to hear his decision. When Gajadhar Babu asked his wife to go with him, she left with various excuses with great enthusiasm, everyone in the house tied up his belongings and put him in the rickshaw and Gajadhar Babu looked up everyone and returned.

The author has painted the ending of the story in a heart touching way. Gajadhar Babu's sons, daughters-in-law plan to go to the cinema upon his return and at the end of the story his wife insensitively spoke to her youngest son- "Oh Narendra, take your father's bed out of the room. There is no space to move inside the room."

In fact, 'Wapsi' – is a dispassionate analysis of the modern society. The painful portrayal of the disappointment of Gajadhar Babu, who came to spend his retirement amidst the true love of his family, embodies the decline of values brought about by modern times and changing era. The evolution of human society is a natural law and this transformation is not limited to social life only but also extends to personal life. The mental gap between the generations is also noticeable. The dynamics of time deteriorate social values and the trampling of heritage by the rising generation is a disease of modern society. Being a sensitive person, Gajadhar Babu carries the heritage and tradition. The man who has never failed in his father's duty is surprised to return home with affection in his heart for all and tries to remove the chaos in his house as much as he can. However, his traditional values have no value in the mentality of his sons and daughter who have embraced modern urban civilization while living in the city. There is no respect, trust, confidence and genuine affection for the father, so they neglect the head of the household instead of giving him the respect he deserves. Gajadhar Babu is disappointed in the conflict between ancient and modern values and the entire story is dedicated to expressing this pain and this goal.

3.00 Conclusion:

The story, written in narrative style by the author, of which subject matter is slightly limited. The story is composed of small contexts. The author has successes in expressing Gajadhar Babu pain despair, frustration and feeling unwanted. In the story, this is a picture of Gajadhar Babu's disappointment – but in reality it is a free state of some real facts about modern civilization, regardless of the boundaries of individual. It is actually a vivid portrayal of the problems of middle class families, the conflict of traditional values with the thinking and lifestyle of the younger generation, the decline values and the adverse effects of modern urban civilization of society, where feeling unwanted a person with old values left his own home and returned to an other world. This is where lies the success of the wordsmith and therefore 'Wapsi' is one of the most read and discussed storytelling works in modern Hindi literature.

References:

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