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BOOK REVIEW

A Flight to the Unknown by Imagination: A Micro-Study of the Novel

She Fell in Love.... By Dr. Rajinder Singh

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She fill in love... is a real experience of the author Dr. Rajinder Singh. He had gone Australia to study 'Management in Government' at the International Management Institute in Sydney. Whatever was seen by him, experienced by him, felt by him are the raw materials of this novel. In a line, it can be said that this novel is about Australian life with different cultures, ethos and varied interests in life. The novelist has brought all aspects of Australian life-social cultural, political and religious, their relations with the aborigines and their attitude towards foreigners. It is the mirror of life style of Australian people. This novel has dealt with so many things- family life, marriage system, divorce, live together concept, friendship etc. The novelist has brought the Australian life in the open canvass of life. The cooperation, love, faith and friendship- all these human values are given a new dimension in the novel and the novelist tries to show how to live peacefully in spite of several unwanted events of life. The central point of these novel is open ended—the multicultural outwork of life, the world of love and of course sympathy.

At the very beginning of the novel, we find how the Indian team who were awarded the fellowship by the Australian Govt. to study at the International Institute of Management at Sydney, reached to Australia. The Team constituted of Prabhjnder, Walvlekar, Ghosh, Jena, Kamal and Nanjappa. All of these were selected by the Govt. of India from different ministers of centers and State Govt. From this group, Mr. Prabhjinder Sing was elected as the leader of the team by mutual consent. In Sidney, they were received warmly by Helen, the beautiful, smart lady on behalf of the Australian Govt. They were kept in the International Guest House at Thomas Hardy Road in Sydney. In the Guest House they met with Allision, the receptionist and her jovial husband Emmanuel. Other guests from ten different countries reached in the Guest House. Among them Das was from Fiji, Michael from Thailand, Kumarsingha from Shrilanka, Chhaya and Kishan from Mauristious, Pauline and Ferdinand from Philipines, Toddy from Togoland, Francis from Bahamas, Allice and Jaffer from Bangladesh. Among them Pauline showed some affection towards Mr. Sing who was really surprised for her behaviour. At the evening, Mr. Byron, the Principal of the institute welcomed all the fellows from different countries. A dinner Party was arranged in honour of the guests. In the next day, the Principal lectured on 'Management Problem' faced by various countries and emphasized on the solution of it with the help of new methods. Mr. Sing, as the writer of the Panjabi language was introduced with the others with the hope that in future he would write on Australian theme. The Principal also talked about the session, course materials and what they should do during the course.

Pauline tried to get closer to Mr. Sing. Being an aged person, Mr. Sing was surprised for her behaviour. However, he thought that perhaps Pauline is trying to say something else. Pauline used to borrow several household things from Mr. Sing and thus she tried hard to get closer to him. Mr. Sing and other members met with Juliet, a writer of tribal life. Maria, an educationist who was well aware of the social life of Bengal, the dowry system and also of the widow problem of India. Jane was an expert in mathematics whereas Ruth was noted for social science and human liberation. She had not married and believed in celibacy.

The Course Director, Drake, in the class, gave a detailed description of Australia along with aborigine civilization. Everybody was asked to tell about their own civilization. From these descriptions we find a very good idea of different cultures. When it was Mr. Sing's turn, he gave a beautiful speech on the ancient culture of India. Mr. Sing used to visit several areas and the picturesque description of those places are given very elaborately and beautifully in the novel

When Mr. Singh returned from his visit, Pauline came into the room and said that she missed him a lot during his absence. Mr. Sing could not understand why she was missing him. Mr. Singh then began to take the interview of the persons there which constitute the subplots of the novel. The first to be interviewed was Steffy, the Librarian who told him, her own touching life story. The story began with the love affair of Pansy, her elder sister with Sam, a handsome young man. Both Pansy and Sam worked in a roadside restaurant from where their love began. The situation took a turn when both of them planned for a live together in Pansy's house where Steffy used to live. Secretly, Steffy had a love affair with Sam and both Pansy and Steffy became pregnant by the same person. Ultimately, Pansy realized it but accepted it calmly and told her own life history. Pansy was once married with an Australian aborigine named Ehay and Pansy became the mother of a girl child who is actually none but Steffy. Steffy realized that whom she thought to be the elder sister is actually her mother. Thus a complex situation arrived in his life which they both faced bravely.

The next interview was with Julia who also told her personal life to Mr. Singh. She told about her ethnographic study, about her Ph.D., her twice marriage, her tribal husband and also about her own son who presently lives among the tribes. Singh was a silent listener as he needed several experiences of the society for being a writer.

The next and the most important interview was with Pauline who at last unfolds her heart. She told Singh about her personal life, about her engagement with Frank and about their marriage. Pauline loves Mr. Singh but it is actually a love of a daughter to her father. Pauline had a father who looked exactly like Mr. Singh. From the first day when Pauline saw him, she fell in love. Mr. Singh understood her sentiment and like a father, Mr. Singh moved his fingers on the burn scars on her back. Both of them began to cry as if they were really father-daughter in their previous life. The course for which they came to Australia was in the last stage and a Farewell programme was organized and certificates were provided to them. The whole team returned to Delhi after three months with a sweet memory.

The theme of this novel is very interesting one as the title indicates that it deals with several love affairs- some of them have happy ending and some of them not. It also throws a light on the father-daughter love relationship. Dr. Sing has focused on the subconscious mind of the characters. Sometimes he has shown us how human mind is complex in nature and sometimes he has expressed the simplicity of mind. The novelist has shown how the bond of friendship began to weave in the tour to Australia. We may call the novel as a travelogue. He has gathered many persons from so many classes of the society. Like Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, there are so many tales intertwined beautifully in the text. For this reason, the novel has become a rich one. The expression of thought is presented in a very simple and lucid way which helps the reader to understand the theme easily.

The novelist has used third person narrative. The whole novel is seen from the eyes of Mr. Parbhijinder Sing. Though we easily understand who Mr. Parbhijinder Sing is. The other members of the team are not given importance by the novelists. They appear as insignificant specially those members from India who had gone with Mr. Singh to Australia. In the novel there are one main plot of Pauline and Mr. Singh. There are a lot of subplots which are interwoven beautifully.

This novel is romantic one as the writer has described so many aspects of human life with the help of imagination. We find a stylistic mixing of fact and fiction which gives us delight in reading the novel. The line 'beauty is in the eyes of beholder' is a recurrent line of this novel. The attraction for the sensuous beauty is the key note and the attraction for the spiritual life is the hallmark of this novel. It can be said that this novel is a postmodern novel as it is open ended in nature and the impact of globalization is also highlighted here. Not only this, the writer has shown us several experiences of the characters with a sense of detachment. He has not pressured the reader to take anything for granted. But as a reader, it is to be said that if there were any reference of myth or if there were any use of the stream of conscious technique, the novel would be a perfect one. However, the writer has given importance on both the internal reality as well as the external reality which certainly makes the novel a rich one.

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Work Cited:

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