



Love Relationship in the Novel of Kamala Markandaya's *Some Inner Fury*

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Abstract

This research paper is a study of the love relationship in the novels of Kamala Markandaya. For a couple love is necessary to secure their matrimonial relation. Without a good understanding it is impossible to continue a love relation between men and women. In this novel she has gone down deep in the portrayal of various shades of men and women equation between some pair of the novel like Mira bai and Richard, Kit and Premala.

Keywords: love, relationships, Kamala, Markandaya

1. Introduction

In her novel *Some Inner Fury* she has been suggestive and feminine. Though in this novel she could not reach the heights of rich imageries of her imitator novelist but the novel is a very good representation of the human bonds. It has more ease and partakes more of life's fitful fever.

The story of the novel belongs to a rich and cultivated hindu family. Mirabai lives with her rich and traditional parents. She is a girl of patriotic feelings. She feels pride in living her native place with her people; where her brother Kit, is educated in a foreign country. After a long time, he returns his native country from Oxford with his English friend. A close relation with the family members and specially Mirabai, the foreign-friend Richard feels at home in Kits home. Sweet conversation and open opportunity gives them the air of love feelings and with in a short span of time Mirabai and Richard fall in love with each other. But the political Quit India Movements brings the conflicting passion between the lovers. It divides family and the intimate lovers. The country faces violence and it brings hatred between the people of two countries. During this political upheaval the two lovers Mira and Richard are wrenched apart. Mira's first sight love with Richards demands hard test.

Her first encounter with Richard is on the railway station. Where Mira comes along with a large number of her relatives to receive her brother Kitsamy, brings about a great transformation in her. Here she falls in love with Richard, at the first sight. Her childish bashfulness and timidity diaper and later on it develops into a mature love for this English guest. Like her other family members she assures the hesitating Richard of warm welcome and hospitality. She forgets not only her timidity but her aunts and uncles. Both the persona begin to blossom their throbbing love in their secret hearts. Her successful attempt to come forward to assert her individuality and adult-member of the family. Mira is surprised at herself when she finds in her a strong courage to throw off the shackles of her conservative up bringing. But in the case of Richard it was not unconventional because he is born and brought up in an altogether different cultural and social milieu. The western culture is quite open and altogether different from that of India. As Richard is concern he is not aware, in the

beginning of a mature love of man and women relationship. His love for her is just as an innocent love for her. He regard Mira as an innocent little child and she is also aware of this. She accepts this in her later days. "Richard did not seem surprised; I do not think he thought of me as a young woman. He thanked me, pleasantly; he smiled at me as one does to a child and with no other awareness"(10).

The novelist believes in human relations. For her there is no difference in man and man, woman and woman. All are the sons and daughters of the Almighty God. The same runs in the veins of the people belonging to different culture and race. She is conscious of human language of love and sympathy. She maintains that culture and racial differences do not hinder positive interaction or understanding between individuals. In *Some Inner Fury* Mira can read and understand many unsaid thoughts of Richard. He is an open book in her front. The same we find in the character of Richard. He has the similar capacity. He can grasp the full implication of Mira's spontaneous expression and gestures. He is a good psychologist of human character and behaviours. Richard observes Mira closely. His reading about her is so accurate. That Mira is perplexed at her own lack of self-control, while he shows a laser-beam like penetration in to the mind and thoughts of Mira. In the club his remarks are most appropriate and correct. Mira has to bow down before his intelligence and she has no poor to contradict Richard: Richard said, "you seem pleased with life.... you have been smiling to yourself for the last ten minutes, did you know?" I had not known, was abashed my transparency..... Blue eyes on me direct questioning. You can't lie before a look like that, and half-truth become lies" (26-27).

Mira is fascinated with his personality in intellect. She, in the club, compares Richard with other youngman around her and find his dominating but pleasing personality a source of pleasure. She is thankful for Richard's serenity as one ever is for peace amid confusion. It leads to a positive and healthy emotional interaction between the two lovers. She gets a heavenly pleasure to be with him. "Positive type of emotion draws near to and acts in relationship with another. Love is the prototype of positive emotion. love is uniting, integrating, need satisfying"(286).

The love between Mira and Richard is not mere infatuation.

It is a true love “and marriage of true minds”, that “admits impediments” (1328) their love arises from the deep depth of true hearts. It is a mature love-relationship based on understanding of each other’s moods and needs. The gap of three years has strengthened their bond of love which was established at the station when they met. Their talk is one general matters which are about grants and administration; wells and paddy fields, but these mundane prosaic matters are the subject of their discussion on the physical level. They are mentally and psychologically devoted to each other. They respond to each other under the uncontrollable influence of love. She is aware of this upheaval. She realizes that inspite of her best efforts to refuse his proposal of going to the village with him, she eagerly wants to do the things as Richard suggests. She has to obey his well:

Yes I wanted to say, but a part of me, neither mind nor heart but a tortuousness, whose existence within me I had not suspected, would not allow me to, I hesitated, I tried to be off hand. “I don’t know.....” I began. “Please come, he said. Somehow than I felt it would be all right to say yes and also it has become impossible to say No. (132)

Mira and Richard crave for each other’s company. They are eager for their most poignant of love-relationship. Mira is a late-ariser, but her attraction towards Richard changes her life-habits, she gets up early and is ready before anyone else in her house is up. The same change we find in her lover also. He reaches early to pick Mira up for the drive to the village. Mira feels a happy change in Richards company. She getting into Richard’s car begins to have a joyous talk with him and remarks : “It seemed such a nice day”, “that is why, I’m early too”, he said and somehow when he said that there was suddenly a new feeling between us, full to warmth and understanding (135).

Their close relationship begins to take shape of maturity. When the two hearts are imbued. They cast a magic spell and create light-sweetness. Even the coconut water becomes more milky with sweetness that it was before. Mira recaptures the incident of the village, when she asks some children to fetch tender coconuts for them and finds the coconuts for them. They feel a new joy and find the coconut water as the nector. The world for them become full of sweetness. They are now with two bodies but one soul. There is no room for doubts and suspicion in their affair. Both respect the feeling of each other. Mira finds sincerity in her lover’s eyes and Richard has full confidence in her. “Darling” he said, “you look so lovely like that or any way. Did you know? (140)” These are not lip-praise for Mira. They are his genuine feelings. Mira is overwhelmed hearing sincere words from her lover. She understand full well his mood and words are responds like a grown up woman. Richard’s words were giving ease and sweetness to her ears. Her heart did not pause the question the truthness of life. She is over-whelmed with pleasure of golden flood.

The seed of love has grown up in only three years. From now onwards both the lovers of different caste and nationality polarized so intensity in their hearts did not pause to question their truth. Pleasure came willing up and flowed and over flowed, a golden flood. Mira is completely obsessed by Richard’s love and she turns her back on the rest of the world. She understands the meaning of love and find it amazing that people, even when in love, get time for the other mundane prosaic activities like eating, sleeping and doing justice to one’s job; she feels herself to be split into two parts is all the day and night in the thoughts of love

for Richard. Both the love partners are deeply absorbed in love relationship and want to be always together. The time of their separation becomes the incubation period for the development of the mentally, physical and emotionally satisfying relationship. Mira tells about her lover in the following words, “ I almost felt that I was back home, that Richard had never left, that he has always been like this beside me. I think he felt the same too, for one day she said, squeezing my arm, “I think this has been going on for a long time don’t you?” Yes, I said “for me it has”(158-59).

They become real companions to each other. She wants to possess Richard and therefore she wants to be in company with Richard in a lonely place where she may open her heart’s feeling before him. She begins to dislike going with him those places where they can lump into familiar faces. She avoid to dine with Richard at familiar club where they were known, and he was popular, and she could not keep him to herself alone, nor at the only hotel in the town.... but in restaurants and tea houses they found for themselves in lanes no car could believes that love means doing things together. True love does not care for worldly hindrances. They wanted to enjoy the pristine glow of love. She feels variety of life in his company. The destination between the ‘dos’ and ‘dont’s is obliterated. She is ready to throw to the winds the social norms and wants to relish free love with Richard because his company is the real source of pleasure for her. Many factors contribute to make Richard irresistible for her . Both are ready to adjust to any situation howsoever alien it might be, Mira appreciates Richard becomes for her sake he has shown his interest to adopt Indian style of dining. She recalls that once when they go to a Brahim restaurant he takes off his shoes and sits on the floor like everyone else.

This episode shows that human relationships tend to be strong and cherish able when the two lovers know that they are fallible, Mira feels relaxed and elated in her lover’s company because Richard ignores her weaknesses and appreciates her virtues. He himself is a model of a perfect gentlemen. He wants to remain only a gentleman and does not run after ideals. He does not wish to be a god. Mira also wants a man of her choice and Richard fulfills her dreams. Therefore Mira has statured enjoying herself.

Now I found myself liking them. Being with Richard was pleasure in itself; but besides he knew what to do and say, and took you with him, so that you were free to enjoy yourself; and more over, If you blundered he did not mind; and, when your companion does not min, blunders lose their enormity and dwindle and stink to nothing, for indeed in themselves they are nothing.(162)

It is said that when a women falls in love with a man, she loses herself and knows or control over herself. She becomes blind in her love and passion. The same is with Mira. She is aflame with passion, but Richard is an intelligent and sensible young man. He shows self control and regards for a gentlemanly code of conduct. He regards Mira as an ideal woman and does not want her to a regret at any stage in her life for any thing that can be termed as hasty or smack of exploitation. When the hasty moment of passion of Mira passes. She realizes her mad thought. She becomes the real devotee of Richard for his virtuous characters. She recalls them passionate moments.

I was in flames he let me go, and I cried, breathless, elinging to him “you forget, I am no longer in my mother’s house”, “I never forget, he said, “either that or anything else,” and

after a little while he said, “ we must go there soon, to your mother, your home, “For you? For me there is no “usual thing” “I have no roots here, I am alone”.(163)

The meaning of love for Richard is enlarged for her. It is not a passionate love rather it take a pure love, a love which understands the meaning of devotion and sacrifice. It is characterized by companionship, togetherness, or concern for their welfare, It is the understanding of each other which is the base of the union of souls. They have got the interpersonal fusion; two bodies with soul where only souls converse and words become silent. They are no longer needed for communication. Kamala Markandaya, a good psychologist of human-behaviours, has rightly observed the direct access of the two lovers mind and soul:

Here we are reminded that the novelist herself has broken the traditional trend of marriage. Her own marriage is the best example of cultural affinity she married herself to a Londoner youth Mr. Taylor. She through the words of Mira says:

Go? Leave the men I loved to go with these people? What did they mean to me, what could they mean more then the man I loved? They were my people ... those others were his. Did it mean something then all this “Your people” and “my people”? ... for us there was no other way, the forces pulled us apart, were too strong.(243)

There are two groups of people. One supports the moral idealism of ancient Indian life and the second one purely follows western materialistic ways of life. We see the case of Kitswamy who is a thoroughly Westernized, “burra sahib”, He has nothing in common with Premala, who is a gentle, traditional, submissive and home-bound, creature. Both have their different temperament, polarities different upbringing and confliction views on life stand in the way of interpersonal fusion. They have ample opportunity to know each other and judge their respective suitability before tying the nuptial knot. It is very difficult for Kitsamy to marry Premala, an Indian, because of his stint abroad. His words to his mother are quite reasonable. He tells her “How can I marry a girl I have not even seen? Sleep with her, call her my wife? I cannot”(50). But the mother is very much interested in the girl. She wants to make Premala, her bride. She tells her son Kitsamy, to come in contact of Premala to satisfy his whims. She decides to provide him a chance to know Premala :

“ the girl shall come here, to our house I do not ask you to marry a stranger”

“ And if I do not ?”

“There is no compulsion There are many girls.”

“And so, Premala came to stay with us For this strange new patterns of courtship, deplorable no doubt, but what the time demanded” (51).

The mother is successful in providing a successful meeting of her son and Premala. They are able to know each other. Their affair begins with a happy and optimistic note. The Kit-Premala affair begins to develop with the rainbow pleasure. Kit comes in close contact to Premala and during the courtship, he find Premala pleasing. He understands that loves knows no national differences. He appreciates the choice of his mother. He tell her : “You have chosen well , I am very fond of Premala”(55). The mother is pleased to hear his words. She has full faith that away from the club Kitsamy seemed happy enough in her company. She feels happy when her son likes talking to Premala, for she listened well, he was proud of her accomplishments, and

delighted in her beauty.

The novelist has sketched the characters of Premala and Kit on two different poles. Premala is an introvert woman while Kit in an extrovert. Premala is devoted to Kit even before her marriage and even after her marriage. She is eager to please him. She responds to all his moods in a vain attempt to please Kit. He is a late-riser. But he is in a very strange mood appreciates the beauty and freshness of the early morning. Premala is unable to understand how a late-ariser can know the sensibility of the charms and health appealing of the dawn of the day but even then she leaves no stone unturned to please him and so she considers it proper to echo Kit’s words. His words are worth to quote: “..... Smell the air, it is like wine! I’ve never know such a wonderful day” Premala, responding to his mood, looked at me smiling ‘I’d love it,’ she replied, eager to please him as always, happy when she succeeded, “it is nice morning”(64).

When there is a drift of emotional difference, love declines. This results stonely but surely the gap of togetherness. Premala and Kit start drifting apart. It is impossible for Premala to grow out of her cocoon of traditionalism. Kit dislikes it. He could not tolerate it for a long time. Kit stops taking Premala to the social gathering he is so fond of Premala also has no interest in these fellowship parties. The result is that gradually, they are hardly seen together, except at official or government functions where it was polite that wives should be present with their husband. But on other occasions it was seldom that they went out together. In Indian culture wife and husband are one soul with bodies and they are termed as life-partners. If they have difference and lead a separate life. They do not go out together and do not have mutual understanding, it is not good. Such type of matrimonial relationship is not desirable.

“Kit and Premala are locked in a stifling matrimonial alliance. From the very beginning, they stand very remote chances of happiness together. Like Maya and Gautama, the temperamental and attitudinal differences between them are not of degree but of quality. In their respective personalities the homeostasis mechanism is not very sound. They fail to adjust themselves according to the emotional needs or physical requirement of each other’s way of life. They have rigid opinions on issues of mutual interest and do not take recourse to positive communication to sort out of areas of differences or agreements.”(85)

Kamala Markandaya is of the opinion that meaningful conversation between a husband and his wife brings sweet love and mutual harmony and if it lacks, the equation between the two weakens. In the case of Kit and Premala this lack of meaningful conversation is the greatest problem. Both to them love and like each other but they are unable to bring out their inner feelings through their sweet mutual conversation. Since they do not discuss or thrash out their problem mutually, they fail to understand their respective needs and limitations Kit feels pained and puzzled. It is his weakness that he does not bring his heart’s feelings before his wife. He has no courage for it. It takes the help of an another woman, named Mira instead of discussing his family issue directly with his wife, he approaches Mira and requests her to clearly his point to Premala. He asks her to solve his problems and talk to his wife on his behalf. He said ,“I do not know what is wrong with her. Is it me? Do You know?” he was sitting, head bent, with his hands hanging loose and any paver his knees and his hair fallen

our his forehead”(147-48).

We don't find any drawback in Kit. He is a true and sincere husband but lacks the meaningful conversation with his wife. In the same way Premala is also a loving and considerate wife but the same weakness she possesses which weakens the thread of conjugal love.

Kamala Markandaya, a great psychologist of human behaviour, wants to convey here that in human relationship the temperamental gulf cannot be bridged easily, It is so in the case of matrimonial ties. By keeping quiet or by turning away from troubling issues the spouses cannot maintain the semblance of an emotional union. Something like this has been happening in the case of Premala and Kit. The matrimonial ties of this couple gradually, reaches a point where all efforts to reconcile and adjust are given up. In spite of all efforts their conjugal relationship loses balance. Though they try to be united outwardly by their relationship gets dried up from within. Both of them are fed up and grow indifferent to each other and go their separate ways virtually becomes Premala's home. Her husband is a little sensible than Premala. He, Just tolerant it and does not come in her way. She is also sensible and knows the reality, "So it had come to this that they agreed to go their separate ways, tacitly acknowledging thus, the imperfect articulation of their marriage”(224).

Premala is torn within. But it was not Kit's fault. It was only lack of mutual sweet conversation between the two. The result is that she is always in a tense mood which kills her health. A day comes when she leaves this world. Kit is shocked for her untimely death. He curses himself for her tragic death. A little before his own death Kit stands beside her dead body. Grief is writ large over his anguished face when his friend Govind accuses him of not loving her. The married affairs of this young couple is ill-fated and jinxed. Premala is a cultured woman born and brought up in a Hindu traditional family. There is love, respect and a great desire on Premala's part to come up to Kit's expectations. On the other hand Kit's personality traits, like tolerance and tenderness, also contribute positively in the continuation of their relationship. In the case of this couple the novelist finds only one weakness. Their conjugal bond lacks mutual understanding. Both love each other with the core of their hearts. They are also sincere in their love. They try their best effort to understand each other. They have good intentions also. But in spite of all these they fail to achieve harmony and fulfillment in each other's company. They could not live for a long time in their cramped existence. Ultimately they seek separate ways for getting out of this bondage.

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