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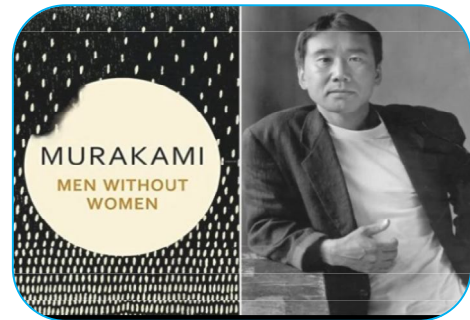


EXPLORATION OF SELF-IDENTITY AND SEARCH FOR ONE'S ROOT IN HARUKI MURAKAMI'S WORK "MEN WITHOUT WOMEN"

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ABSTRACTS

To study life is a complex task, the changing situations and conditions of world mainly depends upon the workings of mind; the thoughts and notions of mind lead the world towards something new and unique, the study of human life -the struggle of human beings; the conscious notions and desires, and conscious waking of unheard reality, the mainly preferred idea is to highlight the sublime thoughts of people, through critical reading the paper will be analyzed and discussed how human beings are devastated from the fellow Beings in this world and are facing loneliness anxiety, alienation and confusion in attaining the real Purpose of life, which is uncertain for them. The theme of loneliness, anxiety, loss, in accordance with the literary work of Haruki Murakami's 'Men without Women' Qualitative methods will be used to prove and analyse the present paper in relation to different writers to show human struggle.



KEY WORDS : Anxiety, Chaos, loneliness, Haruki Murakami, solitude, Men without Women, empty, Desolate, loss, pain, Lamentation, Mourning.

INTRODUCTION

Human race has suffered throughout the ages. The instability is the root cause of being alive in a dilemma and confusion of identity. As in Haruki Murakami's works the recurring theme is loneliness and isolation. The characters are continually struggling and lacking psychological peace. They often find themselves lost in the whirlpool of problems and in the contradictions of life. Murakami's characters are going through the ebbs of life, facing issues such as: anxiety, loneliness, emptiness, lamentation, mourning at losses. They observe the society by entering in its heart to entangle themselves in the problematic phases of life to deal with the upcoming notions and fluctuations of times in bonding the mentality of being. The Societal pressures and circumstances are the ultimate reality to be alone and isolated in the darkness of relations. Current paper will study themes of loneliness, solitude, loss etc. in the Context of the 2014 work 'Men without Women' Though there are many parameters by Which human beings are affected by different life threatening events, thus by assessing it by Psychological study of Human behaviour.

MEN WITHOUT WOMEN

The narrative *Men without Women* deals with the struggle of life in pursuit of relations and in thought of bonding and self-actualization through loneliness. Here human beings constantly tried to fight against the wishes and doings of nature but, it resulted in complete downfall from glory and all other beautiful spaces of the universe. The anonymity of characters and the main motive of story is mainly an empty thought of soulful body, if there is any character they are named alphabetically without any proper identity and maxim. The disappearing cats and foggy bars, deserted hearts and ambiguous people, baseball and the Beatles, mixed together to tell stories that speak to us all. Murakami has created another contemporary classic in this series.

'Drive My Car' is the first story in Murakami's series. This story is about a stage performer, Kafuku, who hired a weird, not conventionally beautiful young girl named Misaki to be his chauffeur. After his wife died, he hadn't had a woman in his car and watching Misaki drive him around town to make it clear that his lovely wife is unusual. As Kafuku gradually started to feel at ease with Misaki, he began to open up about his history to her. He was married to an actress who died from cancer in the ovaries. He still knew about her affairs, but never questioned her about them, or asked why she did it. But, after she died, he became obsessed with the reasons behind her infidelity, so much so that she was having friendship with the last lover, Takatsuki, until she got sick. Kafuku and Takatsuki became drinking pals, but Kafuku never discovered why he had slept with his wife. Misaki said Kafuku's wife was sleeping with Takatsuki for personal benefit and had nothing to do with Kafuku. Tanimura Nars the next story yesterday. Tanimura had been working at a student coffee shop in town and had met his friend Kitaru while he was there. Kitaru was an unusual boy who failed the exam twice, and he couldn't get his girlfriend, Erika, out on dates. One day he asked Tanimura to take her out so she wouldn't go out with anybody else, and Tanimura did as requested. He figured out she was seeing someone already but didn't tell Kitaru. Kitaru left the coffee shop a few days later and vanished. Seventeen years later, Tanimura ran into Erika and observed her sleeping with the other boy, and Kitaru found out. He travelled the world now and worked as a sushi chef, and she was a single girl in her life. Third, 'An Independent Organ' is also narrated by a character called Tanimura, although the same narrator is not clear. Tanimura said he once met Dr. Tokai, a famous plastic surgeon with a perfect life, who had been a bachelor until he was fifty-two. One day, Tokai came to the gym where he worked out with Tanimura, claiming he fell in love.

'Men without Women' is the last story in the book, the unnamed narrator, sleeps with his wife in bed and acknowledged that his girlfriend has murdered herself in the struggle of balancing her life with the upheavals of being. The loss of one woman signifies the loss and death of all women. Loneliness can come in a variety of forms as Murakami states in his novels, isolation and loneliness can go together as well. Human beings might be lonely due to various reasons and thus experience isolation. While on the other side man may be surrounded by people, might feel lonely and thus isolation becomes the ultimate truth of life and being. Murakami's characters have faced isolation due to loneliness- by losing the best of their lives in the separation of their partners. The fear of loss is also shown in the course of the novel and we see characters dwindle in pressure and in the suffocation of thought of loss and loneliness of being. Though the recurring motive is that it helps one to understand that once men are without women, it gives birth to hunger, anger, emptiness and ignorance. Murakami also talks about the love relationship of a married woman who used to live with her lover for two years. Then later we come to know that the woman he loved had left her husband for another man thus starving himself to death. It is like 'A Basketful of Sea-trout' where we are not aware how to locate crime outside our being and inside the hearts of people. We are to reconsider how to balance and harmonize the thought and expression of life, to create tranquillity and calmness in the process of living and in restoring peace and prosperity to the existing condition of life.

CONCLUSION

The narrative *Men Without Women* is not only a love story but it highlights struggle in life, lack of beauty in relationships in postmodern age, similarly it analyses that life is not only meant to reap

the fruits of happiness but we must be ready to face the negatives and bondages of problems in different phases of life and life will teach us everything, bounds and notions of freedom will be characterized in both harshness and sweetness in the flow of time.

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