

# A Profound Examination of 'Shattered Dreams, Expectations and Instilled Reality' in Sudha Murthy's *Mahashweta*

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**Dr. K. Mahalakshmi**

Associate Professor, Department of English  
RVS College of Arts and Science, Sulur, Coimbatore

### Abstract

*Sudha Murthy is one of the prolific writers of the 21st century writes novels focusing on the societal issues which are handled in a subtle form. Her deep sense of thought towards women's issues provide an intense realisation of the reality. Mahashweta is a novel deal with the life of a woman Anupama who has her dreams, plans and ambitions but a sudden stir of changes makes her perceive the hard-core realities of life. The painful passage through which she comes out to live her remaining life provide her realising the real outlook of life. The most important characteristic of Anupama is accepting the actuality without regretting god's plans. Sudha Murthy's sensible portrayal of different characters in the story picks up a closeness in the reader's mind that cultivates a kind of understanding the society in general.*

**Keywords:** Profound, Shattered Dreams, Instilled Reality.

### Discussion

Anupama's Dreams and Expectations Anupama, a beautiful college going girl hails from a very typical south Indian poor family. "With her beautiful large eyes, exquisite complexion, and face framed by long, jet-black hair, she looked like an apsara" (Murthy 8). Our admiration for the girl illuminates when it is known that she is not only beautiful but also a good student studies well to shoulder her father's responsibility in family's financial affairs. A child who is brought up without knowing the love of a mother, facing the unruly behaviour of her step mother holds a responsibility in bringing up her two step sisters. It is one of the finest qualities which is never felt or appreciated by her step mother Sabakka.

In the college Anupama is known for her acting skills and she sculpted her name for it. In the introduction Anupama is portrayed as a very enthusiastic, talented girl who focuses always on studies and acting. Her passion towards acting provide her a sense of satisfaction and she made use it for helping abandoned children through conducting plays. It shows that she is socially responsible too. Her friend Sumitha knows very well that how hard she works to reduce the financial burdens of her father. She dreamt to study well to join PG course to attain greater position in her career.

She lost her heart to Anand, a talented and handsome Doctor. The moment she met Anand to sell her tickets for the Play Mahashweta.

She hides her feelings but fate drew her to the situation to marry Anand. Despite of all the differences in family conditions Anand's mother Radhakka was convinced to have Anupama as her daughter-in-law for admirable and adorable beauty. Anupama's expectation starts when she entered into the marital life. She expects nothing but love in return. She is ready to compromise anything for the love and affection of her husband Anand. She feels blessed to have entered into the life of Anand who also admires her completely.

### **Instilled Reality**

Her dreams and expectations were transfigured after marriage. She felt contented losing herself in the duties as a wife and daughter-in-law. But god's plans are different when she stayed back in India to perform the Lakshmi Pooja when Anand left to the US for the higher studies. She finds a white patch on her leg and felt nothing serious about it in the beginning but when it doesn't disappear she consults a doctor without the knowledge of anyone but once it is revealed, Radhakka, her mother-in-law made it a big issue that she has hidden the truth that she had Leukoderma before marriage. But Anupama was helpless to explain her situation. She firmly believes that as a doctor and a lovable husband Anand will understand her state. But unlike her belief and expectation

Anand did not react or respond to his mother's actions. She is sent to her father's house there the situation is very worse than expected her father felt very sad about her condition and tried all the best ways to resolve her issues but he is not even allowed to talk or convince in her mother-in-law's house.

Dr Prakash Eknath Navgire in his article *Breaking the Stereotypes of Female Psyche: A Study of Sudha Murthy's Mahashweta* opines that,

The momentum was continued for many years for woman and now after many years they started getting education and learning many skills to earn. This is the only factor which is changing the life of woman and they become the decision maker in the family. The situation is same for Anupama, where the education gives her wings and she flies high in the male dominated society. Anupama breaks the psyche of female who thinks they are less superior to male and creates the new woman of millennium who is far away from the fear of male domination.

Anupama's state has been worsening than before she is blamed for being a burden to her father and her step-mother Sabbakka condemn her being the reason for blocking her daughters marriage as being beautiful no one likes her daughters. Even at times she thinks about committing suicide. She feels very sorry for herself because for no reason she is hatred, rejected, blamed, condemned and most importantly abandoned by her husband. Her plea is that her husband who poured love on her did not turn to the letters of explanation. She expected at least a reply when even that is not received and she heard that Anand is getting married she decides to make a firm decision about her life. She flies to Bombay and stays with Sumitha who stays there with her husband. Her husband Hari helped her to get a job and with that her life confidently changes entirely. She doesn't want to talk or think about her past life. But another chance to take up an independent life arises when Hari misbehaves with her. Hari's reaction is deliberate and direct enough to hint Anupama that something nasty is about to happen. Here, Anupama inadvertently employs 'Intuition Psychology', which the late psychologist Nalini Ambady defines as "the ability of judging people with their first impressions using the experiences that happened in the past regardless of the intensity". This scene also divulges to the readers that something odious might happen as the novel proceeds.

She gets a chance to occupy the beautiful house of Dolly in another place of Bombay where she happens to meet another doctor Vasant and his friend Satya. They didn't think or talk about her white patches and they developed an empathetic friendship.

Vasant proposes Anupama for marriage but Anupama is very clear that she has her in acting and now her job of being a Sanskrit teacher and training students for acting gives her a very convincing as well as satisfied life. She even rejects the proposal of Anand who came from the US and understands Anu's state. But it is too late for Anu to accept Anand's apology, proposal and console. She feels contented in her duties as a teacher and the reality of life is instilled in her that there is no more 'Mahashweta' in her life. Though Anand felt himself responsible for what has happened to Anupama all these years. He had the sense of guilt and shame but the time which once have flown never comes back. He says, "Whatever I have done was wrong, but the time that I have lost cannot be recovered. However, I must rectify the mistakes I have made and shape the future properly. I will beg Anupama to forgive me. She is for superior to anyone I know- in morals, intellect and conduct. With new –found determination he got up." (Maha128) "To err is Human, to forgive divine, but have I erred beyond the point of forgiveness? I will plead with Anupama to forgive me. After all, we are all human and this is part of life." (Maha134)

To his words Anupama gave a sad smile. She knew that now she would not be able to live with a man who once deserted her for the reason which wasn't her fault. She told Anand, "Was it my fault that I got this white patch? Is it my fault that I am a poor man's daughter? Now that you are here, answer me." "You knew that I did not have this before our marriage. You could have told your mother... They wanted an excuse to get rid of me and your silence provided them with the perfect cover." "A marriage is a lifelong commitment; for better or worse, till death do us part. Wasn't that what you'd said to me before you left for England?" "How can you possibly expect a burnt seed to grow into a tree? Husband, children, affection, love ...all are irrelevant to me now. It is too late for us. I am no longer the naïve Anupama whose world revolved around you. I know my goals are and where I am heading, and I don't need anyone's help to reach my destination."

## Conclusion

Thus, the novel 'Mahashweta' enlightens the thought that one may have any number of dreams and expectations but when it comes to reality changes are inevitable. Acceptance of reality will help us to lead a satisfactory life. It is very important to note that God 's plans are always different and HE will not abandon the affected or victimised souls. God treat them as his own child to imbibe the hope of human life. Anupama is one of the purest souls and the white mark is the symbol that represents her purity.

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