

A Quest Off Etchingow Ni Dentity in an Introduction

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Abstract

Kamala Das's poem *An Introduction* was a testament through a kaleidoscope of emotions and words stands for one's own identity. With each stanza the poet unveils the themes of feminism, identity, self exploration, marriage, language and writing. It unfurls the labyrinthine palimpsest in our Indian society where females are struggling to overcome the hurdles that prevail in our society and to withstand herself to stand exceptional among all and to find her true identity. The poem deals with the struggles of women who are married at their very young age and lost their identity. Kamala being one among those common women of this typical Indian society struggles to find herself and at last she refers herself as 'I' that symbolizes her own exploration. The poem flows around the life struggles of the author. And it so shows the longing of a woman to find her true love. Kamala in her journey to find a true soul she got betrayed but at last she thought of finding her identity like other men who addresses themselves as "I".

Keywords: Feminism, Equality, Marriage, Freedom, Self Exploration, Identity, Language and Writing and Individuality

Exploration of Identities

The Indian women voices are roaring like a powerful nuclear weapon as like the tremendous voice of our avowing writer Kamala Das in this poem "An Introduction". The impending urge of the author to explore her identity prevails through out this poem. The opening lines of the poem "I don't know politics but I know the names" reflects her determining gaze over the powerful thoughts in our Indian political system. These lines exposes the wide spread male domination in our politics.

"Of those in power, and canrepe at them like

Days of week, or names of months, beginning with Nehru"

Through these lines she conveys the readers that she remembers every leader name right from Jawaharlal Nehru our first Prime Minister of India. From these opening lines she shifts to express her own life. Racial discrimination is not only found in the foreign lands it is still prevailing in our country. That is not necessary to mention the skin tone of the author, but she did so.

"I am Indian, very brown, born in Malabar"

As she was so self-reliant in expressing her identity, she mentioned herself proud as a brown Indian. Eventually, she said she was criticized by the critics as well her family and friends for writing in English.

"Why not let me speak in Any language I like?"

She is so resolute in choosing her language to dream, talk and write. She felt that through the Indian English she can express all her true feelings though it may be funny. Later on she conveys the significance in expressing the language through some references. Gradually she starts addressing her life experience.

Opening the curtains from her childhood she starts exposing herself. Being born in a typical Indian family Kamala Das found that difficult to adapt to those useless stuffs. They said that's he grew and made her to get married.

"When I asked for love, not knowing what else to ask for, he drew a youth of sixteen"

Marriage is the relationship of complete love and truth, but Kamala doesn't feel that in her marriage. When she was seeking for love, all she found is her aching body. These lines represent the state of those poor girls who are married at their very young age. She exposes the pitiful condition of the young girls who without even knowing about the true crux of the marriage got stuck in the hands of the cruel society.

"... I wore a shirt and my brother's trousers, cut my hair short and ignored my womanliness."

She tries to acknowledge that womanliness doesn't lie in the dress they wear. Women are often locked in a small circle. She is as a rule connoted as the object to perform the household duties.. Analogous to this typical reference, Madhavi kutty also imparts that her clan perpetually persists her to be a woman and to perform the activities she is intended to do so. Additionally, she says that it is mandatory to seek their own identity via the following lines, "It is time to Choose a name, a role". She also reveals that she loved a man, but he is a very conventional man who endeavors to find a woman. Women often desire to be loved, and they strive for true love and affection, and Kamala, also being a mirror image, thirsted for an earnest soul in her life. "Any where and, Everywhere, I see the one who calls himself I.

And adding to the point she asserts that whenever she approaches any man to address him, she only received the answer acquired was 'I'. Then incrementally she states herself as 'I'. And also she conveys that she was so lonely and she wanders alone and drinks alone all night. All these lines of Kamala Das state her pathetic condition.

"It is I who laugh, it is I who make love and then, feel shame"

She was the one common girl who seeks for love and at last she was betrayed. The ending lines of this poem reveals that she delved into the intricacies of the society and results in the loss of her identity. But at last she stands for herself standing for her own identity.

"I am sinner, I am saint."

Through these lines we could see that she is striving to stand for herself. Everything that she committed in her life is only because of herself. For the sins she have made she refers herself as a sinner and for the good deeds she have done she refers herself as a saint.

"I too call my self I"

Through the closing lines in this poem, we can witness that finally Kamala won her identity. She also addresses her self as 'I' and these statements of her state her own identity. The word 'I' plays a significant role as a symbol, as it symbolizes the identity and self-exploring nature. And it's stands as a motif that reveals that self declaration is the most powerful thing that one can find within themselves.

This poem stands as a pinnacle of Kamala's literary works. Initiating with the politics of India she delve into the intricacies of her life to withstand for her identity. As Mahatma Gandhi said in his "Women not the weaker sex," women are not the object of lust. And that is what Kamala is also striving to acknowledge: that women have their own identity and they are not meant for the object of marriage. At the end, Kamala created her own identity. Though it is taken in a view of feminism the theme is neutral that one should withstand for their identity.

Refernces

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