

THE “SIGNIFICANCE OF LOVE” IN VARIOUS FORMS OF LIFE AS ABSORBED IN TWO LEAVES AND A BUD: AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT: *Mulk Raj Anand is a prolific and pioneer writer of Indian English fiction. He selected his characters from the real society around him. His literary works are noted for his realism. One can feel love at any time, because it is everywhere. We can also see the aspects of love in the novel Two Leaves and a Bud, in which it is shown through the different characters in the novel. Barbara the daughter of Charles who is in love with Dr. Havre is very much clear and good in all the concepts of their love, but they are separated due to the domination of the white people in the estate. But their love was real and pure. Family love is clearly evident through Gangu's family, they were together in all their hectic situations. The significance of love in various forms of life is very beautifully picture through this paper.*

Key Words: *: Love, Sentiment, Family, Separation, loyalty, brotherhood, kind, Satisfaction, Significance*

Family is the primary group in society. God created human beings and divided them into man and woman, with a few basic difference in body and mind, but when they got into their family organisation they automatically bond with each other. Family love is a bliss and one can get a greatest feel in it. We can also see the various means of love i.e., love between couple, pets, love in friendship, love for nature, love towards children, love for native land etc.,

Mulk Raj Anand's mind was very much influenced by the British oppression. He very effectively gives voice to the down-trodden society and to the poverty situation faced by the Dalits. Beyond this Anand is very good in showing the elements of various love in his third novel *Two Leaves and a Bud*. Love has various forms i.e., one can just feel what is love and some can be in love.

In the beginning of the novel itself we can face the love of a normal husband Gangu Singh towards his wife Sajani. Anand beautifully describes this through his lines in the novel.

“Once, in their youth, when she had come as a newly wedded bride, she had sung to him that song which was one of the most popular melodies of the year in the hills, *Companion of my Life and Death*.” (Anand, p. 1)

The tune of this song had always haunted him, because he loved his wife deeply. He wished to believe that it was true and was possible for a man and woman to be companions in life and death together; which everyone had to face alone. From the beginning of their life journey they were together in all ways. During the journey to the tea estate in Assam, he looked at his wife, Sajani, who sat facing him with his fourteen-year-old daughter Leila and his son Buddhu. He is very happy about their train journey. Gangu is a kind-hearted man and he took over care towards his family. He is also affectionate to his both children.

The children, Leila and Buddhu were excited and eagerly waiting to see the new place, in spite of the fact they were gummy-eyed from several sleeplessness. But they were unthinking little things reflected Gangu. They were spontaneous and natural, happy and trusting slaves to anyone who would win them over with the gift of a sweet or a toy. They had no appreciation of the pain that lies quiescent under everything, the suffering that men imposed on themselves and each other.

Gangu is very much afraid, because he is getting old. He also wished to die among his kith and kin and not in the jungle. This shows his real love towards his relations and native land. This is evident through the lines: -

“Gangu mused, ‘they are young and healthy, and I am getting old. I have only few years to live; and I should have liked to die among my kith and kin rather than in this jungle, already three days’ and night’s journey from Hoshiarpur” (Anand, p. 2)

Gangu goes for shopping with his family. On Sunday, the weekly day of rest for the coolies, Gangu and Sajanidecide to go with their children, Leila and Buddhu, to the bazaar in the village of Bedhi, two miles east

of the tea estate. But Gangu is disappointed to see that his wife has only seven rupees on her, of which five rupees is the money given by Buta for their pocket expense during the train journey and rupees two is the remuneration they have earned for a week's work on the plantation.

After a while Gangu and his wife and children reach the village bazaar where gaily decked stalls display clothes, soaps, beads, combs, pearls, mirrors, Leila's heart brightens at the sight of such beauty. Buddhu goes towards the coloured-cloth stall. He compels Gangu to buy a coloured woollen ball for him before buying anything else. However, his daughter Leila, gives up the idea of buying bangles, nose rings and necklaces for herself as she has seen that her father does not have much money on him to buy the things. Love overcomes through these incidents. Family love is very much clearly evident from the below lines; -

"Come, Leila,' she then said. 'I will get you something too.'
 'Mother,' said the girl suddenly. 'I don't think I see any bangles that I like;
 a nose-ring will be very expensive, and a necklace will cost a lot.'
 'What has come over you?' her mother cried.
 'You were so eager to come here and buy the ornaments.'
 'Nothing', the girl said, as they began to walk towards the direction
 where Gangu had gone." (Anand, p. 72)

The love-scene between Dr. Havre and Barbara is an interesting angle in the novel. Anand brings a very beautifully kneaded love, but it persists only for a short period of time. Barbara waits for Dr. John de la Havre in his study room which looks like a hospital. She always insists Dr. Havre to keep the books tidy in a proper place. But he always manages to get around the point forcefully. He is not handsome and even ugly in its smallness, but he has a passionate fire in him. He always speaks ironically and jocular in manner, and that is the thing which attracted Barbara. She likes and loves whatever he did. He had a woman's sensitiveness, fierce and gentle; a tiger tenderness.

Dr. Havre doesn't frighten her like other men. He is humble and kind to Barbara. She has been a virgin and she has given herself to him without any self-consciousness. She thinks it is perfect between them. Her people don't know that when they ask her to give him up, but she can't give him up in any situation. Nothing can separate her from him as long as she loves him and he loves her. She is waiting for her love: -

"It was perfect between them, she said, and nobody else knew.
 People, her people, did not know that, when they said she ought to give him up
 She would not give him up. While she was she and he was he, while the world
 held them both, nothing would separate them.
 But, where was he? Where was he? Of course, it was mad to come on spec!
 She has been waiting for hours" (Anand, p. 122)

'Hallo' a sound suddenly came from the veranda breaking her sentence and immediately like a spark Barbara ran eagerly like a young boy. She went towards him and slowly by controlling herself without making any movement. She is very elated to see Dr. Havre and he called her 'darling', 'sweet' with full enthusiasm in her. Havre is astonished to see the beautiful and charming Barbara, and he moved to kiss her but she hesitates to accept it. "My darling! My sweet!" he said, reaching out to her in a frenzy of excitement. (Anand, p. 128).

Giving and receiving 'Happiness' is a heavenly feel. One can absorb this feel from true love. John Donne, in his poem "A Valediction forbidding Mourning", praises his love in different forms, which he terms it as "Spiritual and Platonic love". It is visible through his poetic lines: -

"But we, by a love so much refined
 That ourselves know not what it is,
 Inter-assured of the mind,
 Care less, eyes, lips, and hands to miss" (Stanza-5)

The case is similar in the love of Havre and Barbara. He then slowly embraces and kisses her passionately. Soon his attention is distracted by the sound of footsteps on the gravel path outside. Gangu appears in the scene and he ask Gangu to come inside to his room. Gangu knows De la Havre to be a kind-hearted man and enters his house with his head bent forward in humility. Havre is always helpful to everyone, so he decided to help Gangu with full of his humanly love.

Gangu requests Havre to give him a piece of land, because he has borrowed twenty rupees from a trader for the funeral of his wife but can't pay back the loan and the interest on it with his low earnings. Havre tells him that he will request the manager to give him a piece of land in terms of the contract made by him. He also gives Gangu ten rupees for repaying a part of the loan received by him from the trader. Gangu is mesmerised by the kindness of De la Havre and moves out. Havre returns home with full satisfaction for helping him.

Narain, the neighbouring coolie from Bikaner, is a poor man and like other coolies he is also working in the estate. Buta, the Indian subordinate introduces Narain to Gangu. Buta orders Narain to share about their work place and also their living place 'Hut'. After making arrangements of their meeting Buta left in order to meet their family members.

"I must be off too. But I will call Narain,
your neighbour, in the hut at the back".

"And Narain there, will tell you everything.

Now, my family will be waiting". (Anand, p. 35)

Narain and Gangu are very much bonded in their first meet itself. Buddhu the son of Gangu begins to play with Baloo the son of Narain and Shama. Narain felt very sad for leaving their relations in their native land, and he never visited the place back. He is depressed totally, and he shares all the circumstances which prevails in the tea estate. Narain is very much lovable towards Gangu in which he calls him as "Brother",

"It is no trouble, brother", said Narain.

'We have called each other brothers, and
we will live next to each other as brothers'. (Anand, p. 39)

This shows the "Brotherly love" and also love for their individual family. Through these characters Anand shows us the significance of love in their various forms of life as absorbed in the novel *Two leaves and a Bud*. Absorbing and getting love is a precious one, it has a greatest feel and a charm in it. The different angles of love in them is clearly evident through the usage of terms and words used by Anand in the novel. To conclude,

"Fall in love...
Absorb the love...
Feel the love...
Enjoy your love..."

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