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Exploring starvation and suffering in nectar in a sieve

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Abstract

Everyone in this novel is fighting a harsh, brave battle to survive. In an epic, the hero battles valiantly against his enemy; Nathan and Rukmani fight a valiant and relentless battle against destitution and hunger. Their battle is significantly more painful and intensely felt, but it is no less brave. The story becomes an epic of rural India as a result of their heroic response to the forces of destruction, where heroic rural characters strive against enormous odds patiently, relentlessly, and without end. Their battle has taken on an epic grandeur and dignity, becoming a global endeavor. Their home is in an unnamed village with an ambiguous and vague location. This is due to the fact that it symbolizes rural India. Nathan and Rukmani stand in for Indian farmers, and their tragic tale embodies rural India.

Keywords: Suffering, Rural India, starvation, hunger, destitution, epic battle

Introductions

Nectar in a Sieve is a powerful story about starvation and pain. The issue is studied in a rural context, where hunger and poverty are induced by natural forces such as excessive rainfall or drought. The issue of hunger is vividly described, and the courageous struggle of the two characters, Nathan and Rukmani, against overwhelming difficulties elevates the work to epic proportions.

The story's heroine and narrator, Rukmani, is married to Nathan, an impoverished tenant farmer. Despite their poverty, they enjoy living in their modest mud home and paddy field. They eat well and are satisfied with their situation. But then catastrophe strikes them in fast succession. They have several children in short succession, one daughter, Ira, and six sons. The available supply of food must be shared by so many hungry mouths, and there isn't enough for everyone. Then their daughter Ira is returned to them by her husband since she is barren and he wants a male child. He has waited five years and cannot wait any longer. It is a big tragedy, but they bore it silently because it was inevitable and there is nothing they can do about it.

This story, with its fierce power and realistic atmosphere, evokes the tremendous struggle for existence. It powerfully depicts the impoverished and heartbreaking lives of poor tenant farmers. However, the narrative of Rukmani, her husband, and their children exemplifies the universality of love and loyalty that appeals to readers worldwide.

Then a tannery is built on the fringes of the village, and Nathan's family ties begins to loosen. Prices grow, and there is more ugliness and depravity. Two of their boys, Arjun and Thambi, begin working in the tannery. There being a strike, their services are terminated, and they depart for Ceylon, leaving Nathan and Rukmani with no further information. Next, their son Raja goes to the tannery, gets caught taking a large chunk of skin, and is slain on the spot with a lathi strike. His lifeless body is delivered to them, and Rukmani bears the tragedy with heroic calm and resignation. There is no protest or loud wailing, just her poignant and heartbreaking loss. Barry Argyle says, "The narrator as an old woman is trying to tell her son, to whose care she has returned, of the manner of his father's death. As readers, we know that he died in the rain on a muddy bank after doing some of the lowliest work possible, picking stones in a quarry, to which poverty has driven both him and his wife".

It's like weeping for an epic hero who was murdered in action. Murugan then departs and travels to the city to join his duty. Their four sons thus depart in quick succession, creating enormous sadness and anguish for their parents. Nature, however, delivers the most terrible blow to their naive heads. The life of an Indian peasant is completely dependent on the whims of nature. His future is constantly unpredictable and insecure.

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This is the tragedy of rural life in India.

In the great epics, a hostile supernatural power, such as a demon or giant, works against the hero, causing tragedy and misery. Nature, in this case, works against Nathan and Rukmani, killing Kuti, who died of malnutrition and eventually driving Nathan to his end. First, it rains heavily, drowning the paddy crops. They have no rice for sale. The granary is also empty. They survive for a while on salted fish, roots and leaves, as well as prickly pear and plantain fruits. They face famine. Old Granny offers her last rupee to Ira's son before dying of famine. Her character is a study in absolute deprivation.

It's all a grim, courageous struggle for survival. In an epic, the hero fights a heroic battle against his adversary; Nathan and Rukmani fight a heroic and unrelenting war against hunger and poverty. Their struggle is no less courageous, but far more emotional and heartbreaking. Their heroic response to the forces of destruction transforms the story into an epic of rural India, in which heroic rural characters struggle patiently, bravely, persistently, and ceaselessly against overwhelming odds. Their struggle has become worldwide, with epic grandeur and dignity. The village where they dwell has no name, and the location is imprecise and indistinct. This is because it represents rural India, and Nathan and Rukmani represent Indian farmers, and their tragedy is the story of rural India. Thus, the novelist adds epic proportions and importance to the tragedy of a poor tenant-farmer and his family.

Next, they must deal with drought. Whatever savings they have are wasted on paying the landlord's rent, and hunger reigns supreme. The book presents a terrible image of hunger. Rajesh Vinayaka Rao says, "The happiness of Rukmani and her family is dependent on good harvest and that in turn is dependent on timely and adequate rains. Nature plays the game of hide and seek and ultimately snatches all joys from her life - destroying the crop-sometimes in the form of heavy rains - sometimes in the form drought". They are sometimes forced to eat grass to satisfy their hunger, because hunger is a strange thing; at first, it is with you all the time, waking and sleeping and in your dreams, and your belly cries out insistently, and there is a gnawing and pain as if your very vitals were being devoured, and you must stop it at any cost, and you buy a moment's respite even though you know, and fear, the sequel. Then the agony is no longer intense but dull, and it is always with you, so that you think of food many times a day, and each time a dreadful illness assails you. You attempt to ignore the thought, but you can't because it is always with you.

Because of the series of natural disasters, Nathan is unable to pay his landlord. The tannery requires his land and he is evicted from the field he had farmed and irrigated with his blood for so many years. Nathan was profoundly anchored in his land, and his eviction shocks him to the core, yet he suffers the tragedy with the amazing fortitude that has always defined him. Nathan and Rukmani are forced to relocate to the city in search of housing for their kid Murugan.

Patil Sangita Sharnappa says, "It becomes clear that the root cause of exploitation of women and nature is patriarchy, which for most eco-feminists means male domination perpetuated in the form of certain social practices such as the logic of dualism." Their journey to the city and search for Murugan is similar to the epic hero or other legendary

figure's descent into the underworld. The city is a hell, as they encounter poverty, hunger, disease, and depravity in their most raw, stark, and horrifying form. Murugan's whereabouts are unknown, so they are forced to stoop to begging, live with thieves and beggars in a temple, work as stonebreakers for a while. All these circumstances lead to Nathan's death.

Thus, hunger and starvation, as well as the degradation caused by hunger, serve as the novel's fundamental theme. The issue has been explored in a rural environment through Nathan and Rukmani's various ups and downs. They are larger-than-life characters, and their heroic response to hunger adds epic depth and majesty to the narrative. We believe that Nathan and Rukmani's travails are those of every impoverished farmer in our country.

Conclusion

Hunger not only kills, it also degrades and dehumanizes. It forces Kunthi to prostitution, and later she blackmails Rukmani and Nathan during their most trying times, when they are famished. It forces Ira to turn to prostitution in a courageous effort to preserve the life of her child-brother Kuti, who is unwell and dying. Raja steals from the tannery and is slain. Poverty is a crime, as illustrated by the stories of Nathan and Rukmani. Corruption in the narrative emerges from within, through famine, rather than from industrialization.

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