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Internal Dilemma of Two Sisters (DUI BON)

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ABSTRACT: Dui Bon reminds one of the stories of Nashtanirh, but with the genders of the protagonists changed. Nashtanirh, is about a woman falling for her husband's brother because of the common interests and rapport they shared; whereas Dui Bon is about a man who falls in love with his wife's sister with whom he shares his innermost thoughts and easily gets with. At the end the brother and sister in the respective stories realize the complexities of their situations and leave to pursue their individual goals. This similarities between the stories end there.

I. INTRODUCTION

Dui Bon talks about what qualities a man seeks in his wife. As per the Sanskrit Shloka in Neetishastra an ideal wife is one who has six virtues. The Shloka goes Karyeshu Dasi Karaneshu Mantri, Bhojeshu Mata Sayanesh Rambha Rupeshu Lakshmi Kshamaya Dharitri Shat Dharm yukt kul Dharm Patni as per this shlok an ideal wife is one who is hard working, advises as a minister would, feeds like a mother gives pleasure and happiness like the heavenly dancer Rambha charming like Goddess Lakshmi forgiving like Mother earth. In all a complete woman who would contribute to a happily married life in all ways. However in reality what are the chances that a woman would possess each and every quality mentioned above? It would be a very rare occurrence. But yet perhaps the man might still seek each and every quality from his wife. Dui Bon is a story that highlights such a need of a man.

NOVEL SYNOPSIS:

Shashank is a happily married engineer working with the British government and is awaiting a promotion His wife Sharmila dotes on him taking care of his every need including food and clothing so much that Shashank is completely depended on her, Sharmila is constantly worried about her husband. She feels he is like a little child who must be taken care of. Ever since she had met him, she had always wanted to marry him, take care of him and keep him protected.

Shashank has a friendly and comfortable relationship with his wife's sister Urmi, with whom he shares his penchant for playing tennis and other games and often shares jokes and light moments with her. Urmi is an aspiring doctor engaged to be married to Nirad, another aspiring doctor. She aims to fulfill her late father's wish of working for their hospital so that it could help the poor and needy. Nirad was her late brother's friend. Her brother also doctor had succumbed to an illness leaving their father shattered. Their father a rich man had built the hospital for his son so that he could fulfill his dream of taking the hospital forward and making it among the best in the city. Consequent on his son's death it was Nirad who stood

by him and gave him moral support. Therefore, before passing away abroad, he fixed Urmis alliance with Nirad, so that they could jointly take forward the dream that he had for the hospital.

Sharmila and Urmis father had identified the talent of an orphaned young Shashank providing for his educational needs and later giving his daughter Sharmila in marriage to him. Because of this Shashank is always filled with a sense of gratitude towards his father in law. His only source of satisfaction and the happiness derived therein is his work his job as an engineer, where it is his own hard work that is put in and not somebody's mercy.

But this happiness is only short lived, when the promotion due to him is given to another British officer. Shashank is disappointed and depressed which outpours into his behaviour when he turns irritating and angry shouting at his servants for flimsy reasons. Sharmila, noticing this change in her husband's behaviour soon finds are the reason and advices her husband to quit his job and start a business, partnering with her uncle who is in the construction business. Sharmila's rich father had left her some property and hefty amount in her bank account. She proposes Shashank to use this money as investment. However Shashank agrees to take it only as a loan.

Shashank and Nirad dislike each other but remain cordial when they are face to face. Nirad feels that Shashank has no self respect for he unabashedly enjoys his father in law's wealth and property and has no qualms in accepting money from his wife. On the other hand Shashank feels that Nirad is not the right choice for Urmi, he



imposes too many restrictions on her preventing her from the little things that she enjoys doing.

Meanwhile Nirad and Urmi's applications to get enrolled in the University in London, is accepted. However Nirad asks Urmi to stay back for the hospitals sake and leaves for London. Before, he leaves Urmi offers him money to meet his expenses, which he refuses saying that he is not shameless like her brother in law.

Shashank is soon engrossed in his work, putting the best he could, doing things that give him satisfaction and completing the project successfully. His happiness knows no bounds when he returns the loan that he took from his wife. He had always felt burdened with gratitude. This extra burden, he wouldn't have been able to carry for long, A rare sense of freedom enters his being.

Urmi pays a visit to her elder sister who has not been keeping well for sometime. Sharmila would earlier fall sick occasionally, but now her frequency of illness had increased. Her doctor suggests to keep herself happy that would be more than enough to bring her back to normal health. But Sharmila's source of happiness has been her husband, who has been spending more hours at work and less at home. Shashank's obsession with his work and his resolved to return his wife's money as early as possible has resulted in him working harder and spending lesser time with his wife. His timings too became erratic, putting Sharmila's routine off course. She had been getting up at odd hours and sleeping at odd hours so that she could take care of Shashank's food and other needs. This started taking a toll on her health.

II. DISCUSSION

With Urmi's visit Sharmila feels a little better. She asks her to spend some days with them. Urmi too had been feeling lonely. After refusing to take money from her, Nirad himself wrote a letter to her from London asking her to send money as it was hard to meet his expenses with just the scholarship amount. Urmi was habitual with his twin nature of his and sent him the money. Urmi had always been in awe of her brother-in-law because of his hardworking and joyful nature, an adulation which Nirad always resented. He wasn't mean like Nirad but was straight forward and good-natured. Soon Urmi receives another letter from Nirad acknowledging the receipt of the money and that he would return it as soon as possible. However, since it would take him five years to finish his degree and return to India, he wouldn't want Urmi to wait for him. Also he was getting married to his British colleague, so their engagement now stands cancelled. More than feeling a sense of shock after reading the letter, Urmi felt a sense of relief and Shashank and Urmi erupt into laughter when they imagine Nirad getting married to a British girl.

With Sharmila bedridden Urmi and Shashank spend more time together talking about their lives, likes and dislikes their innermost feelings, etc, bringing them closer than they would have ever thought they could be. So much that Shashank starts ignoring his work to spend more time with Urmi resulting in a huge loss at work.

Sharmila is not unaware of the closeness that her husband and sister have started to share. Her health keeps deteriorating, her source of happiness, her husband is going farther away from her. Meanwhile Sharmila requests Shashank to take Urmi as his second wife because all she wants is their happiness. Also with her ill health and no hope of recovering she would be at peace that her beloved husband is in good hands. Urmi had overheard her uncle tell her sister that Shashank had been ignoring the business since a month exactly the same time since she had been living at her sister's house. She had already started realising that her continuous intrusion into her sister's life has caused enough loss, monetarily as well as psychologically. Her sister now wants Urmi to take her place in Shashank's life. The bond she shared with Shashank perhaps was a natural outcome of their closeness. But her sister's life was too precious. Her ailing elder sister's poignant request leaves Urmi shattered from within. A realization dawns on her that her sister needs her husband more than ever and she leaves. Her ambition of fulfilling her father's wishes for their hospital now becomes the centre focus of her life and leaves for England to complete her education.

On the other hand, Shashank too is perplexed when his wife asks him to marry her sister. Meanwhile he glances upon the business accounts and realizes that there has been a huge loss. He visits Sharmila's uncle to ask for forgiveness and that he would work hard to repay the losses. It is then that her uncle reveals about Sharmila mortgaging her jewellery and property to repay the losses and invest in a bigger project. Shashank realises how selfish he had been all along. Sharmila had always wished for his well being and happiness. She had even taken care that if she passed away, there would be Urmi and her property to take care of him. Her love for him was unconditional and all she sought from him was his love. He apologizes to Sharmila and resolves to take care of her, provide the best medication give her lots of love and bring her back to normal. He returns her mortgaged jewellery and property papers and vows to work hard and



keep his wife happy on his own merit. Dui Bon is a complex story because of the complexities of the characters. Each bound by individuals own mindset and seeking happiness within that bounded frame.

There is neither didactic not aggressive in the novel and the action is delightfully simple. This style is attractive and limpid. The portraits of the people of the novel prove Tagores great knowledge of the world and his acquaintance with people. There is no denying that the novel is packed with incidents and characters.

III. CONCLUSION

Sharmilas mental solitude for her husband, juxtaposed with her childlessness, may thus indicate a mismatched relationship. As Tagore puts it, Shashank and Sharmila had never really been united, although the cracks were not visible on the surface. Their marital relationship is therefore like a makebelieve game and Shashank openly rebukes her for treating him like a toy in front of the world. Despite her suffering Sharmila somewhat masochistically surrendered to the stereotype of the woman who is ruthlessly left at home by her husband in pursuit of his commercial enterprise which for her is the eternal masculine, heroine struggle with fate. Her younger sister Urmila is very different, impulsive, curious and brimming over with vitality. But Nirad wishes to dominate her completely disguising his love of power and money in the form of lofty ideals according to which he would mould her nature like a scientific procedure in the laboratory. Urmila submits to this subtle tyranny, this anesthetization, much against her nature, although fortunately she is not trapped into marriage. She thus finds release from this stifling priggishness in the light-hearted relationship with Shashank bordering upon adultery.

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