

Vision: The Story of Pathos by Rabindranath Tagore

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Abstract

The present research paper deals with *Vision* one of the well-known short stories by Rabindranath Tagore. This is a story of an Indian wife who is under burden of traditional expectations of wife from her husband, family members and society. The present paper explores the dilemma of a wife in taking decisions. It discusses the tragic life of wife which has been willingly accepted by her only. It describes the situations where wife has to sacrifice her own desires for the husband's happiness. It comments on Indian customs and traditions. It studies the relations between husband and wife and the unsaid expectations of the husband from his wife.

KEYWORDS: Indian culture, tradition, wife, vision

Rabindranath Tagore, the most renowned poet and thinker of modern India, was a great writer of short stories. He was awarded by the Nobel Prize for his contribution in the world of literature. Indian culture, customs, traditions and rituals are thoroughly described by Tagore in his writings. He portrayed the Indian life style by touching various strata's of society. Tagore skillfully presented minute observations of mental conflicts and complexities in human relations. He wrote about the struggle of women in traditional Indian society. He used writing as a medium for drafting social realism, brooding over philosophy, giving honor to love, giving voice to unvoiced and arousing sympathy for all those who suffer in life due to miseries. Simplicity, depiction of Indian life, presentation of inner struggle, arousing sympathy and learning of life lessons are the features of his writing. The reading of Tagore's work means experiencing human life at deeper level. His works of art always pass a message to value one another to make world beautiful with peace. His short stories are the examples of the depiction of poignant human relationships in simple style, due to which the readers still find them interesting to read.

Vision is one of the short stories by Tagore. It is a story of an Indian wife. In this story, Tagore described the expectations of an Indian wife by her family members, relatives and society. The story is interesting to read. The story slowly unfolded how the burdens of these expectations make women to build their views accordingly and while doing this how they lose their own identity. Through this story, Tagore had given a way to release the unheard feelings and emotions of a wife. The story **Vision** is a perfect example of an idle Indian wife.

The story is written in first person narration. 'I' stands for a wife and her inner voice. It is the story of love, faith, sacrifice, mental conflicts and struggle to be patient. It depicts the dilemma of an Indian wife while maintaining the relations between family members. It is a story of a wife who lost her vision due to her husband's experiments on her eyes. The story depicts how a wife accepts her husband's all words blindly without any hesitations

and with lots of trust, though he leads her towards destruction and she realizes it. Tagore had beautifully narrated this story: **Vision**.

The central character in the story is Kumo. She married to Abinash, a medical student. After birth she gave birth to a dead child and lost her strength. Slowly she recovered her strength but her eyesight became weak. Being a medical student, her husband, without considering any expert guidance started treating her eyes. He did experiments on her eyes to test his medical knowledge. Kumo's brother often visited her. When he came to know about these treatments he advised Kumo not to rely on her husband's treatment. He warned her husband to take expert's opinion but he strongly rejected this suggestion. Once, her brother secretly called doctor to check her eyes and requested Kumo to follow the medicine suggested by him. She was in difficult situation, whether to follow her husband's treatment or her brother's advice. But being loyal to the husband, Kumo did not follow the medicine given by the doctor. She abandoned her brother's advice as having traditional belief that 'after marriage, her pleasure and pain are her husband's concern.' Her eyes were not giving any positive result, therefore, finally her husband consulted with a doctor. It was decided to operate her eyes and after operation she lost her vision.

Her husband found himself guilty for ruining her eyes. But Kumo expressed her comfort by saying that it was good, she lost her eyes in her husband's hands as if she dedicated her eyes to her God. He promised Kumo that he could try to make up her want of vision in his power. She advised her to remarry. He disagreed to this view and continued to help her in all his ways. He was repenting on his did and did not allow servants to do Kumo's work as took her responsibility. She became dependant. She felt as if she had become a burden on him. She decided to manage her need on her own and succeeded in that. She decreased the burden on her husband. Once, one of her friend asked why she did not feel angry for the way she was treated by husband. Kumo answered by saying that her blindness is an evil why should she make it worse by growing hatred against her husband.

Meanwhile, her husband completed his medical education and went away from Calcutta to a small town to practice as a doctor. She recalled all her past memories because only memories were present in her mind as she was unable to see knew things. She was able to imagine only the things surrounded to her. She created pictures of all the things she experienced in new place. Her husband gained some reputation in his profession as a doctor. They spent a few happy months together.

Kumo observed change in her husband's treatment given to patients. Earlier he wanted to help poor people as it was his desire to serve poor and needy people. Kumo observed that these feelings were nowhere exist in his treatment. He had become strangely hard. He started refusing poor people and became interested in money matters. She felt that he was no longer with her as if he was disappearing due to his mad thirst for gold. When she talked about this change, he replied by saying that change is the law of nature. She commented that the wives generally complaints against their husbands with some reasons. According to him there was no such reason which made Kumo sad and her complaints were causeless. Kumo realized the change in their life.

Their life got changed when her husband's aunt came to them and asked Kumo to convince her husband to remarry. That was a surprise to her when her husband asked aunt

to bring a girl from decent family to help Kumo, though he knew that there was no such need. After that, Hemangine, a young girl came to live with them and changed their life. Kumo experienced changes in her husband.

Kumo felt that her husband was departing from her. He started coming to home frequently though there was no such need. The topics of conversations were changed in the house. She listened the way her husband, auntie and Hemangini talked. She experienced the change in their relations. She remembered how loyal she was with her husband. She remembered how she scarified her eyes only for him. She remembered how she lied to her brother for her husband. She felt as if everything had changed. She experienced hollowness in her life. She understood the way aunt was taking efforts to bring close her husband and Hemangini. She felt sorry when Hemangini asked her about child and said that Kumo had no child because she had committed sin. She continued and said that auntie was childless because she had some wickedness. Kumo felt sorry as she knew the reason very well. Hemangini spoke boldly. She did not hesitate to express her opinions. She had pity for Kumo. She called her a sister and treated her same. Kumo's brother came to meet her stayed for long. Her husband did not like this asked Kumo about how long he was going to stay with them. Unfortunately he had to leave the house. Kumo did not inform him about what was going on her life.

Kumo felt lonely and started crying. Hemangini was there to wipe her tears. She was surprised why Hemangini was in her room. Next day, Hemangini decided to leave the house and so that aunt also. Her husband pretended that he got a relief as aunt left the house because she had kept him away from work. There was no discussion about Hemangini. One day her servant asked her about the preparation going on and where the master was going. Kumo was unaware of that. Abhinash, her husband, informed her that he was going out for two- three days to visit patient in the country. Kumo started crying and asked the reason why he lied. She insisted him to agree that he was going to marry. He answered that he wanted to remarry because Kumo was very much engaged in her blindness. She was not remained an ordinary woman whom he could be *free to chide and coax and pet and scold*.

Kumo was sad to listen these. She prayed God to save her husband from the great sin. She was alone in the house as if she lost everything. In fact the basic reason her life. She recalled how she dedicated her life for her husband without doing any complaint. Her blindness was brooded in the surrounding. She continued worship. Next day she found herself in her bedroom. She found Hemangini calling her sister in bridal dress. She was shocked and cursed herself because her prayer did not work. Kumo was still having some faith that things happen according to God's will and her prayer was not the final thing in the world. She finally found that her brother married Hemangini and her husband was saved from this sin. She declared that she was not God but an ordinary woman. He told her that her brother saved him by marrying with Hemangini. He confessed that he could have no happiness except with her. The story ends with their meeting.

Tragic story of Kumo has been excellently composed by Rabindranath Tagore. The images he used while narrating the story are beautiful and meaningful. Kumo's inner world is skillfully opened. Her unsaid wishes and desires are expressed successfully. Her loyalty, faith and patience are well worded by Tagore. The readers feel sympathy for her

though she finally had her husband. Rabindrnath Tagore has tried to give vision to the readers about the emotions, feelings, desires and expectations of wife hidden in the darkness of traditions.

References:

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