



Think India (Quarterly Journal)

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ONE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

DISABILITY, REPRESENTATION AND LITERATURE

held on 03 October 2019 and Organised by P.G. & Research Department
of English

S. T. HINDU COLLEGE, NAGERCOIL-2, Tamilnadu, India



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ABSTRACT:

Virginia Woolf, a woman novelist of the early twentieth century belonged to a small group called Bloomsbury group. She used the stream of consciousness technique. The extract “profession for women” was originally presented as a paper at the “women service league”. She stresses the need for a woman writers to liberate herself from the stereotyped moral values imposed on her by men. The society is concerned with the employment of women but what woman professional experience woman had?.

KEY WORDS :

Suppressing woman , male dominant

Woolf says that earlier woman writers faced a lot of problems and overcome them. The earlier woman writers whom Virginia Woolf praises are Fanny Burney ,AphraBehn, Harriet Martineau, Jane Austen and George Eliot. For the first article that she wrote, she was paid one pound ten shillings and six pence. With this money she bought herself a Persian cat. Conventry Patmore wrote a poem entitled . “The Angel in the House”. In this poem Patmore idealized the woman who makes sacrifices for the sake of her family as an angel. She disagrees with patmore’s view that a woman is the one who blushes and is pure. She doesn’t expect woman to suppress herself . Virginia says that while she was writing, the angel flapped its wings around her and tired



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to influence her thoughts. Virginia says that it was not easy to kill the angel because it was a phantom. However, she finally succeeded in destroying the phantom.

Woolf says that her next problem is to depict woman as she herself is. That is, the self or individuality of woman is to be found and represented. This is far more difficult than killing the angel in the house. Similarly, the novelist suddenly realizes the need to describe bodily passions. Men think it indecent for a woman to describe it Virginia Woolf says that she is against male chauvinism.

The writing career is regarded as least problematic. The other professions is also having problems. In this connection, she uses the image of the room to denote the new professions thrown open to women. She has to induce in himself a state of perpetual lethargy. She wants to see the same faces, to read the same books, to do the same things day after day, month after month, while he is writing, so that nothing may break the illusion in which he is living. So that nothing may break the illusion in which he is living- So that nothing may disturb or disquiet the mysterious nosings about, feelings round, darts, dashes and sudden discoveries of that shy and illusive spirit, the imagination. I suspect that this state is the same both for men and women. Be that as it may, I want you to imagine me writing a novel in a state of trance. I want you to figure to yourself a girl sitting with a pen in her hand, which for minutes, and indeed for hours, she never dips into the inkpot. The image that comes to my mind when I think of this girl is the image of a fisherman lying sunk in dreams on the verge of a deep lake with a rod held out over the water.

She was letting her imagination sweep unchecked round every rock and cranny of the world that lies submerged in the depths of our unconscious being. Now came the experience, the experience that. I believe to be far commoner with women writers than with men. The line raced through the girl's fingers. Her imagination had rushed away. It had sought the pools, the depths, the dark places where the largest fish slumber. And then there was a smash. There was an explosion. There was foam and confusion.



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The imagination had dashed itself against something hard. The girl was roused from her dream. She was indeed in a state of the most acute and difficult distress. This I believe to be a very common experience with woman writers—they are impeded by the extreme conventionality of the other sex. For though men sensibly allow themselves great freedom in these respects, I doubt that they realize or can control the extreme severity with which they condemn such freedom in women.

She concludes that the modern woman should have a room of her own. Next she has to furnish it, decorate it and decide with whom to share it, and upon what terms to share it. Women want to decide for themselves what they want to be. What they going to be?. What are their goals. They want to stay and discuss those question and answers but not tonight.

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