

## **Eco Feministic Approach In Sudhamurthy’s “Gently Falls The Bakula”**

**Ms. Mahalakshmi. A<sup>1</sup>, Dr. V. Vennila<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of English, College of Science and Humanities, SRM IST, Kattankulathur, Chennai 603 203. [mahalakshmiastprof@gmail.com](mailto:mahalakshmiastprof@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of English, College of Science and Humanities, SRM IST, Kattankulathur, Chennai 603 203. [dr.v.vennila@gmail.com](mailto:dr.v.vennila@gmail.com)

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### **ABSTRACT**

The paper entitled “Eco Feministic approach in Sudhamurthy’s - GENTLY FALLS THE BAKULA” is an approach to analyze the root system of the society in the mirror of nature. Nature is a boon from God whereas woman is a boon from a woman. This conceptual may arise many contradictory quarrels in one’s mind. Women are usually compared with nature for their traits. This has two extends which is submissive and aggressive. The main concept behind the theory is devotion to the macrocosm is devotion to the lives. It is inversely proportional to the womanhood devotion which cherishes human kind. A woman plays an eminent role in the family growth, which is never recognized by the family members; still her concern for the society never fades.

**KEYWORDS:** Eco feminism, conceptual, macrocosm, womanhood, family.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The beauty of nature can be adorned by anyone whereas only a few would nourish its liveliness. When a seed was sowed, the mother land takes its whole responsibility of its vegetation. This was very beautifully explained by the nature poet Wordsworth “Nature never did betray the heart that loved her” [Daffodils]. This we can sense in every family in the name of a women who holds its serenity. “One daffodil is worth a thousand pleasures and then one is few”. (1. Daffodils) we need not enter each woman’s life to know their efficacy. It is forthrightly offended by men still she struggles to succeed it at last.

Farmland is a great example of imperturbability. To attain its prosperity, it encounters endless persecution by the mankind. Equivalently the feminine gender has to abide with enduring fortitude. Nature and women are treated as same in all the circumstances. Humans are not about to care of nature but they expect its yield. Perhaps woman are neglected to get equal opportunity though they are bounded with countless responsibilities. The question arise here why women has to play dual role as nature? This uncertainty quest emerge the Eco Feminist movement in 1970’s.

Indian culture has its own uniqueness for its traditional attributes. Each part of the state holds different aestheticism. All these cultural heritages are transformed from one generation to another by the humankind, but the obligations lies in the hands of women. It is actually the escapism of a male gender from their responsibility in the society’s development. This is used as a weapon against women in the name of domestic oppression, racial discrimination and negligence. Literature is a reflection of life, so it works as a tool to highlight this blunder to the general public and give shot in the arm to rupture the gender stereotypical norms. As Henry David Thoreau said “Things do not change; we change”- [Walden] well every author’s intuition is to uplift the morals.

### **NATURE AND WOMEN**

Sudhamurthy is an exceptional Indian writer and an exponent teacher who strives hard for the development of social nourishment. Her writing holds great responsibility for the empowerment of women. As a social activist, Murthy always cares for the typical Indian setup where women are bounded with loads of obstacles in the name of social constraint. In the novel “Gently falls the Bakula” she points out the hindrance faced by the women in every stage of their life.

The protagonist of the novel Shrimathi was nailed down by the author with a detail description about her features and characterization. “Ms. Shrimathi Deshpande was a slim, tall girl, with a wheatish complexion and good clear features. She always wore a string of bakula flowers in her hair. She was one of the brightest students in her class” [pg.: 4]. It exhibits the racial discrimination in the community and also their association with the Bakula flowers.

The setting of the novel takes place in Hubli and Bombay. Both the environment has their way of customs. Perhaps the life of every woman has two different shots like Shrimathi. Ecology plays an important execution in everyone's life and it gives strength in their endurance. In the novel, the character Shrimathi was closely associated with the Bakula flower. "Even though it would dry up, it would still give out the same fragrance, like the beloved's love" [pg: 19]. It's a psyche of misogyny folks that females should be treated differently from male just because of their womanhood. So the male must possess a substantial personality to pretend them as such. "Men were not supposed to shed tears in front of others!" [pg: 21].

Women were raised under the scale in the name of social condition which was fixed by the chauvinist. Even in childhood the innocence of a girl child were not cherished completely. Sharing views in the crowd, standing for their decisions were seen as violation, while men were not bound to this norm. In the novel, Shrikanth and his friends comment over Shrimathi whereas Shrimathi never react to them. But she proved herself in the board examination and made a bold decision to pursue her desire for learning history rather than choosing science. It is the male dominance that made Shrikant upset with her success and later it put the cuffs on marriage bond.

"In our society, you marry not only an individual, but also his family" [pg: 53]. Well exactly, In the Indian culture it was the women who always blamed for the social status of a family. Dowry, harassments, humiliations, racial discriminations are always experienced by the female in the form of power arrangements in household. However idealising the women is a never ending process in the rat race. "Bhamti signifies all those women who sacrifices their youth for the betterment of their husbands. Nobody remembers that sage's name but Bhamati stands out" [pg: 83]. Most of the time people don't notice the person who stands for their success neither Shrikant is no exception.

Nature never bothers how cruel are the inhabitants, it showers windfall abundantly for their benefits. Besides a women ever tried not to break her devoir. Though, she has to face many hindrance all the way of her life. Money is not the only criteria for women to get recognition in the society. There are unsaid regulations like lesser education than men for marriage proposal, dowry system, child-bearing and growth of their children. When Shrimathi fails to fit into this procedure she was tormented by her mother in law, Gangakka and sister in law, Rama heinously. "She remembered Gangakka referring to her as barren women. How could she convince the uneducated, unsympathetic Gangakka that she was not to be blamed, but neither was Shrikant. She continued sobbing" [pg: 98].

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way that world perceives that strength" – G.D. Anderson. Indeed Shrimathi's sacrifice and her loyalty towards her husband were not noticed by Shrikant rather people around him seen her as "the lady who carries a torch and removes all the obstacles on the road to success for her husband" [pg: 108].

Pursuing our heart owned desire is a real happiness for anyone. But for Shrimathi it was neglected in the name of love and care for her husband. When she realises that Shrikanth has given her least importance in his world, her whole heart and mind rose to quarrel and rewind how she slowly separates herself from history. Negligence would be the core reason for the break of any relationship especially in marriage life. "To insult a person, you don't need to attack him or her directly, one can do that instead by attacking what that person admires or respects" [pg: 126].

Cactus in the desert never expects care, still it survives. Rather jasmine in the garden blooms forcefully. In the case of Shrimathi who likes to lead a simple and happy life with Shrikant, the power and wealth he gained, make him to ignore the simple desires of Shrimathi. "Initially men work for money but soon, money becomes unimportant. It is power. There is nothing like power. Power is like liquor. Once the intoxication of power catches hold of an ambitious person, there is no escape from it. It is vicious circle" [pg: 142]. Ignorance is not an easy thing to bear when it was poured by loved one. It makes her to feel complete devastation. Her heartbeat rolled with ferocious waves.

Perseverance is a great source to gain in depth-knowledge and it shows the real path for success in one's goal. All you need is true thirst to taste the accomplishment. Though Shrimathi had lost her husband's affection, her heart never lost love for history. So she happily accepts the offer to pursue doctorate in America. "Suddenly she felt she had grown wings. Her spirit soared and she felt like singing with the koel in the springtime" [pg: 114]. Each one has their own temperament. Once it gets triggered against them, their accession will be in the form of aggressiveness. Volcanic eruption is not a one day process, besides a woman's explosion over her emotions is not an impetuous

conception. It is her circumstances and its strong bombardment over her remorse made to manifest vehemently. “She was going away not to earn money, but to find her own individuality” [pg: 156].

## **CONCLUSION**

“Our myth says that, while churning the ocean a dangerous poison haalahala came out, but no one ready to take that. Then, Lord Shiva drank it for the benefit of mankind... Poor Shrimathi swallowed every poisonous insult, just to keep Shrikant happy” [pg: 166]. It is always a woman to be the victim in the patriarchal society. To snatch the flying colours, she has to withstand with endless endurance. Sudhamurthy’s “Gently falls the Bakula” is an attempt to showcase the vitality of woman and it also highlights how men are intent to dominate female gender. The character Shrimathi stands as a representation of a wise woman.

A woman is a gender who can make impossible things possible but unfortunately many of them cannot identify her success because she never struggles for her own prosperity. She stands for the entire society. Whenever the society moves a step ahead, it’s all because of her decision.

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