

**THE ECCENTRICITY AND SUBMISSIVE TYPES OF
CHARACTERS IN SUDHA MURTHY'S THE MOTHER I
NEVER KNEW**

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Abstract:

The aim of this paper is to portray the different nature of men and women in Sudha Murthy's novel *The Mother I Never Knew*, the book has two novels one is called *Venkatesh* and another one is called *Mukesh*. Here we are going to see the first novel *Venkatesh*, and its characters nature. Sudha Murthy wrote about the present-day tribulations of the the social order, and she differentiate the middle class, upper middle and the rich people, their behaviour etc., Venkatesh is trying to settle the money to Bhagirathi his father's first wife, which could be advanced by his father Setu Madhav Rao. The learn of affiliation in the family and how it plays a noteworthy role in identify one's characteristics are uncovered in the paper. The disagreement between the tradition and the modern world, the practical and substance world are display in depth with the life of Venkatesh and Mukesh in *The Mother I Never Knew*. The paper attempt to exhibit the concept of realization of self through sacrificing and helping others. Hence the purpose of life and significant survival can be achieved.

Key Words: Wealth, Poverty, Money, Business, Function, Travel etc.,

Sudha Kulkarni Murthy was born on 19th August 1950 in Shiggaon district in Karnataka. She is the wife of Mr. Narayana Murthy, the founder of Infosys. Presently, she is a chairperson of Infosys Foundation. She is a versatile woman who serves as a writer, teacher, philanthropist, social worker and CEO of Infosys. She has won R.K. Narayan's award for Literature, Attimabe award for her technical book in Kannada, Padma Shri award for her contribution in social work, education and philanthropy. She is a prolific writer in Kannada and English and most of her Kannada books has been translated into English and adopted to movies. Some of her famous works are *The Bird with Golden Wings*, *Wise and Otherwise*, *A Salute to life*, *Old man and his God*, *A wedding in Russai*, *Sweet Hospitality*, *Dollar Bahu*, *House of Cards*, *Gently falls the Bakula*.

The expedition for self is the side-effect of existential philosophy which tries to representation the reality from the state of being bare. The novelette *The Mother I Never Knew* is set in a representative Indian milieu bring to mind with socio-economic conflict. One's inimitability plays a very of the essence role to portray his past, present and budding. What happen when there is a mysterious individuality in the past? Will it affect the current as well as the future? Sudha Murthy's novel *The Mother I Never knew* totally pasteurizes the hidden past in Venkatesh's life. In accumulation to this, it also depicts the life of Mukesh, the character of another novella, who comes to know that he was an adopted son and how finally he succeeds in search of his real birth after encounter all the frustration in his life. The two parallel stories familiarity the pursuit for identity in unusual ways and expose the customary way of Indianess. It shows an awful familiarity of the protagonists in realize the fake individuality. The inter-personal relationship of the characters and the hollowness present in them are revealed. When one loses his uniqueness, the wretched condition is describe by Pathak in his article "Indo- English novel's quest for identity" in *Explorations in Indo-English fiction*, it is a dreadful feeling that of being cut off from all one's kind... One begins doubting one's own individuality .The identity crisis is taken place due to various factors such as domination, migration and alteration. But in this case, the birth place plays a major role. Venkatesh, a banker born from an upper-middle class family is transfer to Hubble. Venkatesh is anxious about his life when he meets a man named Shankar bordering on his manifestation. Shankar is a headmaster from a poor family with many

complication in his life. The nosiness of their similarity made Venkatesh to reach the village Shishunal. There he comes to know that his father has discarded his wife and a child before marrying his mother.

The poor woman Bhagavva thought that her husband is dead and leads her entire life as a widow. She struggle a lot and has defeat many difficulties to raise her son Shanker. It seemed unbelievable that she had been subjected to so much injustice, by she was living proof that this was not a story. It was her reality. He couldn't imagine the agony that lay inside her heart (The Mother I Never Knew). Venkatesh is one of the most unfortunate and pitiable characters of the novel. Though he was born of respectable parents, he had been deprived of his voice first by his grandmother and later by his own wife. His father Setu Madhav Rao and mother Indiaramma were monitored and regulated by his greedy and dominating grandmother, Champakka. He had to get married with Shanta because he was not given any other option. He was neither consulted nor could he express his feelings voluntarily on his own. Suryanarayanrao and his wife Savitamma impressed Champakka with their financial power and social status. The problems were compounded by the in laws. They forced him to borrow and buy for pompous show of their prestigious wealth. Gradually, he withdrew from family affairs and was glad to be transferred to Hubli.

Social ideas in Indian circumstances ruled the individual. Sensitive person like Venkatesh constantly bore the load of "what would people say"? Shanta and Ravi took undue advantage of this mentality later in life. Venkatesh was respected and revered by his assistants in the bank because he helped everybody who asked for it. A bank clerk Geeta had a child whom she had to feed after every three hours. Venkatesh allowed her to leave bank after lunch break and looked after her counter himself. Once cashier called Mahesh found excess amount of one thousand rupees which he and his friends wanted to spend on merry making. Venkatesh gave the money to the bank watchman for his wife's C section. "Everybody wanted to celebrate and have a party with the money, but Venkatesh disagreed, "No, that's not right. Let's keep it aside. We'll return it if the owner comes looking for it." When nobody came to claim the money, it was given to the office watchman Karim for his wife's C-section operation". This showed that he always had sympathy for weak section of society. It compensated for his distance from his own people.

Revelation that he had a twin in the surrounding area changed the course of his life for him. His past slid before his mind's eye. Human element in him did not let him sit still and comfortable. He found out his stepmother and stepbrother. He took upon himself to rectify the mistake made by his father by planning to assist her with fifty lakh rupees. He told his son, "You are right, we are not responsible at all, but when I inherited my father's property I also inherited his share of mistakes. Appa failed in his duties towards them. We can't undo the past, but maybe we can their life little easier, especially since we have so much of wealth. There is no legal proof of their marriage, there's only a newspaper cutting of the accident and Appa's picture; but there is a divine court of law above us.

Venkatesh was a wise person. He carried out his search not for his brother but for his step-mother. He knew that he was born of Indiramma and Madhav Rao. He knew that his twin's mother was his step-mother. Yet he ran around to find her out. "He was struggling to somehow compensate for the wrong his father had done decades ago, despite the fact that he was not responsible for Bhagavva's plight in any way. If it were anyone else in his shoes, they would not have bothered to shoulder the responsibility."

Surprisingly for him, the mother's heart in Bhagavva did not let her make hue and cry against Venkatesh or his father. In his meeting with her, she was calm and quiet as usual. She was not either violent or argumentative about her past. She understood the awkward position of Venkatesh and quietly narrated the story of her marriage and widowhood. That is why, it seemed very difficult to understand, analyze and interpret mother in Indian circumstances.

Shanta played enormous role in handling the lives of her husband, son and daughter. She loved herself so much that she never thought about her husband or daughter. She ill treated her mother in law and looked down upon her husband's middle class status. She was pampered by her parent's right from her childhood. The writer described her as, "Shanta grew up like a princess with her parents fulfilling all her demands. Her studies progressed and the family was transferred to bigger towns and cities until they finally ended up in Bangalore, where Shanta graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Maharani's College." Shanta was blinded by her family richness. She was the only daughter of her parents and naturally a legal heir to their property. Fortunately for her, her mother in law, father in law and grandmother in law died within a short span of three years after her marriage. That brought her an absolute authority to have her own

way in family matters. She and her father Suryanarayanrao took all the decisions related to Venkatesh's family. It increased her arrogance. She earned name and fame within short time which made her autocratic by nature.

Shanta envied her prospective daughter in law and her own daughter. She was afraid that Pinki would snatch away her son, Ravi from her as she herself had severed her husband from his mother. She thought. "For a moment, Shanta envied Pinki", everything that I have struggled to earn will go to my daughter in law one day. My darling son Ravi will also belong to that girl. Maybe I should share my concerns with Venkatesh. Or maybe I shouldn't. He won't understand anyway. Venkatesh discussed his transfer from Bangalore to Hubli with Gauri. Gauri had already made all the possible arrangements of his stay at her friend's father's residence there. Shanta was annoyed by the closeness between father and daughter. She always expected people to seek her help. She told her husband to contact her for his transfer. She could not tolerate independent stature of her husband and children.

She was good only to those persons who consulted and listened to her. Ravi was, mom's boy. He telephoned her from the USA but rarely talked to Gauri or Venkatesh because she had enslaved him. Gauri was different. She did MBBS and specialized in Gynecology against Shanta's wish. Shanta wanted her to do MBA and earn lakhs in short period. Thus we find that she had a personality clash with everybody who did not fall to her whims. Shanta treated her husband with scant respect and dispassionate emotions. Venkatesh had been smart enough to mind his own business without making any fuss on her behavior or trends of egoistic nature.

The novel ended without open statement. One does not know whether Bhagavva and Shankar would accept money has given by Venkatesh, whether the money given by Gauri and Venkatesh would find safe passage to Bhagavva or not, whether there would be twist in tail in the end. Though Bhagavva was not his real mother Venkatesh's heart melted by the thought of injustice done to her by his father. The novelette delineates the distinctive Indian women in Rupinder and Sumati and their condition in the society. The penalty of foolish love, Indian ethos and how woman and her child are betray and persecuted by the lust are display in a distressing approach. The theme of expedition is mainly deep-rooted in the self and thus he was bewildered with his mixed up individuality.

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