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**Male Dominance and Female Powerlessness in Sane Guruji's Story,  
"Nadi Shewati Sagarala Milel"****Dr. Rajiv N Aherkar,**

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Email: [rajivaherkar@gmail.com](mailto:rajivaherkar@gmail.com)**Abstract:**

The present paper is an attempt to present Sane Guruji's perspectives on male dominance and female powerlessness in the short story, 'Nadi Shewati Sagarala Milel'. Sane Guruji is a well-known writer in Marathi literature. Through his short stories, he presented the various images of the woman i.e. struggling woman, powerless woman, dominant woman, etc. His powerless woman also finds a place in the hearts of the readers but such woman character does not have place in the male dominated society. His short stories present modern woman and the traditional woman. Traditional woman is submissive and powerless. The present paper investigates the image of a powerless woman, Madhuri who could not fight for her identity and space in male dominated society and becomes victim of lust of a man. The woman character, Madhuri is presented in the short story as a powerless woman who surrenders her love because of powerlessness and sacrifices her life due to the male domination.

**Key words:** Male Domination, Powerless Woman, Love, Lust.

**Introduction:**

Sane Guruji is one of the well-known writers in Marathi Literature. He touched every essence of society through his oceanic literary contribution: poetry, short-story, novels, biographies, essays and letters. One of the important aspects of his writing is feminism. Female characters are very well portrayed by Sane Guruji in his writing. He tries to show how women prove to be much better than their male counterparts. His female characters reflect the powerless as well as dominant woman. While portraying female characters of all communities, he presents the role of woman character in the noble and gentle manner. He shows the struggle of the woman for her identity, chastity and purity in the male dominating society and how she fulfills her duties as a mother, a wife, a sister, and a daughter. He very clearly describes the various roles of woman through his pen. It is seen at its best in his short stories as well. While reading his female characters, it seems that the readers not only feel pathos for the female characters but feel proud also. It is generally considered as the writing of Sane Guruji is for the children. His writing makes the reader weep. In this connection to defend Sane Guruji's writing and what the tears are, P. L. Deshpande states;

“दुसऱ्याचे दुःख पाहून त्याला झालेल्या वेदना पाहून आपल्यालाही त्या व्हाव्यात, अशी काहीतरी योजना निसर्गाने दिली आहे आणि अशी योजना निसर्गाने करून देताना प्रचंड अशी काही निर्मिती, मी याला निर्मितीच म्हणतो, अशी निसर्गाने आपल्यामध्ये ठेवली आहे. या निर्मितीला आपण 'अश्रू' असे म्हणतो. इतकी सुंदर निर्मिती या जीवनात दुसरी कुठलीच नाही.”<sup>1</sup>

Shedding tears means to understand sorrow of others or sometimes purgation of one's sorrow. It is this activity of shedding tears is one of endowed gifts by the Nature to mankind. Such crucial gift is used in the writing of Sane Guruji to express his deep love for humanity. (Translated)

Thus P.L. Despande defends Sane Guruji's writing. The tears play a vital role in the life of human being to keep human being a real human. One of the functions of literature is to inculcate human values in society. The human values which found in the writing of Sane Guruji are the gift of his mother because the vision of Sane Guruji is strongly influenced by his mother. The woman is not being equally treated in the male dominated society. Sane Guruji's scholarly reading, influence of liberal thoughts of his mother and his zest for social reform gives shape to his perspectives about woman. Through his writing, Sane Guruji strongly opposes all kinds of discriminations which are for the woman in male-dominated society. Male-dominated society is a society where men are superior and women are inferior. All the systems in the male-dominated society are controlled by the man and woman is in a passive role. The woman has no power to take decisions i.e women are powerless in the male-dominated society. Sane Guruji portrays the female characters traditional as well as modern. The traditional woman characters of Sane Guruji are tender as well as submissive whereas his modern woman characters struggle for their space and identity in the society.

The present story, **Nadi Shewati Sagarala Milel** is based on world famous German poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's work, *Faust*. His work, *Faust* (Dr. Faustus) is an eternal. The story of Dr. Faustus, an alchemist, is mythical in the Europe. It is a mythical story that Dr. Faustus makes a contract with the Devil. The Devil makes a bet with The Lord that he will be able to turn one of his servants, Dr. Faust, over to sin and evil. Sane Guruji uses Madhav as Dr. Faust in the present story.

The story, **Nadi Shewati Sagarala Milel** (*The River will meet the Sea*), Sane Guruji deals with the feministic approach. This story presents a woman who is a victim of lust which makes her powerless and leads towards her death. The story of Madhuri, the main woman character in the story starts with happy and content life. The rise of lust for ornaments in her mind, Madhuri becomes a victim of lust as well as the physical desire of a man. She loses her mother and her brother because of the lust. The story is a tragedy of a woman. Through the character of Madhuri, Sane Guruji tries to give a message that lust leads human being towards the tragic end of a happy life. Greedy nature of Madhuri made her a tool in the hands of a man in male dominated society.

In the story character of Madhav is introduced as a studious in almost all the faculties. He has been a scholar and feels as he is master of all branches of knowledge. He always loves reading books and his world is among the books only. He finds the rivers, flowers, birds in the books. His universe is books. Even after spending years in reading books, he could not define his life. Madhav longs a life in harmony with the nature and with the universe. In his despair, he makes attempt to commit suicide but he cannot. One day with power of his knowledge, Madhav summons a spirit and has a contract with the spirit, a *Satan*. The *Satan* promises to serve Madhav and to give him a moment of transcendence, a moment in which he hopes to stay forever. If the *Satan* succeeds, Madhav must then be his servant for the rest of entity in hell. The *Satan* with his magical power takes Madhav to a party where people are eating and drinking wine. He takes Madhav to wonderland where he finds the evil spirits. One of the witches gives him a drink. Madhav drinks it. The drink has a magical power. After having the drink, the drinker will fall in love with first sight woman. After Madhav drinks, he sees a poor girl, Madhuri who is going to the temple. He falls in her love. He is mad for her and follows her to her house when Madhuri realizes Madhav's intention, she annoys him. Madhuri's reaction indicates that she is a traditional Indian girl. Before she meets Madhav, She is happy with her mother and her brother. She

has no ornaments on her body. She is a poor girl and loves her family. Madhav's entry in her life changes her. Madhav says to the *Satan* as;

”सैताना, ही मुलगी माला मिळाली पाहिजे. तिच्याशिवाय मी जगणार नाही. तिच्याशिवाय माला चैन पडणार नाही. कोणतीही युक्ती कर. वाटेल ते कारस्थान कर, परंतु ती माला हवी.”<sup>2</sup>

Devil, I want this girl. I will not live without her. Please play any trick or do any magic to bring the girl for me. (Translated)

He is mad for her and wants her. He demands the devil that he wants the girl by hook or by crook. The devil assures him not to worry. He will manage to fulfill his desire. He plans to place a beautiful necklace of the pears in her room. When he places the necklace in her room she is fascinated by the necklace and longs for it. She shows it to her mother. Her mother asks her to give it to the god and says the ornaments are not for the poor. But Madhuri is attracted by the necklace and she does not want to give it to the God. Her mother believes in good and she takes the necklace from Madhuri and says it is a sin. Madhuri goes to house work when she returns she cries in her room Madhav places another necklace. Madhuri takes it and out of greed she decides not to show her mother. As she thinks about the necklace, she sees Madhav through the window. He says the necklace is placed by him for her and he is mad in her love. He says that he can give her many necklaces if she loves him. Madhuri's greed compels her to accept the proposal. She accepts his love and decides to meet him again in the garden outside the village. Both Madhuri and Madhav keep visiting each other secretly. One day she says to him as;

”आपण असेच किती दिवस राहायचे? ते बारे नाही दिसत. लोक नाव ठेवतील आपण लवकर लग्न लावू असे कितीदा म्हणाले; परंतु तुम्ही मनावर का बरे घेत नाही? तो दुष्ट मनुष्य मोडता घालत असेल. होय ना? खरेच आपण लवकर लग्न लावू या. म्हणजे सारे बारे होईल.”<sup>3</sup>

How long we continue this relationship without marriage. Definitely people will blame us. So many times I request you to marry me but you are not so serious to take decision. I think that the cruel man stops you, don't he? Really we must get married so everything will be right. (Translated)

Madhuri as an Indian girl fears of society and requests him to marry her. There meetings will be the issue of the public gossip. And it will be difficult to live a social life if we will not marry. Whenever Madhuri asks Madhav to get marry with her, he avoids her proposal of marriage. One day Madhav asks her to come at night. She will come to meet him at night but her mother wakes up even for a little sound. For them her mother is a hurdle. He thinks to give her poison so he gives Madhuri a bottle saying that after taking it her mother will sleep for long time. She takes the bottle and gives it to her mother and her mother dies. After her mother's death Madhav and Madhuri keep meeting regularly. One night when Madhuri's brother returns from his work, another worker says that his sister spends her all day with Madhav at his house. Her brother quarrels with him. Meanwhile Madhav and the devil come on the way. The *Satan* hits strong to Madhuri's brother and he is seriously wounded. When Madhuri tries to touch her brother, her brother asks her not to touch his body. She is a sinner. She commits a sin by loving a person who is a murderer of his mother and tries to kill her brother. Her brother dies and Madhuri becomes alone. Her lover, Madhav does not visit her since a

long time. She is unhappy and feeling alienated. She thinks that she is cheated by Madhav. Madhuri realizes that she is being used as a tool to satisfy the physical hunger of a man.

Even after reality of Madhav, Madhuri hopes that her lover will be back. She has strong faith in her lover. He will return and will love her again. But Madhav is not returned. Madhuri is jailed for killing her mother, murdering her brother by the hands of her lover and her own child. She is going to be hanged. The process of hanging is going on. At that time Madhav comes there. He says to the *Satan* that Madhuri must be got free from the jail. With the help of the *Satan*'s magical power Madhav goes in the Madhuri's cell. He asks her to come with him. She denies in a tone of repentance as;

“दया करा. उद्या मी मरणार, इतक्या तरुणपणी मरणार.  
तारुण्य मातीत जाणार. हे सौंदर्य फुकट जाणार. ह्या सौंदर्याने तर सारा  
घात केला. हे सौंदर्य नसते तर कोणी माझ्याकडे दुकूनही पाहिले नसते.  
मग ह्या गोष्टी का झाल्या असत्या? कश्याला मिळाले हे सौंदर्य. फाशी  
देणारे सौंदर्य. पाप. मला वाटत होते की, हे पाप आहे. तरी मी केले.  
किती सुंदर रूप धारण करून पाप समोर उभे राहाते! हे पाप आहे असे  
माहीत असूनही आपण त्याच्या मोहात पडतो. मोहक सुंदर पाप. साप  
थंडगार वाटला तरी सापच तो. पाप सुंदर दिसले तरी मानेला फास  
लावते.”<sup>4</sup>

Please sympathies me, I am going to die tomorrow. It is such  
unfortunate that I die in my youth age and my youthful beauty will be  
ruined. But the irony is that my beauty is responsible for my death. My  
beautiful neck will be hanged tomorrow. The sin is the sin though it may  
seem beautiful. A snake may seem cool but it is a snake. (Translated)

She thinks that her inner soul says to her is that it is sin even though she commits it. She repents for her sin and rejects to come with Madhav. She knows that she is a victim of male dominance and the lust which she has for the necklace and for her lover. The victim is victimized by the desire of a lusty lover. She asks Madhav to perform her funeral ceremony near her mother and brother. She also requests him to find the skeleton of her little baby by the side of river and to place it on her breast. Madhav leaves the cell unhappily.

#### **Conclusion:**

The story, *The River will meet the Sea* is about a woman who becomes powerless because of her lust for ornament and physical desire. Madhuri's lust leads her towards her tragic end. Out of her lust, she commits the sin and meets her tragic end. She confesses her sin at the end of her life. In male-dominated society, Madhuri, a helpless woman who meets her tragic end because of her lust and her true love as well as her sacrifice becomes useless. Through this story Sane Guruji gives the message that the lust leads one towards the tragic end of a happy life and a woman is used as a tool in the male dominated society.

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