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THE SPARK WITHIN SUPPRESSED: A STUDY WITH REFERENCE TO SELECTED POEMS  
BY MEENA KANDASWAMI AND MAYA ANGELOU

Dr. Padmavati S. Undale

Head Department of Arts and Commerce, MIT Arts,  
Commerce and Science College, Alandi(D), Pune



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ABSTRACT

The present research paper is an attempt to study the depiction of desires of suppressed people in the select poems. The common thread observed in the selected poems is the depiction of inner plea of weaker section of the society. The objective of this paper is to correlate the thought process of these different poetesses. The poems describe the pains, suffering and plea of the people. The powerful people tend to suppress the powerless people. In such situations, the basic human rights are violated. The dignity of being human is ignored. The poems throw light on this situation in a very well manner. Though both the poetesses belong to different regions, they have common identity that they are human being. The experiences of marginalized and weaker section of the society are observed by them. Even the hope for betterment is common that is 'love'. The poems give a message to treat everyone with love so that everyone can live happily.

**Keywords:** Suppressed and weaker people, plea, love, exploitation.

Introduction

Literature is a platform to present emotions, feelings, desires, hopes, dreams and many more themes. It is an interesting fusion of ideas coming into reality in the form of piece of literature created by an author decorating with the beauty of words. The writers use words as a medium to express endless themes such as the inner plea, the delicacy of relations, the desire to break the vicious circle, the dreams to breath in free air, the urge for equality etc. The writer selects the words as per his/her intention and presents then in the most suitable form. This process of expressing thoughts/views with the help of words is going on continuously throughout the world. The present research paper is an attempt to study the depiction of desires of suppressed people in the select poems. The common thread observed in the selected poems by Meena Kandaswami and Maya Angelou is the depiction of inner plea of weaker section of the society. The objective of this paper is to correlate the thought process of these different poetesses.

Analysis of the Poems

Meena Kandaswami in her poem 'Aggression' depicts how a woman endlessly waits with silence. Silence is the only way with her. Sometimes that wait also wants to avoid its work because that silence becomes unbearable as the exploitation continues. The suffering people's silence changes to the cries which is a passive weapon to express 'suppressed' reactions. The tragedy of life goes on and the inner struggle of the people bursts like a massive reaction. All dreams shatter and the only way remains is an aggression. The aggression stands

against all kinds of suppressions and exploitations. This poem is a reaction to suppressions. The poetess indicates that the suppressed will not remain silent all the time. They will not remain unexpressed or mute. People bear passively all kinds of troubles caused by others but the first way out given to this unethical treatment is a cry. If the cry does not bring any change in suppression, the only way remained is an aggression which leads to a rebel with full power against all vicious circles.

Maya Angelou in her poem 'Still I Rise' expresses the similar plea of the suppressed people. The poem describes the need of strong stand against all kinds of suppression and declares with confidence that the speaker in the poem is ready to rise whatever happen. The masters/suppressors may make the victims a part of history with lies or 'trod in dirt', but the narrator in the poem is ready to rise. The superiors become upset because the speaker in the poem is living a life as if she has got 'oil wells'. The speaker in the poem wants to rise like sun and moon with high hopes but the superiors want to see her 'broken' with 'bowed head and lowered eyes' having 'cries'. Her strongness upsets the superiors as they consider that this strongness is due to the power of 'gold mines' in her 'backyard'. The superiors want to kill the powerless with harsh 'words', angry 'eyes', with 'hatefulness' but she wants to rise like 'air'. The speaker of the poem wants to rise out of 'shame', from 'painful past', 'black ocean' to become a hope for all suppressed, slaves and weaker people.

Both the poetesses describe the urge to rise, to rebel, to fight against the suppression.

Maya Angelou in her poem 'Touched by an Angel' describes how an angel changes the life of suppressed. The poem describes how the suppressed are not aware of showing 'courage' or to come out from exiles and loneliness. These people wait for 'love' to come out from 'holy temple' to 'liberate' them. Love is the only hope which will bring them life. Love has power to lighten the 'memories of pleasure' and to liberate from the memories of pain. Love breaks the chain of fear and makes the soul fearless. The unsecured weaker and suppressed people wait for the light of love to break the darkness of fear and to develop bravery. All enjoys the love coming to their life but suddenly realize that this powerful love takes away all they have and they 'will be'. Though it is true, there is no other way to get free. Only love can make them free. In this poem, Maya Angelou describes how love has power to change the life of suppressed people. The only hope for betterment is love for them but again they need to pay a heavy cost for that. The poetess presents the dilemma of accepting the love in a very beautiful manner.

Meena Kandaswamy in her poem 'An Angel Meeting Me' depicts the meeting of an angel in the form of love. Love is blind and we all fall in love. She describes lover as a healthy boy with rosy cheeks, belonging to well-fed family. The girl belongs to poor family whose poverty reveals through her 'bony body', 'thin ribs' and 'scars on hands'. He becomes worried of the cruel happenings with her. She takes his leave because she does not want to make him aware about the 'greater horrors' happened with her. The poetess presents the desire for angel's love but a fear of wicked happenings with the girl comes to her mind. The poem is full of hopes and gentleness but ends in a different way. The girl desires for love but becomes aware of the reality and tries to come out from that desire.

In both the poems, the poetesses pay the cost for love. Love is the only hope for betterment.

### **Conclusion**

Thus, the poems describe the pains, suffering and plea of the people. The suppression of powerless people by powerful people is generally observed. In such situations, the basic human rights are violated. The dignity of being human is ignored. The poems throw light on this situation in a very well manner. Though both the poetesses belong to different region, they have common identity that they are human being. The experiences of marginalized and weaker section of the society are commonly observed. Even the hope for betterment is common that is 'love'. The poems give a message to treat everyone with love so that everyone can live happily.

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