

Chapter 23

Imagery of Assert and Valor With Reference to Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace*

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ABSTRACT

Amitav Ghosh' contribution for the welfare of women in literature is notable. He has given a multifaceted picture of women in all his works. His women characters have occupied a unique position in the literary arena. He was able to picture a typical ground reality of women in different location and situations. He has given a wide experience to all his readers to explore different women characters from an ordinary woman to a woman who meet all challenges and succeed in life. He has typically pictured women with challenges and struggles they face in their day today life. This chapter aims to picture the strength and courage of women positive and progressive in the novel The Glass Place.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the best medium to picture the ideal thoughts of men and women, also on the grounds of their differences. Literature has given the right picture of women of different ages, their evolution, their achievements, their success, the key responsibilities they have taken on, the education they have acquired, and the way they have made themselves strong and remarkable. Women in general find it very difficult to stay away from the traditional mindset of assuming sole responsibility in taking care of the family as mother, wife, sister, and daughter. Many times, they are

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not able to come out of the sentimental clutches, and this becomes a big barrier for them. Although the mentioned responsibilities are the natural values that women's psyche accepts, they are seen with a sense of willingness to explore and give away the benefits to the people around them. Women on the whole have certainly contributed a lot towards the growth of individuals and the community as a whole. This chapter has given a detailed picture of women as a source and courage.

ICONS OF HARMONY

Ma Cho is the first woman character Amitav Ghosh (2000) introduced in his novel *The Glass Palace*. She is seen frying vegetables very busily in her small food stall. The very first incident in the novel shows the evidence of a woman being kind to the fellow who is not familiar and unknown. Ma Cho earned her living in the small food stall. In spite of the food stall being very small, Ma Cho was ready to offer a job to Rajkumar. Offering a job to a known person is a favour done with or without expectation. The case here is totally different, because Rajkumar is a young stranger of eleven years, so offering a job to him is not an ideal behavior, but Ma Cho does it. This happens when she understands that Rajkumar is an orphan. "All right. Get to work, but remember you are not going to get much more than three meals and a place to sleep" (Ghosh, 2000, p. 7). The job offered with food and a place to sleep is all Rajkumar needs at that moment. Ma Cho is seen with the natural quality of a woman who refused to see others' pain and remained supportive of Rajkumar.

Amitav Ghosh gave a very brief picture and a small incident of Rajkumar's mother. In that small episode, she is shown with a wonderful quality of compensating for the help she received from others. In spite of the entire family, except Rajkumar and his mother, felt sick and died, the willingness of being responsible to compensate the boat man is perfectly given as the strength of women to keep themselves as they are and as a motivational tool for others. It was the only gold bangle that she had; she made it very clear that it has to be handed over to the boat owner, once they reach their native village. She strongly pointed out that the bangle had to be given only when they would reach their hometown: "Rajkumar was to give him the bangle when they reached Chittangong—only then, not before" (Ghosh, 2000, p. 13).

FLAG BEARERS OF STRENGTH

Dolly is introduced as a young girl of nine years. Her responsibility is to attend the princess; her strength and courage starts right from her childhood. When the queen, along with her entire family, was attempted to relocate, Dolly was the first little girl

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