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Woman – Contrivance of Life Force: *Arms and the Man*

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A woman knows by her instinct that she is the mother of the primeval man; and her initiation into motherhood is the significance of her life. This is the destination, which she wants to approach anyhow. She suffers fatal pangs of procreation; nevertheless, she tolerates them happily, because she has to prove her ability of achieving motherhood. She delights in when she completes the job what life force assigned her: entrapping a father-man and involving him in the course of procreation. Everywoman wishes to be mother by one way or other. To attain her goal, she seeks for a choice man –one who could assure her safety and financial stability. She chases such man. She is the chaser; and he is the chased in the pursuit. If a man chases a woman, she provokes him to chase her. Shaw remarks, a woman hunts neither to satisfy her man nor herself. Besides, she does so to fulfill the behest of her instinct, the life energy. Thus, woman's hunt for man means to get target, which is possible through the physical as well spiritual union of the two energy systems –father-man and mother-woman. In the caption play, Raina has played the role of a young Bulgarian girl, who is scrupulous and filled with national spirit. She is betrothed to a major in Bulgarian Army. She adores him for his patriotism but later on she comes to know that her fiancé is mere a coward. He is not worth her adoration. He is a flirt. She happens to see him make love with her housemaid, Louka. A woman can forgive her man for his every offence, but never for infidelity. She rejects Sergius, a womanizer and accepts Bluntschli, a woman-evader. Though Louka is a maid in Raina's house, she never allows any house inmates to enslave her soul. She is very ambitious, and dreams to grow as big as Raina. When she finds Raina is attracted towards the fugitive, she starts entrapping Sergius. At Sergius's behest, she spied Raina and separated him from her forever. Finally, she gained over him. The present paper ventures to validate that woman is the contrivance of life force.

A woman passes through three energy levels when she hunts for a choice man –first 'eros' then 'love' and finally 'sexuality'. The three as a whole composes life force. "Eros, says Pierrakos, is the transformative force of life, love is the unifying force and sexuality is the creative force"¹. As eros strikes Raina, she is fascinated by the snow capped Balkans. This is the influence of the moment; better say, of the life force. Even though she has seen the white beauteous mountain many times in the past, she was not so much enchanted before as she is now. Midnight stars captivate her gaze and impart smile to her face. The breeze rejuvenates her spirit and vibrates her body. She, then, feels a unique experience and feels grateful to the moment. This is the power of eros, the life force, which has transformed her whole life –from dry to smooth, from pragmatic to contemplative. She has become now more flexible, more responsive to the call of her instinctive force. However, she wishes to resonate with the spirit of the nature. She, therefore, needs a man who could assist her in the spiritual resonance. She craves for the man

who could explore her reality and his own; and then integrate the two to achieve the goal. The immediate man, who can satisfy her curiosity, is the portrait of “the hero of the day”, Sergius. She finds him worth her curiosity because he has beaten the unarmed Serbians in the battle. Thus, he has proved his manliness –the first requirement of a woman. She chooses him for he is brave, so he can assure her safety; he is an employee, a major, so he can ensure her financial stability. These two things formulate the criterion of a woman’s selection for a man. However, she waits for someone who would transform her life and dissolve all her moral and social defenses. She has inherited many defenses such as adoring a patriot even if he is a flirt and suffocating the feelings even if they are true and intuitive. She has also learnt to remain a step away the threshold of morality. Bluntschli comes into her life; and all defenses shatter down. Now she becomes more offensive. Raina turns fierce to entrap her mate and proceeds steadily in that way. Likewise, Louka is housemaid by her work, but she equals herself with Raina by instinct. Nicola remarks: “She (Louka) had a soul above her station”². A person is rich or poor by his spirit. Louka is rich, for she owns high spirits. When she wins over Sergius, as her life mate, she assumes herself as equal as Raina is, and then calls the latter by her Christian name. Catherine surprises at Louka’s audacity; however, the latter puts forth: “I have a right to call her Raina; she calls me Louka”³. She is undaunted and is brimmed with life force. She believes she is born poor but she is not damned to lead the life of poverty. Moreover, she is capable to shake off smallness and enjoy bigness. The time comes when Raina orders her not to close the doors in the night of victory. She (Louka) senses the arrival of somebody else in the life of the lady. Since then, she is ever in the search for the lucky moment; when the man comes in and Sergius goes out of Raina’s life. The awaited night comes and Sergius goes out of the lady’s life. Thus, she succeeds to entrap Sergius forever.

A woman’s main aim in life is to serve her instinct, the life energy, in order to procreate a superman. However, a man’s aim is to create the better work of art. He can achieve it if he meditates on his work; and this is possible if he evades the snares of the mother woman. She uses her “noble attitude” to entrap man; and he uses his “indifference” to escape her vital force. Lack of interest cannot save him from ferocity of a woman for long. He can defer the force for some time; however, he cannot extinguish it. His mating with his counterpart can extinguish it. Moreover, he has no option but to mate with the feminine force. Raina defies the fugitive (Bluntschli) when he tries to subdue her at pistol point. Despite, she warns him: “Pray, take it to protect yourself against me”⁴. It shows temporal power subsides before the ferocity of a vital woman. Raina shelters the archenemy of her nation, when he keeps her nightgown. He knows that only the gown can stop her from going outside and calling someone in for help. She remains half-nude before him, but he is not deviated. Instead, he focuses on his safety. He believes that a man’s first duty is to survive anyhow. He should go for any extent for the life. Bluntschli does not allow the lady to wear the gown until she offers her hand as a pledge of his safety. Now the man feels secure with the pledge. Then he gets conscious about the beauty and grace of the lady. He gets aware of the moment that he is alone with a young and sexy lady. He gets aware of the calmness and the coolness of the starlit night. He evades all these charms; and asks for some food. He values his liberty more than anything does. He can lose it if he makes an error to benefit from the moment. A woman ever likes to attract the man who is repulsive and indifferent to her sensual moves. She loves to chase; not to be chased. Therefore, Raina likes the fugitive. She loves his pragmatic attitude towards the life.

The fugitive asks the lady to tell her mother about his presence in her bed chamber. He doesn’t want to stay secretly; because secret is evil and disclosure, virtue. Thus, he is a virtuous

man. A man entrusted with the great cause, cannot hide his reality. He is honest to his thoughts and actions as well. Bluntschli is such man whose thinking and acting goes together. He calls Raina's "noble attitude", "instinct". Shaw also affirms that this is a woman's instinct that directs her find out suitable mate in the noble pursuit. Under the impact of 'instinct', a woman adopts 'modesty' by which she prepares the web of her charms to ensnare her prey. The lady Raina attempts to entrap the fugitive. She shows her fidelity towards Sergius. She says that this is a sin for an affianced lady even to think about another man. Like this way, Raina directly stirs the soundness of the fugitive's mind. She forces him to realize that it is a big sin for her to deceive Sergius. Thus, she draws him close to her instinct. What a young lady speaks in the amorous chase, she does just opposite. She never speaks direct. She leaves on the intellect of her mate to resolve her puzzle. Raina claims to "be perfect with Sergius: no meanness, no smallness, no deceit"⁵. What she states, means otherwise. She gets perfect with "the chocolate cream soldier". She seeks for some excuse to get rid of Sergius, a romantic fool. Destiny favours her and she finds Sergius make love with the housemaid, Louka; but she doesn't disclose the scene to anyone. She does not open it to her new hero until she gets sure to gain over him. She woos him while appreciating the hypocrite, the hero of the battle. Instinctively she knows this trick of her works and she can attract him by her "noble attitude". Nevertheless, she doesn't surrender to him. She knows if she yields, he will undervalue it; and she will lose a grip on him forever; while she needs him after the pursuit too.

Hence, Raina proves herself a true agency of the life energy. She finally gains over Bluntschli. Thus, she represents every woman who knows the real objective of her life, and fulfills it anyhow. She undertakes the challenge to win over an unromantic man. Pleasure lies in venture. The things, which are easily achieved, fade away very soon. No woman wants to lose her grip on man. She can do this if she forces her man yield to her vitality. Raina succeeds to make Bluntschli yield to her orgone, the instinct. Bluntschli also accepts Raina's captivity: "I came sneaking back to have another look at the young lady"⁶. He came back and surrendered. Ultimately, the lady comes out triumphant. She makes her orgone, the life force proud of the success. On the other side, Louka entices Sergius. She persuades him to accept the station of her life. When he shows his reluctance to fall down to her social status, she smartly woos him. She assures him: "I would marry the man I loved which no other queen in Europe has the courage to do. If I loved you though you would be as far beneath me as I am beneath you, I would dare to be the equal of my inferior"⁷. The logical persuasiveness eradicates the moral stigma of Sergius. He offers his hand to her, and thus declares her his life mate. Louka wins the pursuit. She enslaves her man and engages him to fulfill the behest of life force. Sergius proposes her to marry; for the marriage is the medium to procreate new and better life.

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- ³ *Ibid.*,p.83 Act, III
- ⁴ *Ibid.*,p.13, Act, I
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- ⁶ *Ibid.*,p.84, Act, III
- ⁷ *Ibid.*,p.69, Act, III