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Sana: A Story of Adultery and Fake Relationships

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Abstract:

Professor Vikas Sharma has recently introduced his new novel, *Sana*. Like his other novels, this novel also presents the story of young men and women living in the modern setting. In the name of modernity, success and development, this generation is crossing a lot of limits of morality and social values which have been the foundation of our society. The question that arises here is that is it true that in this modern age, morality has ended completely? The present paper aims to study this topic and find out that to what extent it is right to do away with morality in the name of development.

Keywords: Adultery, relationship, infidelity, beauty, lust.

Introduction

The arrival of Professor Vikas Sharma's novel, *Sana*, is the newest addition to his increasing collection of novels. Prior to this, he has published a lot of novels in both Hindi and English like *Love's Not Time's Fool*, *IAS Today*, *Medicine: Light in Twilight*, *Ashes and Fire*, etc, which present an image of the younger generations. The reason behind writing so extensively about the youth can be that because Professor Vikas Sharma remains in touch with this generation because of his profession as a Professor in the CCS University in Meerut. And because of this, he is well aware of their thought process and mentality and he uses the same in his novels. It can be said that the relationship between a man and a woman is the main theme of his novels. However, the basis for such relationships is usually physical. *Sana* is also an example of this. This novel is the story of the Pandit family, Pandit Brij Vrit, and his wife, Sana, but the main theme here is also the physical relationship between a man and a woman. Professor Vikas Sharma highlights how people have started believing in the relationship of convenience leaving the principles of morality, to attain success and materialistic pleasure in today's world. Words have lost meaning in today's

world. Character and loyalty are much harder to find. People can go as low as possible to satisfy their own needs and success in life. This has been portrayed through the characters of Sana, Naveen, Kavya, Silky and Katty.

Sana: An Example of Beauty and Infidelity, Ambition and Lust

Sana is the very beautiful wife of Pandit Brij Vrit but she does not have any child yet. She lives happily in a small house in Noida with her husband, who loves her a lot and makes sure that she is happy but still, in his absence, as soon as she gets a chance to, she starts flirting with Pandit Revati Prasad. When Brij Vrit goes to Agra to conduct the Maha Mrityunjay yagya, Revati Prasad comes to meet Sana. Sana attracts him towards her and has an episode of an illicit relationship with him.

He felt cut to size now and she moved her right hand towards his thighs and kissed him saying- 'Pandit Ji, there is something superior to soul too. How can you, young as you are, forget and ignore the god of love Cupid who shoots his arrows regularly? Don't you feel hit with Cupid's arrows now?'

Pandit Revati Prasad tried to gather his courage as he had not been very frank with her earlier. Yet he admitted-'of course, Sana ji, I feel a sudden change in me'. And he kissed her neck.

'This is like a young Pandit. After all, Vishvamitra had an attraction for Menaka. Why do you forget the love stories of Urvashi? Try to remember the love story of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala. Do you feel that I am inferior to Menaka, Urvashi or Shakuntala? Are you not prepared to be a youthful Yayati to make love to me?' And she kissed his neck.

(*Sana*, p.13)

When Pandit Revati Prasad asks her as to why she married Pandit Brij Vrit when he is not even as educated as her, then Sana tells him that when she was in college, she was in love with a guy named Chandan. Soon, this friendship turned into a physical relationship but Chandan proved to be a selfish lover and Sana's father found Pandit Brij Vrit for his daughter who had lost her reputation in the society and owing to his money, Sana was married to Pandit Brij Vrit. Revati Prasad promises Sana that he would search for a good job for her so that she could put her degree of M.Sc. and Ph.D. to some use. Now the question that lies before us is can we say that Sana is an

unfaithful wife who only uses the people who love her to fulfill her own ambitions? She is willing to cheat on her husband who loves her so much and married her even after having the knowledge of her past affair with Chandan. Sana's relationship with Pandit Revati Prasad shows her deteriorating character.

Pandit Revati Prasad asked her- 'Where did you hide your real self-earlier and waste so many years?'

'Fool as you were, you came here, discussed theology and philosophy and went away after taking tea. Is that the way to visit a friend's house? Nonsense. You ignored me totally as if I was not present. You did not sit by my side to ask- what is my ambition? How do I live in this lonely and deserted sector? Only stray dogs and a few wild birds have so far been my companions. Alas! Had you paid attention towards me, we would not have wasted days and nights meant for love. Today also I had to take the lead as I found you good for nothing.' (Sana,p.13)

Sana has a loving husband, Pandit Brij Vrit and is also in an extra marital relationship with Pandit Revati but she does not stop here. When her father finds out about her pregnancy, he advises her to not go for a job and even goes as far as financing her dream of having a school. This is when Sana meets Mohan Akshay. When she goes to Agra with him to buy some Science Lab equipments for the school, she stays in a hotel with him. And for a girl of low character like Sana, getting attracted towards Mohan Akshay and having an illicit relationship with him is very easy. She does not think of her husband, Brij vrit or her lover, Revati Prasad even once.

As Sun had set, madam Sana and Mohan Akshay roamed at the Taj Mahal area, hand in hand, and he kissed her quite often. As he rubbed her mounts, she recollected the loving meeting with Revathi Prasad and then with Brij Vrit. Now she had to take a little precaution. In the hotel, they again had a cup of champagne and enjoyed playing basketball, billiards and badminton.

After dinner, they slept in the arms of each other without taking oath of eternal love. Both of them were conscious of temporary outburst of passion. She was not the least conscious of bare fact that she lived in the world of illusions. After school affairs, she normally forgot to offer prayers to God and thought of one arrangement or the other as if nothing will move without her. (Sana, p.78)

A physical relationship is not a big deal for Sana. Neither is she afraid of the society nor is she tied by any norms of chastity or morality. It appears that Professor Vikas Sharma wants to highlight the deviated thinking of the young girls who come from a well-off family and tell us how they have lost their belief in chastity and purity. It is true that modern life is fast paced, however, it does not mean that it justifies a person to do away with their morals and ethics to do whatever they find necessary for physical pleasure.

A Tale of Adultery, Seduction and Illicit Relationships

The novel does not only talk about the character of Sana but also highlights the ill practices that his father, Naveen, undertakes in the corporate world. Naveen started his career with a very ordinary job but he was a highly ambitious person and soon, he stepped into the business world. With the help of his wisdom and knowledge, he soon became a successful businessman. His wife, Kavya always stood by his side. However, with his success, he also brought a lot of vices. These included alcoholism, illicit relationships, harassing young women in his office, etc. As Naveen achieves new milestones, he hosts huge parties where alcohol and sex are served openly. His wife, Kavya, is well aware of all this but still she chooses not to oppose it. In his office as well, he exploits women because of their needs or other poor conditions. Silky, who is the younger sister of Kavya, and Katty, they both are needy and in the name of paying their fees, he exploits them as much as he can. Silky needs money to complete her B.Tech. degree and Naveen uses it to his own benefit.

‘Silky, what will you get a salary after passing B.Tech. in computer technology?’

‘Nearly thirty thousand rupees in the beginning.’

‘If you join B.Tech in chemical engineering, I will pay you thirty five thousand rupees per month and accommodation plus my love.’ And he smiled.

Really, Jiju?’

‘Yes really. I bear all your expenses from today onwards only on one condition-I never say no to you for any demand and you also don't say no to me anytime for anything. Decide for yourself.’

(*Sana*,p.48)

Similarly, he also exploits the maid who works at his house, Saavi, by giving her money.

Professor Vikas Sharma highlights the corrupt nature of the modern business world and how it is full of exploitation. The business world is full of men who want to buy any woman they like with money and women who are ready to sleep with anyone for money. What is shocking is that this has become so widespread that people have somewhat accepted this in the name of modernity. But the deterioration of one's character has its own consequences and nobody can escape these. Naveen also falls sick because of excessive drinking. In such a hard time, Kavya becomes very worried and anxious and she tries to tell him to stop but he is not willing to listen and he goes back to his illicit relationships and then never-ending chase for money. Silky and Katty become mere objects to satisfy his needs. When Kavya gets into an accident and because of slipping, she hurts herself and gets bid ridden, things become easier for Naveen. And this is shocking to see that Naveen has a daughter as old as Sana and still he is still absorbed in fornication. An image of this is,

After 12:30 p.m. 5 couples came out of tents and moved towards dining tables. Now drinks were not required and the waiters eagerly served dinner. If somebody persisted for drinks, his order was obeyed. The girls from Delhi, who had basically come to dance, dance up to 10:00 p.m. and then enter the tents as carried by the guests concerned. Open Kavya felt disgusted with all such affairs and had warned Naveen against such parties but he told her as a dictation- 'Either manage business at the top level or beg food on the roadside. No middle way out for us at all. If you feel fed up, you may retire to your bedroom. Better enjoy. Party must go on as I too enjoy these parties. Nothing new here. In refined language we call it the modern industrial world.....'

(Sana, p.65-66)

The Fake Relationships in the world of Business

After resigning from Naveen's factory, Silky goes to Shanghai and she feels that she can do anything on her own and this is why she decides to come to Shanghai leaving behind her sister, Kavya and her husband but here also, the same condition can be found. When she meets Fufu, he compliments her. This is done only to trap her by impressing her. And he is successful in this. After they do what Fufu wanted them to, he starts pulling out money to pay her. Silky refuses this saying she is not a prostitute but this becomes a part of her life now. She feels bad that Naveen,

Kavya and Katty do not have time to even talk to her because everyone is busy with their own selfish motives. They only have relationships to fulfill their desires and when these are fulfilled, the relationships end.

Kavya was already bedridden because of her accident and because of a new variant of the Corona virus, she died. Naveen does get sad on her death, but soon he starts to look for a substitute for her. For this, he proposes to Katty. Because of Kavya's medical condition, Katty was already playing the role of his wife. But she refuses to marry him. Her mother tries to tell her about the old age security and luxuries she could get with Naveen but she does not want to marry Naveen. She also fears that this could make her lose her job at his Pharma company. Pandit Revati Prasad gives Naveen the proposal of marrying Asha Apurva, a young widow. Naveen likes Asha and agrees to marry her. After marrying her, surprisingly, Naveen has a dream about Kavya who provides her consent to this second marriage of her husband. Sana gives birth to a son. And in her absence, Brij Vrit looks after the school. In the end of the novel, we see that Asha gives Naveen the good news that she is expecting.

Conclusion

If we compare *Sana* with the other novels of Professor Vikas Sharma, we find that he usually writes about the lifestyle of the young generation and comments upon the unethical ways of life where people are tied in greed, money, illicit relationships and so on. Suvidha in *Ashes and Fire* is a similar character who is an open minded woman and plays the role of a modern widow. In a similar way, in *Hope Against Hope*, Minty or Jagmohan, Richa Pandit in *Love's Not Time's Fool*, all appear to be similar in a way that they do not follow the norms of chastity and morality. Professor Vikas Sharma uses such characters to highlight the ill practices in our society. Professor Anand Kumar Awasthi remarks,

The novelist does criticize the loss of values in characters, however, the portrayal of characters exactly finding such values is found in one or two instances only. Thus the level of humanistic approach is only scanty.

Our age is an era of commerce seeking material pleasures and a rush for capturing power, monetary or political. Needless to say, though the modern man claims otherwise, yet he is time's fool, that he falls in line with it and aspires for all that he could lay his hands upon. The blind rush

for money and sensual pleasures throughout the world speak out for loss of necessary values of life which are scanned in the Western world. However, in India there has been a long tradition of following these values but on account of various social and political factors Indian society too has come under a dominant pressure of the cultural invasion from the Western hemisphere.

(Prof. Anand Kumar Awasthi , *Critiquing the novels of Vikas Sharma*, p.22)

This novel *Sana* raises a fundamental question, has adultery and moral degradation really become so necessary for progress in modern society?

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