

The Novel “Manju”: A View on Absurdity

Aswathy J B

Abstract— Manju (M.T.), a novel of an unusual genre, comes from Vasudevan Nair, one of the most well-known Malayalam authors. The mountains of Nainital are the setting for this novel, which weaves a dramatic narrative throughout. There are very few characters in the story, and all of them are very important to the plot. Vimala, a school teacher, is the main character. She appreciates isolation likes to avoid individuals, including her loved ones. Here we analysis the novel by the existential concept absurdity. Meaning of absurdity in English. the quality of being stupid and unreasonable, or silly in a humorous way. Albert Camus being a French thinker, novelist and writer, possessed expertise in examining the alienation inherent in modern life and is best known for his philosophical concept of absurdism. He defined the absurd as the futility of a search for meaning in an incomprehensible universe devoid of God or meaning.

Index Terms— Absurdity, Loneliness Snow, solitude, Waiting.

I. INTRODUCTION

Matath Thekepat Vasudevan Nair also known as M T is a Malayali who gained fame as a novelist, screenwriter, film director, writer and dramatist. Vasudevan Nair who has made his mark in Malayalam literature and film industry is known as MT. His major novels are Manju, Kalam, Nalukettu, Asuravithu, vilalapayatra, athiravumpakalvelichavum, 'Arabipponu' (written with NP Muhammad), Randamoozham, Varanasi etc. Many of MT's novels were turning points in Malayalam literature. He has received many awards including Padma Bhushan and Jnanpeeth, India's highest awards. He is also known as the storyteller of Nila.

Manju (Mist) is a novel by [M. T. Vasudevan Nair](#) is the most famous work of him published in 1964. It is a small novel at around 80 pages. It is closer to a novella or a long short story. Manju is also the most popular novel among MT's readers and fans. In this novel, we can see only few conversations and minimal characters. The novel narrates the story of a school teacher. The novel is set in the mountains and valleys of Nainital where Vimala Devi, a teacher in a boarding school. Vimala, Sudher Misra she is waiting for, Bhudhu a boatman, and Gorasab his father he waiting for., Amar Singh

security guard, Sardarji a traveler are the main characters in this novel except mentioning some other characters here and there.

In the forward of this book, it is written as an elegiac song with clarity in ambiguity and perfection in imperfection. A poem in which the sounds and colors of the past return to the present. Experience the melting snow in the valley of the mind! Humans and nature waiting in the movement and stillness of time. We can see it is completely true about this book. As he said if a prose comes from the bottom of the heart, it becomes a poem.

Perhaps the most celebrated sentence from a Malayalam novel is "It will come... it will not fail to come". The book that taught Malayalees to wait... Everyone is waiting for something. The whole world is waiting. For some reasons. Vimala waits for her boyfriend Sudhir Misra who vanished to somewhere. Buddhu waits for his white British father whom he has never met in life. Sardarji is waiting for death. The city is looking forward to the next season. Nainital and Humayun Hills are witnessing to the never-ending wait. As we read each line in the novel, we feel like we are waiting for someone else. Perhaps we did not realize who we were waiting for or what we are waiting for. Life is an endless waiting.

Vimala Devi waits with hope for her winter of discontent to disappear. Despite having a family consisting of father, mother, sister and brother, Vimala is distant from them. She hates the company of her family and enjoys solitude. Time does not pass for Vimala; she lives on the same routine. All she is seen talking to is Budhu, Sardarji and Amar Singh. All these members are waiting for their nearer one and faith. When one season end, Vimala and Bhuddu keep expectation to next season.

Absurdity is philosophy based on the belief that the universe is irrational and meaningless and that the search for order brings the individual into conflict with the universe. This philosophy can apply in this novel and can analysis

through it. The long lasting endless uncertain waiting itself characterized absurdism.

Absurdity is the most obvious theme explored in Absurdism. Absurdity characterizes a world that no longer makes sense to its inhabitants, in which rational decisions are impossible and all action is meaningless and futile. Franz Kafka, Jean-Paul Sartre, Samuel Beckett, Eugène Ionesco, Albert Camus, Saul Bellow, Donald Barthelme and Cormac McCarthy are considered to be the most well-known composers of absurdist fiction. Albert Camus (1913-1960) was a French philosopher and novelist whose works examine the alienation inherent in modern life and who is best known for his philosophical concept of the absurd. In literature Absurdism focuses on the pointlessness of life, just like existentialism does. The "absurd" occurs when a human being tries to make sense of a life that is senseless.

II. METHOD

For the study original short story "A hunger artist" used. Further data identified using Google Scholar, MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL, Applied Social Sciences Index and Sociological Abstracts Eligible studies will include original, empirical, peer-reviewed qualitative evidence, published in English. Data will be analyzed using the 'best fit' framework synthesis approach, drawing the topic.

Here to analysis the data thematic analysis used. Thematic analysis is a method for analyzing qualitative data that involves reading through a set of data and looking for patterns in the meaning of the data to find themes. It is an active process of reflexivity in which the researcher's subjective experience is at the center of making sense of the data

III. DISCUSSION

Vimala Devi is a residence school teacher in Nainital and says she is 31 years old. She is waiting for her boyfriend Sudhir Kumar Mishra, who has been away from her and waiting season for nine years. They met on a bus in Nainital one season and became very close and have not seen each other for nine years. Vimala is waiting despite knowing that even a hint that he will come back. Waiting for Godot is an 'absurd' play by Samuel Beckett. It depicts the endless and

fruitless waiting of friends Vladimir and Estragon for the unknown Godot. Which is similar to what the main two characters in this novel are waiting for.

The word Vimala means unblemished, pure. and Saraswati, Mahalakshmi and Sri Parvati also represent the goddess names to Vimala. The goddess-focused Hindu tradition and this explains their association with Goddess Durga. Shakti, the goddess of power, is the complete incarnation of Adi Shakti. According to "Devi Mahabagavatam", "Adiparashakti", the mother of the world, is the root cause of all the creation, condition and destruction of this universe. "Adiparashakti" is conceptualized as the Supreme Soul in feminine form. The "Shakteyar Bhagwati" worship started from the concept that woman is the basis of creation. From this idea Vimala can be considered as the pure "Adiparashakti". The writer plays his central character so that much powerfully.

From Vimala's point of view, she continues to wait endlessly. She believes with every living moment that Sudhir Mishra will come back after leaving her alone. He may be a fraud. He may be living in another marriage; an accident may have happened. It may be a journey to a world where he can never come back. Vimala is ready to wait no matter what. Life is given a number of days to each one. It is a stupid thing in life to try to make an action that seems absolutely absurd to affects another action that is unlikely to ever happen. Vimala may sometimes be able to detect inconsistencies in the subconscious mind, but in the conscious mind she continues her hopeless work.

According to existentialism and absurdism, there is no special purpose for life. It is very difficult to create a purpose in a life without a purpose. Existentialist claims that creating a purpose is the goal of a human being's life. But when we try to create purpose, we end up in an irrational conflict. The more we try for it, the more we slip into Chaos. Here there is only one purpose or meaning in Vimala's life. That single goal is what drives she to live. Without it, they would have committed suicide, we will think that. She is trapped in the absurdity of life and the only way out is suicide. Regardless, the narrator keeps the character in absurdity. Alive. But with a half-dead body and mind. She is spinning around in an endless spiral, or moving along the edge of an endless straight line

with the illusion that someday, somewhere, she will reach the him she is waiting for.

No one can recognize anyone in this world. No matter how close we are, Vimala trust Sudhir Mishra, who has known her for only a few days, without knowing who or what he is. Still hoping that he will come back one day. Been waiting for him for nine years. There is no point in waiting until people don't understand each other. Vimala is doing a visibly meaningless thing in her life. It looks like so absurd in meaning

To mention, Vimala has been waiting for Sudhir Mishra for ages. She firmly believes that he will come at least in one season, but the wait doesn't end until the season passes. Although each season was the same, they were different. Just like that difference, Vimala is waiting with small differences. None of us have seen Sudhir Mishra except through Vimala's memories and we know Sudhir Mishra through Vimala's unseen like the boy who comes with Godot's message. We feel a kind of idiocy in Vimala's actions as she devotes her whole life to a character we have never met and having no sign of return. It is totally absurd.

Vimala is a woman who lives entirely in the rich memories of Sudheer. For her, time and fall are not important. An example of this is to say that the calendar is hanging on the wall where the months do not change. Time is not a parameter for a waiting person. The only time for her is to see him return. The time in between may fly away like a bird without coming back. It is so pathetic that a person who lives only in memory and remains like a wooden puppet, oblivious to time and time. We can see that even nature changes according to Vimala's mood. Those who proceed without applying time and fall are more likely to collapse into absurdity.

Boatman Budhu is a young man who has been waiting for his father every season for years without fail to be as important as Vimala. The word Budhu means a fool. A boy who shows his yellow teeth and smiles when he sees his acquaintances. His waiting, speaking and innocent interaction with others may be attributed to him as Budhu. He is not worried about anything. Buddu is searching among the travelers who come to Nainital looking for a British man who cheated on his mother. He also has a picture of his father wearing horse socks. He was the gift

he left to his mother by his father, who might be invited to a one-night stand, and he, too, waited endlessly.

Buddu also waits for his father with the same seriousness like Vimala waits for Sudhir Mishra. Both of them have the same answer to the question that the waiting will end if they come and join. "It's enough to see one." There is no explanation of where they have been for a long time or why they have not come to see them. It sounds weird. They are only wanted to see each other with a single glance to one they are waiting for. Even though they waited for a long time, Vimala and Buddu only need to see their loved ones. It may seem like an exaggeration because they don't want to talk to their loved ones, they don't know why they left alone, they don't know if they will be with them again. It looks like absurd.

In this story, one more person is alive and waiting for his fate. He has lung cancer and he is waiting for his parent-the cancer who dead. It is Sardarji. He never appears to be afraid of death. He carries the disease with him like his guardian. Sardarji is ready to give up hope even in difficult times. Sardarji is the only character who openly says that he loves Vimala. He knows the shadow of death close to him. Sardarji says that it will not happen when I say see you again. Only then can you see a real disappointment in him.

The city of Nainital is also looking forward to the tourists in the new season. Nainital, which has heard the stories and whispering of the travelers for many years, is still looking for new travelers every year. A city that radiates the old within and the new outside.

IV. CONCLUSION

Vimala to Sudhir Mishra, Budhu, his father, Sardarji's imminent death and the city awaits new travelers every season in Nainital. And so, the endless wait goes on. Waiting with hope that one season or another will arrive. A normal person feels it as absurd but it is pure reality for those who are waiting for.

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