

The word Woman in the realm of Laura Riding: An Overview

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ABSTRACT

This paper illustrates how the role of women is becoming the growing concern of the feminist writers. Undoubtedly and unquestionably, she is the most beautiful creation of the World. Although she is the stranger in the country of man, still she proves her identity and contribution in a nice manner. Literally, the woman is an indispensable part of our society.

Keywords: The word Woman, difference between Woman and Women, Gender gap, Feminism.

INTRODUCTION:-The very particular word “Woman”, her participation, performance and portrayal are some of the important dimensions of researchers of modern time, especially for the feminists. Because for the empowerment and development of the Women section, it is very important to give them proper environment where they can raise their voices against the inequalities and the gender-gap they are experiencing in our male dominated or patriarchal societies. Improving the status of Women, in every aspect is regarded as the only way to eradicate gender-gap. A positive portrayal of women is highly essential for the betterment of society.

“The Word Woman” – The eminent Women writer Laura Riding begins with a section entitled “Definitions and generalizations, in which she notes that the etymology of woman is grounded in man.

“Female” derives from the Latin term “Femina”, she notes, which is associated with Fecundus, Fertile (17). The anglo-saxon “wif” is Riding argues, a “Convenience-name rather than a definition, as ‘cat’ is a convenience name rather than a definition.

“Woman” and “God” are the two notions which resist absorption in the meanings with which man enlarges his nature. (18-19)

“God’ seems to have difference, ‘woman’ merely differences. So, courtesy of being roughly speaking, man, is extended to woman: as when strangers come to some country and settle down in it peaceably and co-operatively, they are in time regarded as fellow citizens. “Women are strangers in the country of man” they are, that is immediate manifestations of the existence of something else beside man (19). (Review, woolf on woman having no country in three Guineas)

The word ‘woman’ is included in the word ‘man’, and its meaning do no more than supplement, and liberalise the meaning of ‘man’ (20).

However, while experiences with God is, “by definition, a ‘different’ experience”, experience of woman is “an actual experience: it happens” (20). The physical presence of woman forces man to deal with the word woman in ways they are able to differ with God.

“Women” are distinct from the word “Woman”- “Woman” is a ‘word’, “Women” are actual experience. (21)

There remains even in modern man an “involuntary primitive recognition of woman as something different, in spite of his efforts to generalise all difference under the Titular identity “man”. There remains an untranslatable residue, which he regards, nevertheless, as ideally translatable into himself.....” (27)

Laura Riding is interested in discovering a Feminine “principle” as against all the “meanings” described on the feminine through the word “woman”. (37)

“The meanings attributed to woman represent merely what man would like to mean.” (37)

“.... Woman, in her relation with man operates differently. She applies herself so directly, so immediately, to these relations that she cannot said to think, or even perceive, in the same way that man does. The result to her of these relations is not set of opinions, or even a set of sensations; the result is, at any moment, the relations themselves....man ‘register woman, but woman registers man and woman”. (40)

We cannot get truth, because his consciousness records only difference, he is an ego-centric, not universal minded, being. We can get truth- how things are as a whole-only from woman: man operates through the sense of difference, woman through the sense of unity.”(40)

“Woman is the major incident in man’s life. She is man’s most different experience- the most unselflike materials of perception that confronts his consciousness”. (47) Riding is concerned with considering “What it is to be the experience- what it feels like to be a woman” (47). She has to consider what it is like to be a woman in terms of male experience because that is woman’s lives reality. “Woman; thus comes to represent, as a word, man’s power over his own fortuitousness; woman is the symbol for the conquered, or conquerable enemy. He resists understanding woman in any other sense, because he fears to go beyond the momentary reality: that he lives. (50)

“Woman has two works to perform: a work of differentiate on, of man from herself and a work of unification, of man with herself. (53)

Difference is erased in the magic word ‘equality and that “man himself invented feminism, not woman”. (53) Because, Feminism schematizes women’s difference into the masculine neutral. Independence from woman has been the object of all the so called “creative” activity of man: the very notion of creation implies the disappearance of the separate phenomenon “Woman” in male activity. (57)

The sense that man has of woman is the difference between the universal and particular – a long as woman is just, a particular instance of the greater ‘man’, “there is no resultant whole, only a large outdoor abstraction.” (63)

Literally, women cannot fulfill themselves as women merely by extracting concessions from men which improve their social, their human, standing. They can only be women fully through an internal realization of their meaning as woman. The standing doesn’t matter, for standing doesn’t last.... Not a respectable human standing, but an active consciousness of themselves, should be the object women’s endeavor on their own behalf. Justice cannot be done women by men, only by themselves. (73)

In the world of Woman we can also find Robert Graves, “The white Goddess” perception. It is referred to as the Tripple Goddess, who recurs in most religious pantheons as a mother/wife figure, often in a triple aspect as a mother, daughter and a crone.

She remains a curiosity: always something above and beyond the immediate role. She exhausts the role, but the role doesn’t exhaust her. When a man realises that his woman is a teammate, not an opponent, that’s when his life changes. So, a man should not break her down, and let her help to win .

If we make an analytical study, it can be realised that Feminism was not as pronounced as it is today. In previous time, men ruled completely. However, with each passing day, the gospel of equality among both genders is spreading, and more women are jumping on the ship.

The thirst to define, establish and achieve political, economic, personal and social equality of sexes still continues in our society. This also includes seeking to establish educational and professional opportunities for women that are equal to those for men. Literally, today feminist movement is more diverse than ever before. Feminism has become more attentive to the wider range of experiences, a wider range of voices is now being counted as “Feminists”. The he for she campaign has already started, which encourages men to become advocates for gender equality. However, there is something about a woman with a loud mind that sits in silence, smiling knowing she can crush you with the truth.

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