

**Shakespeare has no heroes only heroines****M.Sathiyaraj**

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**Abstract**

Even if he was not the ideal feminist today, we can almost call him a kick-ass proto – feminist. Women may not have had equal rights in Shakespearean England but in his plays, they are free to be just as amusing, brave, or loveable as men are. Rosalind is one of the greatest and most delightful Shakespearean heroines. She has always been bright, interesting and attractive character. She was dynamic, strong in physique, and a persona with overwhelming capabilities and audacious youth. Rosalind is victim of circumstances, like Orlando, to the avarice of the Duke Frederick. She requires staying back and to Give Company to the Duke's only daughter Celia while her father banished. Celia is the only daughter of Duke of Frederick .She is as tall as Rosalind perhaps as fair and lively as Rosalind. She is attractive and humorous with the talent for witty dialogues. She talks in a light hearted, carefree and witty manner. She is a girl of romantic, temperament. She has strengths the theme of love with Oliver. Viola has native intelligence, powerful wit, and great amount of charm. These qualities would help her to obtain her position with Duke Orsino, they are also the same qualities which cause woman Olivia to immediately fallen in love with her. These characters proven that Shakespeare's major importance are heroines.

**Rosalind the Charming heroine from *As You Like It*:**

Duke Frederick in his criticism of Rosalind actually qualifies her. He exposed us that people praised her for qualities and pitied her for her father's sake. Her endurance appealed to

all. She was dignified in her denials when exiled by Duke Frederick. This revealed her inner moral strength. She was bold enough to reveal that her father was a traitor.

Her personality revealed by her actions. She is tall, beautiful woman sparkling wit and unfading charm. She has carried out her part in the guise of Ganymede very well to the end until the denouncement. When we first meet her we find her in a sad mood mourning the banishment of her father but she bravely throws off the pall of distress in her cheerful conversation with Celia and Touchstone.

Rosalind : I could find in my heart to my man's apparel and to cry like a woman; but I must comfort the weaker vessel, as doublet and hose ought to show itself courageous to petticoat : therefore, courage, Aliena

Celia: I pray you, bear with me: I cannot go no further.

Touchstone: For my part, I had rather bear with you than bear you; yet I should bear no cross if I did bear you, for I think you have no money in your purse.  
(48)

She could play pranks with Celia over fate, fortune and love, banter with Touchstone on courtly manners, and outwit him in arguments, scold Phebe with fault-finding, disdain for almost running Silvius, defeated Jacques in arguments, and teased Orlando in her love babble with him. She is quick in body and mind, direct in speech.

Her love for Celia was deep, sincere and true. She was rightly judged by Orlando in the first glance. The description of Rosalind that comes from Orlando was marvelous. Rosalind keeps a low profile as long as she is at court but once in the Forest of Arden, she takes lead and Celia played the second fiddle. Jacques, Orlando or even Touchstone is no match to her wit. She

spins them around n her little finger whenever she wished to do so but her intentions are not malicious.

Celia: But didst thou hear without wondering, how thy name should be hanged and carved upon these trees?

Rosalind: I was seven of the nine days out of the wonder before you came; look here what I found on a palm tree; I was never so be-rimed since Pythagoras' time that I was an Irish

rat, which I can hardly remember. (69)

Rosalind was as such in love as Orlando. While waiting for Orlando's return, when he goes to the duke, she looks for a shadow to sigh until his return. It is through Rosalind that the conventional courtly wooing has satirized and the typical extravagant courtship .she apprises Orlando of the most unflattering picture of the women.

She makes him see hollowness of has extravagant claim that he has dying for love. She gives the realistic picture of the post love scenario. Rosalind was one of the most versatile and endearing characters ever sketched by Shakespeare. Initially she was out of fortune that lived at the mercy of her uncle's and falls in love at first sight with Orlando.

As ill luck would have it, she was forced to flee the palace. Her personality reveals when she is under on compulsion, restriction or fear. In consultation with Celia, her alter ego she put on the mantle of a man as she was tall and of sturdy built and sets off for a know and trodden path. She has in her company a weaker person, Celia in the guise of a sister. She has obliged to play the two roles as a woman and main demanding situation she asserts herself as a brave and fearless young man, fully capable of protecting her younger sister but in intimate moments especially in the company of Orlando her womanly traits coat be suppressed .She was tender romantic and often gets carried away.

**Celia the second heroine of the play**

Celia was the only daughter of Duke Frederick .She is to as tall as Rosalind was but perhaps as fair and lively as Rosalind. Her significance in the play laid in her attachments to her, and playing a second fiddle to her more dazzling cousin. To Celia much may be forgive for the heroism of her friendship, says a critic .Rosalind’s beauty and graces are highlights in comparison to Celia. She changes her to Aliena and was over the fool to company overshadowed by her cousin is perhaps the dramatic need. Wherever they went, they go together. She is witty, charming has a great allegiance to Rosalind .When Duke Fredrick banished Rosalind she tells her father that she was too young to value her and own she knows her. She may to sparkling, fair and captivating as Rosalind but her presence certainly leaves an impression, which is perhaps on less that had left by Rosalind.

Celia: Pronounce that sentence then on me my liege: I cannot live out of her company.

Duke Frederick: you are a fool. You niece provides yourself..... (39)

She has a never-ending pure love for her cousin and feels on envy or selfishness even when Rosalind gets the man she loved she has to spend quite a long time until her meeting with Oliver but during that period ever does she feels jealous or selfish. In fact, she was the one to reveal to Rosalind the identity of her lover and tell that the one who wears her chain wears heart too. She was thoughtful, compassion a feeling girl. She feels consideration for young Orlando when he entered into the ring with Charles and tried to dissuade him from fighting and on his refusal, she wished him all the luck and felt sorry when her father treats him shabbily. She wants commotion a part of her father’s shabby treatment ad goes to him to congratulate and encourage.

She understands the individuality of love, lovers and her description on Orlando as a wounded knight .She teased Rosalind, and it is at her hands that Rosalind receives the taste of her own medicine, which she gives so frequently to Orlando. Celia presented as a foil to her

cousin Rosalind .It was only for that she inflicts self –exile on herself ad went to the Forest of Arden. She was attractive ad humorous with the talent fir witty dialogues. She talked in a light hearted, carefree and witty manner. She is a girl of romantic temperament and strengthens the theme of love with Oliver.

Celia has a big compassionate heart to forget and forgive. Her presence made an interest a livelihood .If the Rosalind were a bigger light of the play; Celia would be a lesser light .They compared to Sun and Moon.

**Viola was the heroin and protagonist of the play, *Twelfth Night*.**

In the beginning Viola was found shipwrecked on the shores of Illyria and alienated from her twin brother, not knowing whether he is alive or dead ,the sea captain told her about the country ruled by Orison .There she disguised as man .She has chose a name for her as Cessario in order to save herself from the difficulties. She has self-awareness and she made self-security. For most critics, Viola was one of the Shakespeare’s lovable feminine creations from his comedies and she has emotional intelligence.

She was first, very practical and imaginative person.Viola has native intelligence, powerful wit, and ad great amount of charm. These qualities would help her obtain her position with Duke Orsino, they are also the same qualities which cause woman Olivia to immediately fallen in love with her. It was her beautiful personality.

Olivia: it is in natural texture, sir; it will resist the attack of wind and water.

Viola: it is true blending of beauty whose red and the sweet and skillful hand of nature has laid on white colors’. Lady, you are the cruelest woman alive if you let

these beauties go to the grave, leaving no daughter who will show them a copy of you. (35)

She could have used her disguise for all sorts of conniving, yet she is forthright and honest in all of her dealings with woman Olivia and Duke Orsino, albeit she does use her disguise to entertain the audience with pleasant verbal puns. Perhaps the most surprising thing about Viola is that a young woman in possession of so many attributes falls in love with someone who is as moody and challengeable as the duke is.

The trials, which fall to them, are met with courage and commonsense, and their chief charm lies in their natural human appeal. That is pre eminently true of viola. She has regarded as one of Shakespeare's fine characters, and the general opinion would probably have her most interesting and best-liked character of the play

Viola: it gives a very echo to the seat where love is thron'd.

Duke: Thou dost speak masterly. My life upon't ,young though thou art, thine eye hath stay' upon some favour that it loves;

Viola: A little, by your favor. (58)

In sweet and womanly attributes, she is second to no woman character in Shakespeare, or in the works of any other. The act of dressing up in male attire is one that tends to suggest a certain masculine or tomboyish nature. However, Viola displays neither, even a difficult role she manages to carry out with unvarying charm and grace. Every man would like to have a wife like her, a sister like her, or a friend like her. There is a clean fresh soul and nature she has.

Her qualities were inherent rather than dynamic, beautiful womanly modesty, which could not be hidden under the uniform of a page and a fragility of thought, and conduct that impresses all except the drunken knights who have not the cultured necessary to be impressed by it. She is self-effacing and respectful, and never lay s herself out to gain admiration or to attract

praise. Only Shakespeare could have created such a lovely character with an artistry that leaves its methods barely perceptible. She is the eternal feminine, the spirit of youth, the ideal of the great mass of readers and audience from the repetitiveness and sameness of daily life. Therefore, Shakespeare has given a specific role to women in his plays. He has portrayed the women through his writings.

### **Works Cited**

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