

Book Review**Ambai's In Forest : A Deer****Ms. A. J. Glory Gursheth**

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Ambai's story *In a Forest: A Deer* is a story originally written in Tamil and translated into English by Lakshmi Homstrom. This story depicts the condition of women in the society particularly in the culture of Tamil Nadu who are constantly under the oppression of the male patricarchal society. Every events and incidents that happens in the life of a woman is in either way connected the ideologies of the male dominated society. This story renders the character of Athai who is depicted as an object of the patriarchal society being tormented with her body and feelings within the family.

The problem portrayed with Thangam Athai is that she didn't have her mensuration in her life. It is not just once but over a period of time it is said that she had not bloom in her life like the other women. Therefore her womb doesn't seem to function to produce an hier to her husband. Here, problem isn't that her womb isn't functioning properly but she is unable to produce an heir to her husband. The biological disorders of Thangam Athai in her body revolves around her entire life to be tormented by the other women.

The characters embodies the representative image of every women who suffer because of same torments. Her plan of committing suicide by consuming arali seeds indicates the imposition of the other women within the family. At this condition, family appears like a place

of the dictates of harsh reality of the society. Death is the cruel reality that is given as solution for women like Thangam Athai who are unable to voice out their sufferings due to their conditions of life.

The images that are used to represent the nature of Thangam athai vividly describes that she is a **hollow vessel** with no reproductive parts. It is said that she hasn't **blossomed**, is compared to a flower that has no life. The dark cloths filled with cotton wool brings out the image of life filled with darkness with empty emotions. The image of mensuration denotes that she bleeds within her life with no purpose in it.

The only good word projected about Athai is that she is a blessing as such kind of women is often praised and considered as the image of deities who don't bleed. As the reviewer of this story, the question that raise in our mind is that is this the real blessing for other or curse for oneself.