

The work Heart Lamp as a Lightening Lamp of Life which unfold Struggles and Triumphs of Modern Women by Banu Mushtaq

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Banu Mushtaq is a writer, activist and lawyer from Karnataka, which is situated in southern India, She began writing in the 1970s and 80s as the writer of progressive protest literary circles in southern western India. her writings emerged as being critical of the caste and class system, this influential progressive protest literary movement gives rise to inspire and influence Dalit and Muslim writers, in which Mushtaq was one of the few women, who has collection of works such as six short stories, a novel, an essay and a poetry collection. Mushtaq writes in Kannnda and won major accolades for her recognized literary works, she won kannada Sahitya award and Dana Chintamani Attimabbe awards. These stories are portraying of everyday lives of women and girls in Muslim communities in Southern India, its all about religion society and politics which pose demanding unquestionable obedience as well endurance in experiencing pain, suffering and unsurpassed struggles in lives of all these women to be mere subordinates and oppressed in the dynamic changing society of dominance .

Keywords: community, religion, obedience, unquestionable submission, endurance, pain, struggle and subordination.

Indian writer of Booker prize winner Banu Mushtaq is a writer of prominence in Kannada, she is not only a well- know writer but also a social activist and lawyer in Karnataka. Her literary works have been translated in many languages such as English, Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil.

Banu Mushtaq is considered as one of the post modern novelists who becomes limelight more recently after being winner of Booker for her work 'HEART LAMP', it is translated by Deepa Bhashti, who is a journalist, translator and a writer of children book Champi and the Fig Tree, her works are famous for her treatment of rural and urban life of Muslim community women's' restrictions and rigidity of their society and the inner psychological problems of women in her community. She has been becoming popular for her style of narration which has become more alluring and relevant in changing dynamic society of nowadays. The common motifs of her works are more significant in present context of modernization, liberalization, globalization and multiculturalism. This paper makes an attempt to comprehend her works in the context of modernity not just in tangible ways but with intangible representation like liberal frame of thinking in upholding the universal values of equality, fraternity and humanity as the core ideas of valid outcome.

Besides being a writer and activist, she is also a lawyer who involved in working to undermine conservatism, inequality and social injustice. Banu Mushtaq first literary work 'Heart Lamp' translated into English in 2025, it is a book of collection of stories set on women- centric perspectives of Muslim communities in Southern India. The translator selected some twelve tales out of six collections published by Banu Mushtaq from 1990 to 2023. She was the first Kannada writer to be nominated for the Bookers. Deepa Bhashti was the first Indian translator to win the prize and it was the first of its kind to win the Booker prize, the work is an excellent collection of stories all about the writer to reflect upon her life as a journalist, lawyer and activist who dedicated herself completely on women rights, inequality, injustice and resistance concerned with religious practices in India.

It is a work written within the three decades, these tales are focused on the Muslim women experiences in Southern India comprising the themes of gender inequality, faith and social pressures which depicts satire, dry and gentle humour, and these important tales in this collection are 'Stone Slabs for Shaista Mahal' and 'A Decision of the Heart' are the stories which dealt with the motifs of gender roles and societal expectations. The title of the story stands itself to give reflections on the incidents in the life of Mushtaq's life struggles in the form of matrimonial life, motherhood and domestic life, the negative side of the story leads to positivity such as the protagonist being a mother who is loved and better understood by her children.

The collection of tales in the 'Heart Lamp' are set as a series taking place in the distinct Muslim communities in Karnataka. These stories addressed primarily the fate of women whose lives completely depend on their spouses who actually as the God in the lives of these women, the men depicted as failure characters who inevitable create tortures and total inconveniences in the lives of these women, the women could not find freedom

and independence without money and independent thinking, however a tale which is written in first person narrative about a protagonist 'Be a Woman Once, Oh Lord' deals the tale of Muslim women who thinks and asserts that her husband is someone who is above God for them, as God on Earth, their lives find no meaning and existence without them. This notion of comparing men to God is displayed as idiocy of some men, to exemplify this fact, In 'A Decision of the Heart', a character by name Yusuf who is cut down between two individuals like his mother and spouse Akhila, who remained more loyal to his mother, whereas Yusuf wife decided to be humble and faithful to him, but he is in muddle and nervous state out of his indecision.

Other tales which entice the readers are 'The Shroud', 'A Taste of Heaven', 'Black Cobras', 'Fire Rain', 'The Arabic Teacher and Gobi Manchuri' and 'Soft Whispers and so on.

The story of 'Heart Lamp', Mehruun whose spouse living with another woman, as a story revolves around how a living family of parents and siblings become accomplice in her long suffering, ultimately when she returns home to her family for bringing embarrassment to her family, the utter helpless perspective of the protagonist can be understood when Mehruun uttered that "If you take me there by force, I promise you I will set myself on fire". But her careless attitude of her brother present utter helplessness stance in the life of woman who forces her to go back and live her past life with her husband whoever he may, whatever the chances would be such as when her brother states that a adorable characters of good woman would compel her to die needlessly not to flee from her abode for anyone who brings shame and disrespect for one's life.

This anthology of Banu Mustaq's tales explore on the women's' encountering the experiences of patriarchy, conservatism, misogyny and tradition that in numerous ways, curb the women's lives in particularly Muslim women s' delimited and unable to navigate precious lives in a society.

Before we get into the words of writer, it's the translator who as some significant experiences to share about the making of Heart Lamp, Deepa Bhashti simply stated that for her translation is an instinctive practice in many ways, it is her experience that each book demands its own totally different process, with respect to Banu's stories, she has read all her works that which are published and it's her own way, how well she narrowed down it, to make one that shape The Heart Lamp. ultimately, Deepa feels happy because Banu did not interfere in any way when so chaotically compiled all Banu's tales into one whole which are organized and packed into a book form.

whereas The writer said that, My stories are about women how they are forced to show obeisance and unquestioning obedience from them, in agreeing so, they are inflicted inhumane cruelty on them, making them to merely accept as subordinates. she said that, it all the everyday reports in media and some personal experiences and hard endurances have inspired to write these tales of pain suffering and hapless as well helpless lives of these women invariable compelled me to write as well to feel deep emotional response towards them, in the form of painful tales of awakening cognizance on the part of women to evoke resilience and in its continual form leads to transform into triumphs and also rebuilding their lives.

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