

Double Marginalization: A Case Study of Anupama in Sudha Murthy's Mahashweta

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Abstract—

The aim of this paper is to narrate the painful story of Anupama, the protagonist of Mahashweta, the novel written by SudhaMurthy, who is marginalized in society and bounces her way back to life! It explains the sufferings of Anupama who is being continuously marginalized ever since she was born. Starting with a deprived childhood as an orphan in a poor family and raised by her grandmother in the midst of her cruel step-mother and jealous step-sisters, Anupama is temporarily cushioned by a short-lived, happy married life which is shattered yet again by leukoderma that turns her life upside down. By dint of sheer hard work, courage, determination and values, this simple, beautiful, intelligent and a Sanskrit – erudite protagonist fights her way back from the brink of committing suicide to establishing a rightful place of her own. She beats the societal and individual forces that bring her social stigma and prejudice and reclaims her life and her rightful place in society in the most dignified manner, successfully finding her way back to the centre.

IndexTerms—Marginalized, social stigma, prejudice, abandoned humiliation (*keywords*)

I. INTRODUCTION:

After Independence, when India was freed from British colonization which was dominating and exploiting Indians in all aspects of life, people thought the suppression has come to an end. Unfortunately, it only seems to continue in a different form - not by the British, but by our own people. Women, in particular, are soft targets of various forms of suppression. In this patriarchal society which is predominantly male-centered, women are double marginalized, both socially and economically. Different forces working in combination marginalize women, the most potent one being male power structure, which pushes women to the margin - as a ripple effect, some women themselves force other women to the margin for various reasons. In this story “Mahashweta”, the reason is medical complications which pushes Anupama, the protagonist of the novel Mahashweta, to the margin. The author Sudha Murthy has made an extensive research on the sufferings of women in various forums and created this character Anupama, who will continue to stay as a symbol of a great motivational spirit amidst despair and distress.

II. Double Marginalization in Mahashweta

Anupama is born in a poor family in a village. As an ill-fated child, she loses her mother in her infancy, and is raised by her grandmother. Her father Shama Rao who is called as Shamanna, a docile school teacher, is totally under the control of his second wife Sabakka, who is the decision maker in the family. Her stepmother and her two half-sisters are always envious of her because in beauty, she always outshone them. In order to motivate and support a girl child in the village, a magnanimous donor announces to provide scholarship for scoring high rank in education. Since Anupama is naturally blessed by GoddessSaraswathy, she works hard and manages to get scholarship for her studies. This is a sheer stroke of luck because Sabakka was planning to stop her education because educating her would be a no-return investment. This is because Anupama, being a girl cannot support the family - instead she will be married and sent to some other family making someone else beneficiaries for their investment. This new-found opportunity in the form of scholarship brings a lot of relief to Anupama, who is only naturally waiting to free herself from the harassment of her cruel step mother and taunting step sisters. While pursuing her MA final year, she aspires to do PhD. However, unless and until she focusses and gets a scholarship and fend for herself, obtaining a PHD would merely remain a dream for Anupama.

Both socially and economically, Anupama is being continuously marginalized in various circumstances and in different ways.

However, her general intelligence enables her to break her clutches and move to the center. Along with her studies, she masters Sanskrit and spends her prime time in cultural activities like directing and acting in plays. It is at this juncture, when she has to sell tickets for a fund raising programme, that she meets Dr. Anand, a young handsome doctor. The very first time Anand meets her, he is bowled over by her astounding beauty. The author narrates:

“Anand looked up from his notes, and was stunned to see a young girl of extraordinary beauty standing before him. He had met countless girls over the years, but never had he seen anyone so startlingly lovely. With her beautiful large eyes, exquisite complexion, and face framed by long, jet-black hair, she looked like an apsara”. (8)

He is speechless for a while and then understands that she has come to meet his senior Dr. Desai to sell the tickets. Dr. Desai is not only his senior, but also his family friend and a close friend of Anupama’s father Shama Rao from school days. This instantly strikes a chord and forges a strong, close connection with Anupama. Ever since, thoughts of Anupama keep flashing in his mind. As he was also made to buy a ticket, he decides to go for the play; more than the ticket, what propels him is the curiosity to know and discover more about her.

The play is based on a novel Kadambari written by a renowned scholar Bana Bhatta in Sanskrit. As Anupama is well versed in Sanskrit, she translates and dramatizes a part of it. The core element of the story is the love between Mahashweta, heroine, played - by Anupama and Pundarika, hero, casted by her friend Nirmala. Anupama, who is sculptured in ivory, looks extremely beautiful and delivers her dialogue very naturally. She fascinates the crowd through her enthralling acting. Like the audience, Anand is also mesmerized by her performance, who is awe-struck to see a rare combination of both beauty and brains! She receives a huge applause from the crowd who were spell bound for a while. The organizer honours her on stage with a memento and praises her for making the fund raising programme a success. Though born in a poor family and groomed in the midst of humiliations, she earns her respect and finds a place in the society. It’s her sincerity, simplicity and modesty that helps her to move to the center despite her not-so-very fortunate circumstances.

Anand could hardly flush out Anupama’s thoughts from his mind. Many alliances had come but he was not serious about any of them, because he was looking for a beautiful girl. After seeing Anupama, he starts firmly believing that she is the best match for him. Hence he decides to find out her whereabouts. He gets information from Vasumathiaunty’s brother Shrinath and feels heartened to know that she belongs to his community, but from an extremely poor background. As a handsome and intelligent person born in an affluent family after five years of his parents married life, Anand is treasured by his mother Radhakka. He is studious and extremely obedient to his mother. He strongly believes that it is only because of his mother that he has been able to progress thus far in life. Currently, he has received scholarship to pursue his higher studies in London, which makes his mother unhappy because she has to part with him.

Like Anand, Anupama also gets attracted towards him from the day she sees him, but does not reveal it to anyone. However, her best friend Sumithra senses this and teases her. Even though Anupama denies this, in her hearts of hearts, she knows that she has been drawn towards him. Eventually, she determines to brush off Anand from her mind, knowing the imbalance in social status.

Anand’s mother Radhakka is an authoritative and a conventional lady who can never compromise on her social status. Her domineering personality draws awe and fear from people around her, including her late husband. She raises both her children Anand and Girija like a prince and a princess. Both are good looking, but are very different in their behavior. Anand is good at studies, well-mannered and obedient, whereas Girija weak in her studies, arrogant and undisciplined. However, Radhakka never gives her up. She has named her house “Lakshmi Nivas” believing the fact that it should be a place for Goddess Lakshmi, who will bless her family in abundance. Hence, she strictly follows her culture and tradition. Every Diwali, she used to perform Lakshmi Puja inviting the entire town. Unfortunately, she is not able to continue this ritual after her husband’s demise. Therefore, she is eagerly waiting for Anand to get married to continue the same. Although Radhakka received many proposals for Anand, he could not connect with any of them. However, surprisingly he finds immense joy and love for Anupama, whose qualities according to him are unparalleled and equal to none! Anand reveals to his mother about his desire to marry Anupama. As Radhakka is an expert in concealing her emotions, she remains silent. Sensing his intensity of love and his firmness, left with no option left, after a long contemplation, she relents to Anand’s wish.

Dr. Desai, being a common friend of both sides, gets the horoscope from Shamanna, who is surprised about the news that Dr. Anand is interested in getting married to his daughter! The jealous step-mother and step sisters, are dumbstruck at this new stroke of fortune endowed on Anupama! Hearts of hearts, and keenly wish that the horoscope do not match. To add fuel to the fire, the horoscopes match! Being a practical woman, Radhakka announces that the wedding will be at Lakshmi Nivas and will be conducted at her expense in a grand manner by inviting all her friends, neighbours and relatives. But she has certain expectations about her future daughter-in-law. She wants her to be decked up in gold, diamond and silk saris. Hence, she gifts her with all her valuable ornaments and saris. When Anupama overhears Vasumathi muttering that what she is wearing is only ten percent of Radhakka's Jewels, inside her Anupama feels 'To me the greatest jewel is my Anand. The rest only weigh me down'(36). Her love, trust and respect for Anand is so much! Anupama strongly feels Anand is her real Pundarika whom she loved whole heartedly in her play. Anand adores her every moment and she feels very much relieved from her past painful life. It is expressed as 'Her life seemed a perennial fountain of joy, of love and happiness. She was unable to understand how philosophers could describe such pleasures as temporary'. (37) She thinks how kind god has been in her case – with hardly any difficulty, she has married to a person from a reputed family. The love and bond between the couple keeps increasing day by day. However, times comes when Anand has to join his higher studies in England and he has to leave even before Deepavali which was due in two months. Radhakka had already got a promise from him that she can let her daughter-in-law to go only after the Lakshmi Puja. Anupama is quite upset about it, but Anand convinces her reminding that getting his mother's approval for the marriage itself was a great task for him. Further, they would be away hardly for two months, which would elapse in no time!. Moreover, he was sure that his love for her will never diminish. With a heavy heart, she sends him off. After his departure, she becomes mechanical at home. She wears gold and diamonds and silk saris as wished by her mother-in-law and does her job as expected. The only source of joy that she finds in those days is the letters she receives from Anand.

An unpleasant relationship develops between Anupama and Girija. Anupama is stunned, when she finds a packet of oral contraceptives, hidden in Girija's purse which looks similar to hers. This shocks her terribly. From then on, she starts observing her. Later, she comes to know that Girija had lied to her mother that she's going for a two-day study tour, but had gone elsewhere. When she understands that Anupama had come to know about it, she warns her not to interfere in her personal matters and reacts very rudely stating that no one has the right to advise her except her mother. Meantime, when Radhakka hears the conversation Girija immediately cries and complains that Anupama is unnecessarily suspecting her tour. Radhakka, unable to bear her daughter crying, vents out her anger upon Anupama. Her social status becomes an advantage for her mother-in-law to throw tantrums on her. Though Anupama's conversation with Girija's friend was only a casual talk with no ulterior motives or intentions, Girija blows it up unnecessarily knowing the fact that Anupama has smelt her secret affair. Helpless Anupama, out of shame, comes forward to apologize for hurting them. Tears wells up her eyes for the first time since she got married.

As Anupama is eagerly waiting for her visa, Gowri Puja also arrives. Forgetting the differences, all work together happily! Invitations are given to the entire town and people start swarming in delightfully. Anupama gladly receives and handles them with utmost care. After the function, Radhakka feels extremely happy that the celebration was conducted successfully.

One fine day, Anupama observes a tiny patch on her leg slightly above her ankle. Initially, she ignores but after couple of days she realizes that it has grown little bigger. This started to bother her much. She makes a thorough study of the patch and fears "what in case if it is leukoderma"? The very thought of it makes her to shudder because she knows how dreadful a disease it is. She knows how society will abandon people infected with such a disease! She is helpless as she is even able to discuss with anyone. Crestfallen, she finally decides to consult a doctor without the knowledge of her in-laws. She prays in tears that her fears don't come true, but Fate seems to will otherwise. Unfortunately, doctor confirms her worst fear. Unable to control her tears, she cries and cries in utter sorrow, shock and despair, but to no end! She has not harmed anyone but why should she receive such a big blow when she has just started her life happily. Is it Karma that she has to suffer? But why? There were no answers to her poignant, heart-breaking questions. She quietly follows doctor's advice, takes medicines and applies ointment. She tries to hide it from the rest of the family by wearing her sari a bit lower than usual, but fearfully wonders how long she could manage to hide this malady. Many things start to pop up her mind - how is Anand going to react when he comes to know? Will his love for her

remain the same? She is in total despair and desolation, which almost drives her to the point of insanity. As her confidence is shaken, she drops the idea of writing to Anand and feels as though the entire world has doomed.

Every time she has to invent a lie before she goes to the doctor. As Anupama had anticipated, Radhakka once happens to see her in the market as she is coming out of the doctor's clinic. She is shocked because she had lied that she is going to meet her friend. When she understands that she has been fooled, she becomes all the more furious. In her typical sharp tone, Radhakka calls her downstairs. Anupama comes down and by mistake she slips in the stair case and falls down. To add to it, her sari goes up when she falls down, leaving all eyes to stare at her white patch!. The bitter truth, hidden so far, is announced widely and loudly by the white patch is out in the open!. Radhakka feels she and her son have been betrayed and strongly accuses that she had infected the disease even before the marriage and cheated them by hiding it. When Anupama tried to explain that the patch has developed only few days before, she refuses to listen to the truth. All her efforts only end in vein - by then news spreads in the town and Shamanna is also called in to take his daughter away - Poor old father could not do anything beyond falling at Radhakka's feet and begging for his daughter's life. As a person of self-respect, honour and integrity, Anupama could not see her father being demeaned. She decides to leave the house as it is not going to be a home for her anymore, leaving behind all the gifts given by her mother-in-law (who asks her to leave them in her room). She just takes her meager belongings with her! Once again she is pushed to the margin- but this time it is because of the disease.

After the devastating fall from grace, Anupama decides to write to Anand. Since her return to her home town has raised many eye brows , it's time for her to open up her broken heart. She narrates the entire misfortune that has befallen her and pleads him to make arrangements to join him. She patiently waits for his reply, but ends up only in disappointment. Though Anupama fears that her mother-in-law would have convinced him that the patch was already there even before the marriage, but as a husband, Anupama strongly believes, Anand would know the truth for sure!. Moreover, as a doctor, she thinks that he will understand things better than anybody else and firmly believes that he will rescue her! Meanwhile, news spreads like a wild fire in the village. Her step-mother manages with a lie that she'll be soon joining her husband in England. In the mean time, her step sister Nanda's wedding gets fixed all become busy preparing for the wedding. She again writes to Anand but receives no reply. A pall of gloom engulfs her! She tries to convince her thinking that he was not responding because had probably moved to a new place! With great hesitation, she writes to Dr. Desai asking for Anand's address. Dr. Desai who had recently visited Anand in England, sends the address - the same address to which she has been writing to all these days. Anupama now clearly understands that her husband had distanced himself from her because of the disease. Around the same time, Shamanna breaks down as he receives a letter from Nanda's groom stating that they have called off the marriage as the groom's family did not want to marry the girl whose sister has leukoderma. Even though Shamanna tried to convince them, it was in vain! It is a devastating blow for the family! Shamanna is totally shattered, while Sabakka abuses Anupama for being the reason and Nanda bursts out because of her disappointment. The house comes to a standstill! Anupama's sorrow has no end. As a relief, Shamanna gets his transfer to a new village. When they leave the village, with a slight ray of hope Anupama gives her new address to the postman in order to divert all her letters.

It's been a year since they got shifted but there was no development in the family. As it is a new place, Shamanna has not received any enquiry for tuitions. Running the family becomes even tougher now. Sabakka takes it all out in Anupama, harasses her verbally and assaults her dignity. She has turned out to be a permanent burden for the family. She wishes to become a teacher, but she is not qualified as she doesn't have a B.Ed. degree. She thinks if this disease had affected her before her marriage, she would not have married – instead, she would have continued her studies and met her expenses with her income. Not in the wildest of her dreams did she imagine that her life will turn upside down one fine day, leaving her in doldrums. Even in her plays, she never wished to have a sad ending. She used to tell her friend Sumithra 'I do not want to play the tragic heroine, Sumi. I want to show the audience the joy, the happiness, the magic transformation that love and beauty can bring. I believe in happy endings!' (70) Anupama learns life in a hard way. It teaches a different lesson about life, that it is not always filled with fun and happiness. It is an amalgamation of both joy and sorrow.

Understanding the agony of Anupama, school ayah asks her to visit the nearby temple which is located on a hill top. She confidently says her patches will vanish if she prays by offering white flowers for mosques, but there was no relief in sight so far! One day as usual Sabakka accuses her husband for not finding alliances for her daughters. Shamanna who is already tired of his

crestfallen life says painfully, 'Why did I have to father girls? They have become millstones around my neck. My worries have doubled since Anu returned home. Why does she have to remain here? I am going to retire soon; how will I fend for all of us?' (71) Those words were heart piercing for Anupama. She has left no stone unturned to reduce his burden, but couldn't. The only choice left for her is to go to the temple and plead goddess to give a solution. Next day, while she is getting ready, she is in for further shock when she finds a small white patch – this time, it is on her arm. Tears start to well up and apprehend that it is the final nail in her married life. With a broken heart, she starts to climb the hillock to offer her prayers without realizing that she is going to experience another thunderbolt. She happens to over hear the conversation between two ladies, who were conversing loudly about a wedding that happened recently. To her surprise it was about Girija's marriage and then conversation moved to Anand. On hearing his name, Anupama becomes curious. Unfortunately the message is that Anand had come for his sister's marriage and Radhakka is looking for an alliance for him from a known family (as they were cheated by the first marriage who married him by hiding her patches) to which Anand has also agreed. This news turns out to be the last and tremendous blow that she has ever received in all her life!

Until this point, Anupama was hoping that Anand will come back, but now all her expectations are thrashed when she heard he has agreed to get married the second time!. After her grandmother, it was Anand who showered love upon her, in whose presence, she found real joy in his presence. How can he abandon his own wife whom he loved than anybody else in this world? She wonders how someone can break the marriage vows. Many unanswered questions arise in her mind. By this time, she reaches the top of the hill and finds a warning board not to go beyond that area. Suddenly she feels her life has become meaningless. It's only going to cause distress to her family again. Why not jump from there and commit suicide so that everyone will be relieved of the trouble caused by her? Her economic status and medical condition have marginalized her by dooming her future.

After pondering for long, she determines to live and not to sacrifice her life for any such unworthy people. She senses that these people will not hesitate to spin various stories regarding her death - or what in case if she survives even after jumping with broken limbs? - , the very thought of it makes her to shudder. She puts an end to this cowardice idea. With a clean and strong mind, she wakes up to start a fresh life. She has to live and will live, with this challenge, she decides to fight back the ordeals that she has to encounter. Thus begins the new chapter in her life!

As she has been invited to Bombay by her friend Sumithra, who is now married and settled there, she visits her and with the help of her husband Hari, she gets a clerical job which is huge sigh of relief and balm for her broken heart. From then on, she firmly resolves never to look back! From now on, she determines to focus on her journey forward. Her joy knew no bounds when she receives her first salary. She sends a part to her father and contributes some to Sumithra for her expenses, as she is staying with her. Hari, however, convinces her that she is like his sister who can stay comfortably and hence refuses to accept. Considering the fact that her stay at Sumithra's house will affect their privacy, she starts to look for her own accommodation with the help of her friends. She earns good friends and Dolly is one among them.

One day, Anupama comes home early after attending her colleague's wedding. To her surprise, she finds Hari at home when enquired, he explains that he has to go on a tour and so he has come to collect his luggage. She receives yet another blow that day. When Anupama is dressing up, Hari tries to misbehave with her. Adding to her shock, he says they can maintain a secret relationship, where neither him nor Anupama would be suspected. She shouts at him out of anger, but he threatens stating that if she doesn't cooperate, he will turn Sumithra against her, wherein Sumithra would rather believe her husband than her friend. Anupama is shell shocked, but luckily there is a loud knock on the door. A sales woman approaches her to sell the liquid soap. Anupama uses the chance and flees to the door – the sales girl turns out to be her savior that day.

Anupama could not control her tears flowing down. She goes to Versova beach which is nearby and has a heartfelt cry. She is unable to come out of the shock because Hari has been addressing her as his sister, but on that particular day, his behavior leaves her in deep shock. Anupama recalls how she been abandoned since her birth – mother's death at her tender age, step-mother's abuses and husband abandonment her due to her disease now her friend's husband's treacherous behavior- all these have literally pushed her to the edge of her life. Yet again, she is shelter less. Where will she go in this huge city? Whom to trust? Who is the cause for her present suffering? If Anand had not betrayed her, she wouldn't have undergone these sufferings. After this heartbreaking incident, Anupama decides not to stay anymore with Sumithra and finds an accommodation in Dolly's old

bungalow owned by her mother in Bandra. She feels very safe and comfortable, but takes some time to erase the scar caused by her so-called brother.

Days pass by happily, where Anupama becomes all the more close to Dolly. One fine day she comes to know that there is a vacancy for a Sanskrit lecturer in a reputed college. She applies and to her surprise she gets her appointment too. Her joy knows no bounds. The new college and new challenges for which she was longing makes her all the happier! From then on her life changes - , she becomes busy in engaging classes, writing dialogues and guiding students to act in Sanskrit plays, but this time she doesn't act as the white patches start spreading. Meantime, Dolly gets married and leaves to London asking Anupama to take care of her house. She gets more friends in her every walk of life and she also ends up helping people who are in need. She also receives proposals from people who revert her values, but Anupama makes it very clear that she doesn't want to build any relationship with anyone beyond friendship.

At the other end, when Anand comes home for his sister Girija's wedding, his mother forces him for a remarriage, which he flatly refuses. Anand being very pious and loving and caring person could not accept the white patches on his beloved wife. But for his marriage, he has never faced any failures in his life! He goes through a complex web of emotions - He doesn't want anyone to sympathize him by seeing her disease. On top of it all, he just couldn't stop thinking of Anupama!. In a fit of frustration, he decides to move to Girija's room as it is empty now. He starts cleaning her room and while arranging his books in the drawer, he finds a small drawer behind as well. Out of curiosity, he pulls it out and finds a letter and few more bits of papers in it. Wondering what it could be, Anand starts reading those papers. To his utter shock, he discovers that it is a love letter written by Vijay to Girija. The content of the letter clearly explains that they were in relationship. It further details about their frequent meetings in the night, their joyful time spent together in Belur and his wish to continue this secret relationship even after Girija's marriage. He is thunderstruck because no one in the family had behaved so disgracefully! Even Anand had not looked at any women after leaving Anupama! Having illicit relation and marrying someone else is an unforgivable affair, in his world of values. He wonders if they are still in relationship! He strongly feels that his mother should be informed about it, even though it is going to be a shock for her. He is in for a bigger shock this time around - While explaining the matter to his mother, he understands that she is already aware of their clandestine relationship and in spite of it, had her daughter married to another boy. She further justifies her stand stating so: , "How could I have married off a princess like Girija to a beggar like Vijay? Or told people that my daughter's father-in-law is a cook? What would they have said? Think of our status in society!" (127). When he accuses her for ruining his sister's love affair by holding social status over her daughter's wish, his mother throws another bombshell that Girija had happily agreed for the marriage. Anand becomes dumb at this juncture. All these years, he was aware that his mother held orthodox in beliefs and values - but today comes the revelation that his mother could be opportunistic to the core!. The true colour of his family unveils before him: his sister Girija who had an illicit relationship before marriage is leading a happy life with some other person and his mother who has double standards - one yardstick for her children and another for Anupama who is accused for afflicting the disease. He realizes how unjust and unfair he had been when Anupama was desperately looking for his help. Realization dawns on him that she stands tall before him - irrespective of her economic status and the white patch.

Anand wants to get rid of the guilt by bringing Anupama back into his life without any delay. With a heavy heart, he visits her village and to the school where his father-in-law was working then he comes to know he has been transferred to another village. He understands Shamanna is no more and the family has left the village long back. When he enquires about Anupama, the message is even more devastating - some say that she left the village, few others say that she would have committed suicide and that there was no trace of her. Engrossed in deep sorrow, he starts blaming himself for all woes that had befallen on her. If he had not attached do much of importance to external beauty, had he not believed his mother, he would not have lost his family. Guilt engulfs him completely! His mind constantly pricks him for deserting her. With great disappointment, he returns. What a shame on his profession and his upbringing! A sea of sorrow, guilt and shame engulfs him!

As there was an invitation to participant in a doctors' conference in Bombay, out of deep despair and desolation, he goes to attend the same. After the discussion regarding the recent developments in the medical field, he is left alone, once again pondering about Anupama. His friend offers him a ticket to watch a Sanskrit play conducted by a college. Anand's mind switches to the past - he recalls his first meeting with Anupama - after that he had never been to any plays so far. Though Anand is hesitant, his friend compels him to watch because it is played by a talented lecturer who always handles it professionally. Half-

heartedly, Anand visits the auditorium with his friend. Before the play starts, a voice briefs about the play from behind the curtain. Anand is startled because it sounds more like Anupama's voice. Later, he confirms when she appears on the stage with same grace, confidence and the love for her stage play. Anand is speechless to see her as it is a very unexpected one. He rushes to meet her, but unfortunately she leaves!

With great difficulty, he gets the address and visits her house the next day. After years, he is meeting his wife who is shocked even more than he is! Anand hesitantly asks her to forgive his immature behavior and expresses his desire to live with her but Anupama is very clear not to get back to any such marital life that has torn her into pieces. She recalls her past which makes her to shiver and tells clearly, "It would be better for us to part now and never communicate with each other again. We met accidentally but we are not made for each other. Let us part with good grace." (149) and walks away. It is not only to Anand - Anupama also makes it clear to another friend of hers, who gets attracted by her gentle behavior and wishes to marry her. She also warns him sternly not to build any such hope as she desires to stay single forever. It is her confidence, sincerity and the principles that she held in her life that made her rebuild her shattered and crumbled life and set a mark by earning her respect back in the society. Though she was double marginalized, she pushes herself hard to move to the center.

III. Conclusion:

Women encounter so many problems on their way. Like Anupama, they have to march forward by kicking away the blocks confidently. As a person of integrity and self-respect, she rejects her husband who understands her worth and her growth amidst adverse circumstances and pleads for their reunion. However, she turns him down for leaving her in despair and desolation, when she was in dire need of him because back then, he was the only ray of hope to her. Now, as a single woman she has built a life for herself as a Sanskrit lecturer in Bombay, finds joy in directing Sanskrit plays and keeps herself busy preparing for her classes and guiding her students to participate in cultural activities. She moves to the center by establishing her identity. Anupama's life is an example for any woman who is prevented from joining the mainstream, to understand that disappointments and betrayals are part of life. One has to sail through them with grit and determination and move gracefully to the centre!

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