

The Creative Launcher

An International, Open Access, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, E- Journal in English
UGC Approved- (Sr. No. 62952)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53032/tcl.2017.2.4.17>

Subjugation of Women in Githa Hariharan's *When Dreams Travel*

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Abstract

The focus of this paper is to depict the subjugation of women in Githa Hariharan's prestigious novel, *When Dreams Travel*. This novel of Githa Hariharan investigates the possibility of women's presence, survival and personality emergency alongside different dimensions. At the point *When Dreams Travel* depicts the subjugation and oppression of women in patriarchal society. Apparently, Hariharan's direction is absolutely remarkable and described in an ornate way. Githa Hariharan's *When Dreams Travel* is revised aspect of Middle Eastern myth "A Thousand and One Nights". By re-revealing to Shahrzad's story from a feministic viewpoint, Hariharan forces upon the reader an entire re-evaluating of the revulsion of women so clear in the celebrated interpretations of medieval anthologies.

Keywords: *Subjugation, Suppression, Revulsion, Anthologies*

Githa Hariharan is one of the renowned second generation novelists of India. She was born in Coimbatore and experienced childhood in Bombay and Manila. She has obtained B.A. in communication from Mumbai College, M.A. from Fairfield University U.S.A. Her works are a compilation of books, short stories, essays, daily papers, articles and columns. She presently works as a Freelance editor. Githa Hariharan won common wealth writers prize for her renowned and presentation novel, *Thousand Faces of Night* in 1992 which made her popular in the field of literature. She published a collection of short stories *The Art of Dying* in 1993, *The Ghosts of Vasu Master* in 1994, *When Dreams Travel* in 1990, *In the Times of Siege* in 2003 and *Fugitive Histories* in 2009. Githa Hariharan's fertile experiences involve her portrayal of Indian culture and social establishment. Toward the day's end, her works mirror the social and cultural flow of life.

Githa Hariharan's famous novel, *When Dreams Travel* is a rewriting of the Arabian Myth The Thousand and One Nights. The novel exhibits the enslavement and oppression of women in a male dominated society. The protagonists of this novel are trying excessively to

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break the chains of oppression. Their oppression has left them utmost strong; they free themselves from the shackles of different savage customs. *When Dreams Travel* is composed in a Meta narrative form. In this novel Hariharan re-tells the old history to extend how the callous kings in past used to defraud women by enlisting them for being one night. This novel contains the three female characters, Shahrzad, Duniyasad and Dilshad. Shahrzad and Duniyasad are married to two brothers, Shahryar and Shahzaman. Both the brothers are sultans of two distinct cities and they were completely beguiled by their wives. Their wives were liable of adultery. As vengeance for this express mortification, the sultan made his brain to wed a virgin consistently and after that murder her in the morning keeping in mind the end goal to anticipate traitorousness. Simone De Beauvoir describes the *Arabian nights* in her book *The Second Sex*:

In essence women are fickle as water as fluid and no human power can contradict a natural truth. Throughout literature, in *The Arabian Nights* as in Dacameron, we see the clear ruses of women triumph over the predacious of man. Moreover; it is society that makes him as father, brother, husband-responsible for his women conduct. Chastity is enforced upon her for economic and religious reasons, since each citizen ought to be authenticated as the son of his proper father. (Beauvoir, 1997:P.221)

In this city where this brutal demonstration happens, the Sultan's Wazir has two daughters by name Shahrzad and Duniyasad. Shahrzad was excessively bold and intelligent. She exhibits love towards multiple of philosophies. She was an exemplification of excellence and tolerability. She made an arrangement in her psyche to prevent the savage demonstration of sultan upon the women. In an interview to Joel, Githa Hariharan says that narration of story in *The Thousand Faces of Night* is excessively a narrative strategy than in *When Dream's Travel*

..There too it is a strategy, but it is much more. Duniyazad's stories are all about the *One Thousand and One Nights*: that one formal, they are written in a particular way where as the slave girl Dilshad's stories are all the subversive ones, they wander in time and they undercut Duniyazad's tales...The vital part of novel is how all these stories are actually taking you a little closer to understand the way in which power is converted and manipulated and deserted and abused. (Kuorrti, 2001:P.1)

Shahrzad requested her father to propose her to sultan. The Wazir's little daughter started to reveal to him stories for a *Thousand and One Nights*. The stories were loaded with enchantment and tension. The sultan was ecstatic to the point that he puts off murdering of Shahrzad. There are two more characters, Dilshad, a slave young lady who deludes sultan by helping his child Umar to accomplish royal position and Satyasama, the character whose

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body is wrapped with smooth, light weight fur. At the absolute starting point of the story, the demise of the Shahrzad was puzzling and the significant piece of the story manages the account of Dnyasad to discover the secret of death. The last closure of the story uncovers reality. After the profound examination of the novel, one can without much of a stretch appreciate that every one of the characters has a dream like quality. Githa Hariharan completely developed the structure of fiction in an adorned way. The novel has been divided into two sections, the initial section unveils the account of four primary characters, and the second part is most essential story uncovered by Dnyasad and Dilshad amid their even day stay in desert. In the novel there are some upsetting happenings by a few members. They include limbless, headless monkey-women who decline to grasp demise, a pool brimming with dismembered female body parts. A portion of the stories in the book are bewildering and befuddling. The prospect that scratches one's psyche is that if this was the sort of shameful stories Shahrzad uncovered before after a long time her head may once well have bowed like those of virgin women before him. In this manner Githa Hariharan extends how women are oppressed and exploited in male dominated society.

After experiencing the novel *When Dreams Travel* by Githa Hariharan, one arrives at determination that it is an excellent endeavor by Githa Hariharan to depict the segregation and inclination against women. Her women battle to build up another request with changed standards where women can be her actual self and where there is no requirement for hypocrisy. In nutshell, the women characters developed by Hariharan in this novel are serious candidates to consider new types of liberated female identity, along examples of protection, survival, creative decisions and solidarity, prompting unforeseen life stories.

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