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## **A ANALYSIS ON SHASHI DESHPANDE'S "THE DARK HOLDS NO TERROR"**

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### **Abstract:**

The characters in Shashi Deshpande's "The Dark Holds No Terror" acquiesce to the undeniable fact that fate plays a significant influence in people's lives. In her book, Shashi Deshpande recounts the fate of a young woman named Sarita who must endure difficult circumstances throughout her entire life without any of her own doing. This makes Shashi Deshpande generally despicable. Sarita has talked of being cut off from her family, making the decision to become a specialty doctor, and falling in love with Manohar. Because of incidents and mishaps, she was unable to experience satisfaction in her daily life. In a discouraged tone, she asked herself, "Yet why is joy such a stunning thing? What makes it seem like a hallucination in most cases? The fact that something still kills even after years is miserable. Happiness is so fleeting that nothing endures. (40).

**Keywords:** *Destiny, Victim, Love, Marriage, Sex, Violence.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Sarita's life is a series of recurring incidents that deprive her of even the simplest pleasures. Her life begins with the accusation that she murdered her brother Dhruva. She left the house in order to express her dissatisfaction to her parents for denying her request to attend the movie with Smita's family. Deshpande depicts how children always display their contempt for their parents, but when Sarita does it, her sibling, an indulgent and obstinate person, follows her and drowns. She did, however, make a valiant effort to save her sibling but ultimately failed. This situation has followed her throughout as a problem. She is now completely separated from her mother due to

this twist of fate. Her mother has condemned the possibility that she might have also died and frequently accuses her of killing her son. She was hurt by these biting remarks, and since she was unable to deal with the false accusation, she became the unfortunate victim for which she is no longer responsible. In any case, her mother told her that applying to medical school is a waste of time and money because she would not have the option of saving money for it because she would need to pay for her wedding. Her father is a shy, pusillanimous, and non-substance type. Sarita has so shunned adoration since she was a teenager. This particular aspect of her life ends up being the main source of her suffering.

Sarita, a survivor of fate who was a young lady of extraordinary poise and assurance, meets Manohar. She immediately falls in love with Manohar. Though she didn't want to go, her friend Smita took her to the event. She was struck by Manohar's appearance and demeanour, which included his straight dark brows, thick eyelashes, firm chin, and large lips that were almost as full as a woman's. Furthermore, he was charming enough to win over Sarita, who was an innocent person, with that quirk of his, pushing his hair back with one hand. She was overwhelmed by his traits at their second meeting. In any case, Sarita's promise to go medical school has prevented her from having her eyes closed to love. "Reality was different, and I never let it go, not for a moment," she recounted. She joined the Medical College thanks to her bravery and diligence. She is expected to become a doctor and lead a happy life. Though Sarita hasn't met Manohar, destiny has pulled a cruel prank on her by having him appear in the college canteen despite having no connection to the medical school or canteen. Despite the fact that Sarita hasn't met him, Manohar was sent there to remind Sarita of the affection she was unable to deny.

She had finally gone to meet him on a bad day. She has also met the man she had always wanted, but she had no idea he would respond to her feelings so swiftly. Since her mother has often informed her that she isn't attractive enough to attract attention and that she would never be lovely, she never anticipates this happening in her life. Looking in the mirror, you are too dark for it! I'll issue you a certificate attesting to your beauty. Are you satisfied with that?" (61). She is thrilled when the man she had always desired materialises, and she experiences hardships in love, astonishingly quick success in securing the core of her ideal partner, blind love with him, and she transforms into a trapped young lady in possession of destiny. "It seemed even more unbelievable that he, a guy set aside from others, above the others—how callow they were now, the boys in my class—should adore me. The king's request for the fisherman's daughter to marry him could not have come as a greater surprise. She has so surrendered to him (66).

The circumstances that have put Sarita in a bind don't arise from her own development, which has been encircled by a mystic hand of destiny. Manohar explains to Sarita that he can no longer live without her and that even the longest life in her love is far too brief for him. When he once told Sarita that being separated from her parents

would be difficult for her because she is blind, Sarita rebuffed him and said, "Do you know, Manu, that it is so natural to cut the umbilical cord and separate the child from the mother? Ligate, cut, and it is finished." Nearly no bleeding is present as well. (39). Since effectively alienating her guardians, she has continued to speak in this manner. Destiny has twisted the circumstances so that she has left her family without any thought to a possible proper viewpoint. She married Manohar who made it clear to her that he wouldn't be able to afford a home payment and would instead put his doctor spouse in a chawl, on smelly streets, with hoodlum-type neighbours around. She remembered, "I was eleven again and trapped in that strange room and that friend of mine," after things had gone wrong (37). Her tranquilly, that she is not prepared to live in harmony even in the chawl, is denied by destiny. The neighbours learn that a lady specialist has moved in to dwell in their neighbourhood. They begin to take advantage of the situation as it is. A woman knocked on the door to inquire about the doctor's whereabouts. The mother wishes to take her child to the doctor; Sarita is receiving respect and admiration from the neighbours, which caused Manohar to become unstable psychologically. In the open, he has felt more modest than his better half. The reporter young woman has questioned him about how he feels when his significant other buys bread and margarine, which only serves to worsen the situation. As a result, Manohar has continued to experience depressive episodes, Sarita completes her M.D., becomes an assistant honorary physician, opens a consultation room, and she continues to rise in position and respect. Manohar was utterly irritated by this, which drove him crazy. No rejection was necessary for Manohar to undergo because Sarita had a better situation than he had, but Sarita is not at blame. It is only fate that she has a husband who is as frail as a mirror and who was abandoned in public and in private. He started biting and hitting his girlfriend; she wondered how long she could put up with the cruelty without complaining every night. She even gave Manohar's separation from her as an option.

Since meeting Padma, whose analysis he assisted in at the medical college, fate has prevented her from being freed from the burden. Saru isn't content with other young men in the early phases, save for Padma. Additionally, they have started gathering as frequently as possible, and drinking tea or coffee together with them has become a habit. Padma is left with little choice but to admit that he enjoyed meeting her and to imply that it was "an honest joy." He soon becomes pitiful as he claims that he has no one to talk to about his better half and that she has only discussed illicit family relationships with people like coworkers and the kids, which is soon to become tiresome. She can see that Padma wants the enjoyment of her company that his partner has failed to provide. She has convinced herself that she has supported efforts to find fulfilment with a different man. Wasn't it usually the answer for a woman who wasn't happy with one man to try to find it with another? she asked herself (132). She has given herself up to fate, so I'll put forward the obvious explanation that she was actively involved in achieving that. Since she understands that "the code expression of our age is neither love nor sentiment, but sex," which is a dirty word

for her, she has anticipated that the pursuit of guiltless enjoyment may ultimately result in unacceptable extra-conjugal sex.

Along these lines she needs to leave her expectations on affection and sentiment in her life which she has been the illusions to her, 'suddenly I felt cold as if I was left alone in the middle of nowhere, one more hideout discovered, one more illusion destroyed'(133) which she has revitalized her thought from the hands of the destiny.

To escape from the Manu torture, she has chosen to flee from him and she comes to live with her dad, yet she is an unwanted visitor in her dad's home. Naturally she has to ask her father, 'baba does it troubles you to have me here? Tell if it does, I can go to a hotel' (18). Nevertheless, he said that she could remain here, other than 'I'm apprehensive things aren't exceptionally spotless or agreeable. You may find it difficult' (19). Thus it is not whole-hearted welcome. When she has moved towards the room, her father called out and said, 'that's Madhav's room'(19), she has offered the puja room, a straw tangle and a pillow to lie on, it shows that even the room of hers not has a place with her the destruction she needs to acknowledge. At that point she revealed to her dad that she has terrified of him not for how he has dealt with her but rather how she has dealt with him that is she has felt regretful for the current circumstance of her better half. He is suffering from a sense of being low-grade to his wife. She knows, 'Maybe there is something in the male she currently thought, that is trimmed down and eventually thrashed by female mastery' (85). She is upset for all that has happened to Dhruva, her mom and her husband, 'my mother passed on the grounds that I thoughtlessly betrayed him. My mother died alone because I deserted her. My husband is a failure because I destroyed his manhood' (217)'. Though she has not done anything deliberately, it is absolutely due to the destiny which she has undergone. This apology has showed her the new bloom in her life. She is remorseful on the grounds that she has associated with these misfortunes however she has no goal to do any mischief to any of them. It is totally because of destiny, which is outside her ability to control. Being a young lady of faultless, she has figured, 'her mercilessness to Dhruva, to her mom, to Manu. She could never be freed of it. She would convey this revolting, excruciating weight until she passed on. The façade of trickiness had broken so totally she should never assemble it again. Shafts of the truth pricked her, causing her unbearable pain. Atonement..? It was never possible. What had she imagined? What had she thought? (212). She realized that she was 'the guilty sister, the undutiful daughter, the unloving wife' (220). Accordingly she considered rather leaving her sickly spouse, she ought to get him treated for his sickness. First she disclosed to her dad not to make the way for Manohar. In any case, as she is going out, she has encouraged her dad to ask Manohar to wait for her, the possibility of destiny has changed the course of her life by the possibility of appearance of Sunita's brother.

## 2. CONCLUSION

According to Deshpande, fate plays a big role in people's lives. Although Sarita has fallen prey to fate, it cannot be argued that she has surrendered to it. Despite her efforts, happiness has continued to elude her. Sarita was intrigued by Virginia Wolf's assertion that women have a right to "a room of her own," and she recalled that her mother doesn't have a room of her own in any way. Sarita said that her mother withdrew into the kitchen to freshen up, sat in this filthy space to brush her hair and apply her kumkum, and slept in her bed like an overnight visitor in a strange place. And even though I have a lot of things that my mother lacked, neither she nor I have "a room of our own" (135). It amply demonstrates how fate has the protagonist in Shashi Deshpande's novel bound.

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