

Chapter too near together: for the pillars

[Life](#), [Emotions](#)



CHAPTERITHEMEOF DESTINY

Themeis the pillar of the work

which holds the story as a whole. It is like bridge between plot and setting.

Theme provides character to the plot and situation to the event.

It relates unity of action, unity of placeand unit of time altogether. Theme canbe divided into major and minor in which major theme goes along with the plotwhile the minors are the ingredients of the major one. Destiny is the branch, shadow of the life of people which teach them sadness, happiness, surprises, miracles and problems through lifetime experiences. It is the learningexperience to realize the difficulties by means of love and truth.

Theme of Destiny is one of the majorimportant themes in most of the literary works. In other words it is the branchof theme. Marriage, Loneliness, Love andVictim of the society and culture are the ingredients of Theme of Destiny inGirish Karnad’s Naga-Mandala.

Marriageis an essential

ceremony of every woman which happens especially in India withsocietal rituals.

Woman undergoes various changes of inflexibility in marriagelife. Kahlil Gibran says there should bea space and freedom in marriage life through “ And stand together yet not toonear together: For the pillars of the temple stand apart,” in his famous poem onMarriage in “ The Prophet”. In the practical life, womanhas to sacrifice her happiness, freedom, equality, independence which extendsto her self esteem to fulfill the commitments in her in-laws home. Most of thetimes she has to adjust with her dreams to maintain the peace in family. In-laws home it projects drastic change ofenvironment through its rigidness when compare to the parental house of

awoman. She is supposed to undergo some behavioral changes according to the newfamily.

Karnad represents marriage which is the most important ingredient of Theme of Destiny in Naga-Mandala. He chooses the classy female protagonist who is an only daughter to her parents and called by the name Rani which means Queen “ Queen of whole wide world” (Girish Karnad, 6). She is a good looking woman and her name Rani exactly suits “ Ears like hibiscus. Skin likes young mango leaves. Lips like rolls of silk” (11). She is not only beautiful by means of physical appearance but inner beauty too due to naïve, soft, caring, loving, truth and affectionate in her soul and mind. He explains the difficulties, problems and sufferings of an Indian woman after the marriage life. He also talking about the behavioral changes or the adoption of various orders of routine life when compare to her parental home with in-laws home.

The pretty Rani was so happy, independent, and free from sufferings till her marriage life starts. But the marriage life became exactly opposite to her previous life in parental home. Because she started to indulge melancholy instead of happiness, dependency instead of independent and experienced lot of sufferings in many forms of marriage life. She experienced isolation and sob in dawn and dusk in the marriage life “ Rani sits staring blankly into the oven. Then begins to sob.

” (8). The marriage life of Rani seized freedom, wishes, desires and dreams, she had in her parental home which are natural expectations of a woman have to have in life. It leads her into the hands of destiny. The destiny

manipulates her through the so called marriage life which is the substitute of Theme of Destiny to attain its purpose. These are the happenings made her to experience the rigidity and inflexibility in the life of marriage.

So, she started to sacrifice her previous lifestyle which was filled with immense joy and pleasure. She convinced her expectations as a married woman to prevail peace among the couple. She adjusts herself to go with loneliness, oppressions, depressions and suppressions by adopting them in her daily life in in-laws home. The entire marriage life of Rani leads her into the dark side of life which she never been in her life time by various torments which are caused by the ingredient of marriage in Theme of Destiny. But it couldn't succeed because Rani has overcome all the difficulties and tortures with pure love and truth. Finally Rani has to lead the life of loneliness in the marriage life. Loneliness is the poorest part in every human life. It is very difficult to go through life alone and remain happy.

Girish Karnad has incorporated loneliness as an ingredient to fulfill the Theme of Destiny in Naga-Mandala with the use of protagonist Rani. It is illustrated in many places of the play to elucidate the loneliness of Rani. Rani is portrayed as an innocent doll who suffers a lot due to her loneliness in Naga-Mandala. Appanna is a husband of protagonist Rani, who doesn't have love, care, affection and concern towards his wife.

As a husband he doesn't perform his duties to take care of Rani and ill treated her in many ways. According to Appanna, Rani was a machine to do all the household works without allowing her to come out of the premises of

his house. He is an irresponsible husband who never ever listened to his wife and never talked with her not a syllable more than required. “ Appanna should have been born a wild beast or a reptile.

By some mistake, he got human birth” (8). Rani is being taken to Appanna’s home to live a happy married life. As a woman, Rani’s expectations of marriage life have been broken by merciless Appanna. She is all alone in home like a caged bird but he never worried about Rani. “ He keeps his wife locked up like a caged bird?” (Girish Karnad, 10). He used to come to home once in a day that too for lunch alone and Rani left alone in that home till the time of next day lunch.

Appanna makes her to realize what are all the things existing in this world except happiness. Now she is being alone in that home due to Appanna’s worst behavior. “ He pays no attention to her, goes out, shuts the door, locks it from the outside and goes away” (6). This situation makes her to speak with her own self by means of imagination. Even in that imagination she thinks to escape from the loneliness and longing to meet her parents to feel comfortable with the help of eagle in her dream.

This shows the state of Rani’s loneliness in Appanna’s home. When she awakes from her dream she got frightened and makes herself relaxed by splashing water on her face in the bathroom. Rani is briefed about her loneliness with Appanna when he returned for lunch the next day.

She told him that I felt frightened alone at night. But the soulless Appanna didn’t listen to her emotion and told her that there is nothing to be scared of

and no one is going to bother you. By chanting these words, he finished his lunch then done the same.

The poor Rani approached the door but it couldn't be opened. She looks through the barred window but no one is there to rescue her from loneliness. It makes her to remember those days where she used to sleep in between her parents. This nostalgia shows the painful feelings and loneliness of Rani in Naga-Mandala.

While she is experiencing loneliness, Appanna enjoys his life with pleasure and leisure. This cruel loneliness brings Rani a painful thought in her mind and painful feelings in her soul.

This shows that Rani's life is full of emptiness which holds nothing except agony. There were no one to share her feelings, no one to care for her and nothing is available to indulge herself to do something except loneliness. This depicts the state of being frustrated, oppressed and suppressed Rani. She always rebel with miseries, distress and crises which are caused by loneliness in her marriage life.

She has no one to comfort herself other than cry and tears. This most horrible loneliness made her to lose each and every comfortable moment in her life. Appanna gives his wife isolation instead of consolation. He also caused to be the reason for Rani's separation from her parents care and love. These are all the situations created by Theme of Destiny and performed by loneliness which is also an ingredient of Theme of Destiny. This loneliness leaves Rani with the constant need and wants to have Appanna there to fill that empty void. She started to seek Appanna's love to fulfill her loneliness by following

Kurudavva's advice. This harmful loneliness leads Rani to use magic love root to gain Appanna's love.

Though loneliness has brought many difficulties in the life of Rani, she didn't give up her hope to attain the love of Appanna till the end of play.

Kurudavva helped Rani to gain Appanna's love through her suggestions.

Kurudavva asked Rani to follow the love root method which she was experienced practically in her own life. Kurudavva who is a blind by birth didn't expect to get married in her life. But a mendicant offered the magical love root as a reciprocal of food given by Kurudavva. It had worked incredibly when Kurudavva offered the love root to her distant relative with food then he becomes her husband within two days.

He didn't back to his village until his death. Kurudavva lived a happy married life with her husband and gave birth to a fair child Kappanna as a symbol of their love.

These words of Kurudavva give hope and stimulate the love of Rani for her husband Appanna. She decided to use the magic love root to tempt her husband. She got afraid when she decided to use the root in the milk for the first time. But somehow she managed to overcome the fear by her love for her husband. Her first attempt created a shock because Appanna faints after consuming the milk.

This shows that the concern and lot of love of Rani for her husband.

Even though her first experience is not good her immense love for her husband Appanna made her to try second one with big root. "Rani prays silently to the gods and pours the paste into the curry." (Girish Karnad, 16).

But she doesn't like to serve the blood red colored curry to Appanna because her previous experience couldn't allow her to proceed further. She planned to dispose off that curry outside the house instead of serving

to Appanna. The dog barked while she poured the curry into the ant-hill. The barking sound of the dog reminds Appanna to search of Rani in the kitchen then out of the house.

When Appanna saw Rani outside the house he became anguished and slapped her so the poor Rani faints down due to Appanna's ill treatment.

Love is a common one for each and every existing creature which is created by God on the earth. It is the natural and fundamental happening or element not only among the people but animals, birds and reptiles too. Sometimes the love could exist between human being and animals, human being and birds and human being and reptiles.

This love technique beautifully brought out by Girish Karnad through myth between Rani and Naga in the award winning play Naga-Mandala. Love is an alternative drug therapy for all kinds of life diseases. In Naga-Mandala love cures Rani's loneliness in the form of Naga.

The poured curry mesmerized cobra, because it contains the paste of magic love root. So, the cobra supposed to fall in love with Rani deeply. Then the cobra started to seek the love of Rani in the form of her husband Appanna due to its changing form of any character. The cobra is named Naga when it is in the form of Appanna with Rani. Naga used to come to her room through bathroom drain hole when Appanna is not available in the house especially during the night.

Naga's Love for Rani is deep in heart, depth in soul and kind in mind. His behaviors made Rani to become shock, because Appanna is so cruel in heart, very arrogant in soul and very hard in mind. But Naga is simply opposite to him in everything. Rani doesn't aware of Naga because of the shape of own husband Appanna.

Naga is soft in his words, behaviors and he is so much concerned about her. He inquires about the difficulties that she experienced because of him in marriage life. This shows his real affection towards Rani.

Then he tenderly spoke with her through sweet and soft words and consoled her by means of make her to speak with her parents. He demands her to smile for that to satisfy her wish. This shows Naga's boundless love for Rani. His pure love just expects nothing rather than the happiness in Rani's life in terms of smile and joy. The feeling of Naga is overflowing in love for Rani.

His love for Rani is everything to him. In fact the love made him to do anything and everything for her. So, he had fight with the dog and he killed the dog to see Rani in her home. This fight gave the good opportunity to become closer with Rani than before. He does even care about his wound as a result of fighting with dog but it stimulates Rani's concern for him. Then the concern turned as worries because she feels so sad and painful due to his wounds. She washed wounds in his face and treated him with proper care by using medicines.

This incident made him to feel very blissful and Rani too comfort with him while that moment. The love started to flourish step by step between them.

This situation changed entire life of Ranithrough completely makes her drowned into love with him.

Now she feels veryhappy in life because of his love. Nagahad a trouble in his love life after killed the dog. Actually he is in crucialsituation because of the mongoose. It is the dangerous animal for Naga to fightbut which is the very big barrier to meet Rani. Even though he doesn't batherabout perilous mongoose and he bravely and gallantly won the mongoose like asoldier in the war which is actually happened between the Naga and themongoose. While the war he was injured severely like a warrior but he has doneit that for his pretty queen Rani. Becauseof this incident he couldn't meet Rani for fifteen days.

But this separationwhich made her to feel melancholy, isolation, agony and increased her love forhim more and more in a incredible way than before. He has indulging thispainful experience in love due to the separation which caused by the mongoosethrough wounds while fighting with that risky mongoose. Naga is suffering somuch not only in physic but also in soul. The abrasions and scratches are causefor his physic pain but the separation is the main reason for his soul pain butthe love is only one healing medicine for him for both pains even though thereasons could be vary.

Raniis so excited because she could see her beloved after fifteen days. The meetingfulfilled both Rani and Naga's thirst for love. The longings of love made themto share their love very happily after a long time.

Both Rani and Naga areblissfully embracing one another by means of love. During their pleasure momentRani has noticed an in injury in his shoulder.

She was shocked and felt miserable while that gloomy time. Then she applied medicine on the wound with so much care and affection. Actually that wound was caused by a mongoose because it is the huge obstacle for Naga which stops him entering the house to see Rani.

He is always ready to face each and every problem and barriers in his love life for Rani because she is the world to him. His love for Rani is venerable, splendid and impressive. He is always there for his pretty, beautiful Rani to take care of her from all the problems, frustrations, depressions, oppressions and harms.

Naga is also there for her to share the feelings, emotions and thoughts. Naga's heart, mind, soul and body filled with boundless love. It shows his pure love towards Rani.

Sweet Rani's love for her husband is surprising and admiring because she missed her husband and his love very much during those fifteen days. Her care, concern, affection projects the holy love of Rani towards her husband. Rani was pregnant through Naga by means of their love. Rani happily shared this auspicious moment with Appanna. Immediately he stares blankly. Then he told her to keep this news secret due to the fact which is actually doesn't know by Rani that she is living with Naga. "There is a baby in my womb and we are going to have a baby" (30). The theme of destiny used the love as an ingredient to manipulate Rani's life.

Naga is always so kind with Rani when he impersonates Appanna at night times whereas Appanna never had concern for his wife. This kindness during

the night time shown by Appanna makes Rani to feel the happiness in her life. But at the same time she had to face the inhuman activities of her husband during daytime. She was always longing for the pleasant evening time where his husband (Naga) used to embrace her in love. This love made Rani to forget those difficult times and try to understand his love with Appanna. The love between Rani and Naga in this play is portrayed in a mythical way.

Rani is really in love with her husband Appanna though he is rude in his nature because she is given the status of being the wife of Appanna. Rani's love for Appanna with magical root method leads to an unpredictable outcome where a Cobra has taken the shape of Appanna, make love with Rani and she becomes pregnant. This makes her as a victim in the society and leads to face the proceedings of the locals to deal with.

Rani is depicted as a victim of love in this play. A victim is someone who suffers directly or indirectly by any cause which may be of his/her own activities or by anyone else. It affects the physical or emotional activities of a person.

Its effects are often long-term, difficult to overcome, irrecoverable and sometimes leads to psychoproblems. Victims may become confused, angry and frustrated by go on grinding the activities happening to them in their mind. The love made her to become as a victim of society and culture. She is answerable to the society at present due to her pregnancy. The game of victim is interestingly played by destiny in the life of Rani.

Because of pregnancy the elders of the society asked her to prove her virginity. These all things are happened because of Appanna. So, she is standing in front of the panchayat to prove her virginity. That's why the people of the society suggest her to follow few methods according to their culture to prove her virginity. So, she selects one method which is actually advised by Naga in the form of Appanna. Then the people asked her to take out the cobra through her hands to prove her virginity.

The cobra spread its hood above her head and slide along the shoulder like a garland. She too had done it as people said and proved her virginity. While her taking the cobra from its hole which didn't bite her. It is the great evidence for her virginity. The people automatically praised for her truth and love towards her husband. Then she was accepted by her husband Appanna.

The destiny has given so many difficulties through its ingredients. The ingredients also manipulate her through sufferings throughout the life. Whatever problems and sufferings which are provided by destiny in the life of Rani, she strongly and bravely faced it.

She never gives up and didn't accept the defeat. Rani enormously won the destiny through her truth and love. Both love and truth helped her to overcome the difficulties in marriage life, loneliness, love life and even the destiny. When she was standing as a victim in front of the society there is nothing to guide her except truth. Love is the great support when she became a victim of culture and it changed her as a happy and optimistic person to live her life in a positive way.