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GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN KISHWAR NAHEED'S "I AM NOT THAT WOMAN"

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Abstract

The present paper deals with Gender Discrimination in Kishwar Naheed's "I am not That Woman". The poem is based upon the deep rooted stereotypes and prejudices against women in the Eastern culture. The various customs and traditions in the Eastern culture are always biased towards women. They are all invisible shackles created to control women and always keep them under the male dominance, all done in the name of "protecting women". These stereotypes and customs are picked up and mocked upon by the poet in this poem.

The poem is all about the age-old constraints imposed on women, supported by big empty talks of culture and traditions. The poem proceeds in a smooth and gradual manner as it picks up and mocks all the tribulations women had to undergo. The poem picks upon the double crossing of men, who enjoy the sight of beautiful actresses and call them cheap, while the women who suffer under their dominance are called "good and cultured". The poet speaks of the ill treatment she had to go through to be a "good and cultured" woman in the eyes of men and the society.

Key Words:

Gender, discrimination, sufferings, domestic and traditions.

Introduction:

Kishwar Naheed is an Urdu feminist poet who was born and brought up in India and moved to Pakistan during the Partition. She saw the sufferings of women during the Partition with her own eyes, which left a deep impression on her and inspired her to become a feminist. The theme of the poem is women emancipation and empowerment. The poet picks upon the prevailing regressive notions about women, mocks them and bravely declares that such backward notions can no longer be used to shackle women. She also takes a dig at the hypocrisy and double standards of men, who treat women differently according to their own preferences. Women, with their confidence and willpower, can rise above any such cultural restrictions and unfair standards. The poem proclaims that women have enough strength to rise and live their lives on their own conditions, without the need to conform to any outdated norms.

The tone of the poem is quite brave and even mocking in nature. There is an effort to remind men about their archaic views about women, which is common in the society. The