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Agonies of Manobi in Manobi Bandyopadhyay's

A Gift of Goddesses Lakshmi

Abstract

Manobi Bandyopadhyay is a trans-woman was born a boy, but she identified that some female part was included in her body. When people asked about her identity, she had the difficulty in saying her identity. *A Gift of Goddesses Lakshmi* tells the story of her transformation from man to woman. This article titled, "Agonies Of Manobi As In *A Gift Of Goddesses Lakshmi* By Manobi Bandyopadhyay" projects the sufferings faced by the author in her early days.

Keywords: Hijra, Transgender, Early Days, Sufferings, Power To Succeed.

Introduction

Monabi Bandyopadhyay is India's first third-gender Principal at Krishnagar Women's College in Nadia District in West Bengal. Her message to her community is: 'Education: If we learn, all problems will be solved'. She holds a Ph.D. in Bengali Literature and was previously an Associate Professor of Bengali at the Vivekananda Satavarshiki Mahavidhyalaya in Jhargram. In 1995, she started the first transgender magazine, *Abomanob* (subhuman). She has written *Ontohin Ontorin Prositovortika* (Endless Bondage), a best seller. She writes both fiction and non-fiction in English and Bengali. After schooling, she joined a dance class at Manjushree Chacki Sarker's company as dancing was her favorite hobby and she was successful in becoming a very good dancer.

Early Life

Manobi fell in love with two boys when she enters into the 12th standard. They were cousins. She could not reveal the real name to the society, but she mentioned them as Shyam and Shwet. They went to her class room and observed how her friends behaved with her. Shwet was in love with her deeply and they were intimate. He took all possible steps to declare his love for her. He was calling her as his girlfriend and wife and even kissed her. He knew all the magic of love and deeply in love with her. He thought she is a girl. She felt happy while he was accepting her as a girl. She had no breasts and vagina. Shyam never made her feel incomplete. Love was blossoming between her and Shyam. It was a pure romance.

She had ample time to get close to Shyam who was strictly following the cultures. He was a good poet who often read Tagore's poetry to recite the same in his leisure.

Shyam's mother was a school teacher, and the entire city Naihati knew his family because his uncle was a senior government official promoter of the arts. He was very attractive than the other boys. She was proud to be his girlfriend. Shwet was her second lover, he didn't accept any defeat and he was also in love with her. He hugged her and kissed her in front of their classmates. She suddenly disliked his activities and she was likely to explain him, Shwet was not ready to accept her words as he always thought that she is girlfriend and her wife.

In general Shwet's life was very pathetic and he didn't even express his feeling to her, he always tried to hide his emotion with his tears. He was an orphan and as he was Shyam's cousin he stayed in his home. Shyam's parents weren't able to provide him with proper care due to their selfish mind-set and unwillingness to support him financially. Shyam went to tuition classes but Shyam's father couldn't send Shwet to tuition classes. Shwet soon decided to go for part-time job so that he could assist his aunt.

In their XI and XII he worked as a Lab Assistant after dusk in a local studio. He had a camera which was a gift from his father when he was young. He was the first school boy to earn while learning. One day Shwet went to Manobi's home, she still remembers all his minute details. She was a bit scared as they had the urge for intimacy.

When Shwet left, she suddenly had a thought about Shyam, whose house was far from her home. He never visited her home often. On that rainy evening she sang a sad song "shaono raate Jodi... Ashe more..." with tears. The rain washed her tears. Love went deeper and she strongly believed that love would definitely be productive to her to-be-husband.

Sufferings

Manobi faced the first terrible suffering in her life when her mother died. When she completed her studies, she started to liking lipstick and kohl. It is said as,

My aunt and other cousins initially thought that this was just childish and laughed me off but gradually, when I started putting kohl and lipstick from my mother's make-up-kit, my mother and my sister realized that this was definitely an aberration; something was not okay here. (7)

Her father was a moral support. He still believed her to be a “boy”. He was always blaming her mother softness and her erratic behavior. Only Manobi's mother understood that the child was actually a-girl-born-with-the-boy's-body and so happily spent some quality time with her. Now she missed her mother because she is no more and it means she didn't have anyone to share her heart's feelings.

The second worst suffering happened when she joined her school. Her father was very happy because she agreed to join Naihati Nerandra Vidhyanikrtan School in Science stream, because it was the biggest school in Naihati. Only girl students preferred Humanities Arts. Though, Manobi has already informed her mother that she would like to study “Humanities Science” her mother couldn't help her because, Manobi was actually a ‘boy’.

After joining the science stream as per her father's wish, she found that Shyam too joined the same school. She felt that he is avoiding her. He even told her not meet him. Though Manobi tried to flatter, he didn't respond well. He started joining with rich boys in his neighborhood. She asked to explain the reason for his change, but he told that her status didn't

match his rich background. She was in depression and she went begging behind and requested him to talk she cried and pleaded him but he laughed and also encouraged his friends to tease about her sexuality. Shyam and his gang even started abusing and assaulting her.

Conclusion

In this autobiographical novel, Manobi writes about her early life where she has faced a lot of problems as a trans-woman. She also explains how on realizing her true identity, she planned to have a sex change operation and became a complete woman. This paper projects the sufferings faced by Manobi in the early part of her life. She was completely shattered and devastated when her moral supporter, her mother passed away and when she was abandoned by her lover.

This shows that trans-kids must be properly guided, understood and supported to reach success in their desired fields. Parents of trans-people must have a broader view and awareness to stop regarding their kids as mere errors-in-nature and begin treating them as humans.

Works Cited

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[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hjra_\(South_Asia\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hjra_(South_Asia))

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