

Psychic Tumult in Ha Jin's *Waiting*

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Abstract

This article focuses on the study of Psychic tumult in Ha Jin's novel *Waiting*. Ha Jin's novel provides us with a platform to rethink modern literature in the global context. As an immigrant Jin's characters mainly suffer because of alienation and Psychological disorders. Chinese American literature is a body of literature produced in the United States by the writers of Chinese decent. Ha Jin is a Chinese American poet and novelist, who write an effective exile. In exile he writes from the four corners of China, singing songs of lament and Chinese tradition. Ha Jin uses a different set of languages to depict the inner crisis in the lives of the characters with a focus extensively on helplessness, agony, struggle and submission. His writing style is simple crisp and a catchy one.

Keyword: *Alienation, Marriage, Oppression, Social Realism.*

Psychic Turmoil affects the living state of the people. When the mental condition gets affected, people lose their desire to mingle with their fellow beings. Happiness and other emotions break down, due to the conflict in the inner state of the mind. When things go beyond one's planning the result is psychic conflict. If a person loses his confidence and hopes in oneself, they disengage themselves from other people. They sustain a kind of solitariness in their lives; they talk less to others and feel good for nothing. Their hopes turn into frustration, when they go wrong and it is the cause of psychic conflict.

People in high social standards make use of their powers to dominate the people working under them and corrupt their freedom for financial gain. Men acquire power through exercising violence and using other sanctions within families and societies. Often women are conceded with families and vivid portrayals of women and men in blood and flesh with rich air of life. Jin novels are filled with fine perceptions of human emotions. According to the image of women, women's are divided into three major groups. The first groups of women are traditional in approach and most of them are uneducated. The next one is filled with what is good in life but are not able to come out of the traditional roles and images. The third type is a rebellious one consisting of educated, self-willed and independent women. Jin focuses

on the women's awakening conciseness and confrontation against a male-dominated, tradition oriented society which gives image to women. Jin explores the moral and psychic dilemmas and repercussions of his women characters along with their efforts to cope with the challenges to achieve a new harmony and synthesis of themselves and their surroundings.

Jin in his novel *waiting* describes the condition of women who live in a small circle and suffer from extreme fear of being in an enclosed place. The novel reveals the darker side of the women and how they are cursed and ignored by their husbands. Finding a suitable match is one of the things on this earth. It is the most important ceremony in everyone's life and they eagerly wait to meet their soul mate who will share their good and bad with them. This novel *waiting* is about marriage. In the name of marriage how a woman named Shuyu is psychologically suffering because of her life partner. When the novel begins Jin beautifully presents the problematic marriage of Shuyu and her husband Lin Kong. Shuyu clearly understand the meaning of marrying according to her marriage is fulfilled by the way of living together with hope, understanding and the feeling of each other.

The heroine Shuyu is a bored housewife who marries a rich and busy man Lin. He spends much of his time in his profession. As a doctor he neglects his wife because she is a traditional woman. Shuyu is expecting love and care from her husband but he never shows any interest with Shuyu. Usually women yearns for relationships and co-operation but men are often power and status. From the side of Shuyu she is uneducated village woman she always things about her husband. Lin shows some kind of distance with his wife. He is making all the arrangements to divorce Shuyu. As a loving wife she cannot able tolerate this from her husband's side. Psychologically she is suffering inside her mind. But outwardly she never shows it to others, it is evident that Shuyu has some complex inside her mind. She is a village woman and her husband always likes modernity. Shuyu cannot change herself. She is trying to change her husband but she cannot. Marriage entails lifelong responsibility. When the expectations from the spouses are not met, then the other one gets depressed with psychological issues. This really happens in Shuyu's life. This severe illness makes her marriage fall apart

Shuyu is feeling loneliness in her life. The couple communicates but do not talk. They are living together but they never share their life with each other. Many couples are undergoing this kind of problem in their life. The main problem for Lin is that he has been passionately in love with an educated, modern woman Manna Wu. Every summer when he

returns home he asks his wife to agree for divorce. As a traditional woman Shuyu does not like to give divorce for her husband. She is struggling in her life. This gives some mental pressure to her. She loves her husband very much. As an officer Lin gets twelve days leave for every year.

Twenty one year's before while Lin was studying in a military medical school in Shelly city he received a letter from his father that his mother was ill and before her death she would like to see her son's marriage. So they sent Shuyu's photo to Lin. Lin likes her because in the photo she looked fine and good and she was just twenty six years old. She was younger than Lin. Lin's parents arranged everything for their marriage and Lin also was very happy to see his fiancée. Lin feels upset in the first meeting itself. Shuyu was entirely different in look compared to her photo which was send by his parents. She looks old and she has a bound feet. Clearly Lin understands that Shuyu is not a perfect match to him. And at the same time he cannot break the engagement because it was too late for him to do it. Lin argued with his parents to stop the engagement. After the compulsion of his parent he married Shuyu.

Whenever he visits his home he used to sleep alone in his own room. He begins to keep a long distance from his wife. Shuyu is longing to get love from her husband but he never talks to her. In the first two years Lin gives some kind of parental trouble to his wife. But they have daughter named Hua. Lin compels his wife to give divorce.

Bensheng is a brother and a good well-wisher of Shuyu. He never allows Lin to divorce his sister. In the open court he clearly narrates the problem of his sister by telling Shuyu is a good house wife. As a good daughter in all she takes care of Lin's aged mother and father until their death. She is living like a widow when her husband is alive. Lin wants to divorce her because he has a mistress in Muji city. Lin totally spoils the life of Shuyu. She is taking care of all the duties and responsibilities of her family. The life of Hua is a big question to her. In his life Lin never treat his wife as a human being. Shuyu beings to cry in front of the judge, the judge says;

Human beings are the excellent creations of God. Based on the color or culture, a particular race should not be marginalized. Though Shuyu is a black woman she is rightly doing all her duties and responsibilities of her family. As a wife she never fails to satisfy the needs of her husband and daughter. As a woman in the society she has rights and freedom to live a peaceful life. One should not underestimate the other person based on races color or

gender. The author has poignantly portrayed the agonies undergone by the traditional black women, especially the penprotrays the psychological suffering of woman in the society.

Extramarital affairs are very common in our society. The diplomatic affair between married men and women some people find life boring and feel frustrated, after some years find life boring and feel frustrated these was really happens in Lin life. The diplomatic affair between Lin and Manna in the novel gives psychological trouble to Shuyu . Manna is giving pressure to Lin to divorce Shuyu.

A new roommate visits Lin room. His name is Gang yang. Lin is admitted in the hospital. He is affected with Tuberculosis. His nurse who is taking care of Lin never permits Lin to go Out. So Manna often visits the Hospital to see Lin. Already the rumors about Manna and Lin spread everywhere. Shuyu is waiting for her husband's return. She has not got any information about her husband. Lin takes it as a matter of fact that he never goes to his house for summer vacation. Already a year over Shuyu is longing to see her husband. This is another thing that affect Shuys psychologically.

The next character in the novel who mentally suffers is Manna being raped by the room mate of Lin. Manna, a victim of rape undergoes a lot of suffering, oppression and mental torture. She is an innocent girl of twenty nine. Manna says that her nights are swamped with the most frightening dreams. After the rape every night she wakes up screaming. When Gang Yang raped Manna, her life becomes endless suffering while Lin is admitted in the hospital. Yang takes it as a great opportunity to seduce Manna Wu. He asks Manna to collect the books of Lin from his room. He also said her that he is going to leave Shen Yang city. In order to buy the two thick novels *The Golden broad Road* and *The Chronicle of the Red Flag* she visit Yang room. Manna never suspects the brutal sexual abuse of Yang. At first she thinks to report the brutal rape to the leaders. But later she hides everything secretly. Jin's novel raises many questions about the role of women. His woman characters suffer from a system of sex role stereotyping.

Shuyu in the novel goes through the grueling experience of alienated domestic oppression at the hand of her husband. In the end of the novel she acquires an implacable resilience not only to stay alive with her daughter Huw, but even to discover her inner source of dynamism and creative well spring. Manna decides to commit suicide if she is pregnant. In order to avoid her pregnancy she eats a bottle of pills every day. Shuyu accompanies her bother to meet her husband. In the hospital every one is amazed to see Shuyu with bond feet

she looks like a woman over seventy. Lin feels insulted in front of other friends that nothing could be worse than what happened to her. Her nights are swamped with the most frightening dreams. After the rape every night she wakes up screaming. When Geng Yang raped Manna, her life becomes endless suffering. While Lin is admitted in the hospital Yang takes it as a great opportunity to seduce Manna Wu. He asks Manna to collect the books of Lin from his room. He also tells her that he is going to leave Shenyang city. In order to buy the two thick novel *The Golden Broad Road* and *The Chronicle of the Red Flag* she visits Yang room. Manna never suspects the brutal sexual abuse of yang. At first she thinks to report the brutal rape to the leaders. But later she hides everything secretly Jin novel raises many questions about the role of women. His women characters suffer from a system of sex role stereotyping oppression of women that exists under patriarchal social organization.

In the court the judge asks Shuyu to speaks she agrees to divorce her husband. Not in full mind but out of Lin's compulsion she agrees to divorce. Tears rolls her cheeks. Hua is eighteen years old she needs an job. The judge issues the divorce certificate to Lin. He is very happy to get it. After her divorce Shuyu is completely changed. Her only life is her daughter Hau. She happily begins to live with her daughters she longs to live with her husband, but she hides all her inner feelings inside her mind.

Second part of Lin's life is turned to be pathetic. In old age Manna gives birth to a child. Almost she lasts her health. Lin lost his peace of mind. He is forced to take care of Manna. One fine day he visits Shuyu's house to see Hua. He is amazed to see Shuyu that she looks very young and beautiful. But at the same time Manna looks very old and she have lost her health. Shuyu takes care of her husband who is suffering from cold. Lin realizes his mistake. Lin says to Shuyu. "Sweetheart, will you wait for me? I'll come back to you soon. We are still, still one family, aren't we? Don't leave me. Manna's going to die in a year or two. Oh-what-what should I do about the twins?"

The novel ends with the psychological trouble of Lin. Lin is waiting for the death of Manna to reconcile wise Shuyu. The writer portrays the facts that women are in the threshold of self-discovery and they decide to take their lives in their own hands. After the divorces Shuyu is searching for inner strength and independence. Jin portrays women who are caught in a net of relationship that are partly made by them. The female characters in Jin's novel illustrate a problem often faced by women in the society. The women's inner struggle between the desire to take care of their husband and children and their desire to discover their

self identity from the warp and woof of Jin's writing. Mostly in the entire novel Jin's characters psychological problems in the beginning to end of the novel.

Jin gives equal importance to his women characters. Jin's themes are about women. The women characters in his novels sometimes react strongly and sometimes react sensitively. Manna and Shuyu are the best examples for that. He writes about sensitive women in an insensitive male world. His theme is the existential predicament in the present social Milieu where the male is the ruler and female is the ruled over. In his novels most of the women are housewives, but they are not happy. Jin's women characters are always seen hypersensitive, lonely, and helpless and they are tormented by their husband's physically and mentally. Jin's *waiting* three parts deals with the various forms and aspects of Shuyu's and Lin's psychological struggles.

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