



Love, Sex And Marriage - A Review Of Rk Narayan's 'The Guide' And Jai Nimbkar's 'Temporory Answers'

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Introduction-

The Theme of 'Love, Sex and Marriage' has been one of the most important subjects in Indian English literature. The novels selected for the study of the theme are 'The Guide' by RK Narayan and 'Temporary Answers' (TA) by Jai Nimbkar. Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanswami was born on 10 October 1906 in Madras. R K Narayan was one of the leading writers of early Indian Literature in English. Most of his works are set in a fictional town Malgudi created by him. His Novel 'The Guide' received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1960. The novel was adapted for film and the film won a Film fare Award for the best film. He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1964. The honorary D.Litt. was conferred on him by the Delhi University in 1973.

Key Words: Love, sex, marriage

Abbreviations: TA- Temporary Answers, TG- The Guide

Textual Analysis

Love is one of the dominant themes of the novel 'The Guide'(TG). We find different forms of love in the novel. Raju's mother has deep love for Raju. As a typical Indian she always worries about about his well being. It is out of love and concern for Raju that she wants Raju to marry her brother's daughter and asks Raju to leave Rosie as she is a married woman. Raju's mother is very affectionate towards Raju in his childhood.

Raju Confesses that his trouble started because of Rosie. Rosie was an ordinary woman but she chose to call herself Rosie. She was an orthodox dancer. Raju praises her as a great dancer and one who fosters Indian cultural traditions. Rosie's husband Marco is not interested in Rosie's art of dancing. Raju's maternal uncle asks Raju to leave the girl. Strong bond of love exist between Raju's mother and her brother.

He becomes ready to take his sister at home when Raju refuses to leave Rosie. His sister is no longer a burden for him though she is a widow. He thinks that his home is her home also. Theme of family is also one of the important themes in the novel. Velan is very much worried about his sister. Vellan's father had married thrice in his lifetime. His last wife's youngest daughter worried Vellan and his family. She refuses to marry with the boy of Vellan's choice. Her sister's marriage was an important concern for Vellan. In India marriage has immense importance. Though she is his step sister Vellan's concern for her shows his love for his sister. When his sister comes to Raju, at Raju's first look her mind

changes and she becomes ready for marriage with the boy of Vellan's choice. Vellan and his family become very happy because of her acceptance of the proposal for marriage. Thus marriage is an important issue in Indian context. Raju's father is dominant one. Raju's mother and Raju has to live in the male dominated world.

Raju's mother is a typical Indian woman who takes horse and buffalo pair as an unnecessary burden on family. She thought that her husband overestimated his business. He could never convince her about this issue. Whenever he was at home she nagged him. She develops into a successful nagger. His father lost much of his aggressiveness and become very apologetic. After the death of Raju's father his mother adjusted herself to the life of a widow. Raju's mother wants Raju to marry Lalitha, her brother's daughter. Rosie's married life is not happy one. Marco does not pay any attention to Rosie's interest and likes. When Rosie wants to see a cobra which can dance to the music of flute, Marco scolds her. For Raju Rosie is a divine creature and he dislikes Marco as he insults Rosie. Raju considers Rosie as lovely and elegant but Marco fails to appreciate her beauty and art also. Rosie's arrival brings transformation into Raju. He makes himself self presentable. According to Raju, she is the greatest dancer of the century as he witnesses Rosie's imitation of Cobra dancing to the rhythm of gourd flute. It is Marco who fails to appreciate the talent in Rosie. Raju's mother warns Raju to be away from the dancing women. Rosie's husband studies sculptor in Caves. He has through knowledge of it. He is a scholar. He unfolds the secret hidden in cave paintings but he fails to appreciate not only the art of Rosie but as a human being. He neglects her. Raju has fascination for Rosy. He is attracted towards her. Life is empty for Raju without Rosie's presence. Rosy is very happy almost as a child at the peak house. She was in ecstasy but Marco was not pleased at all. Whatever made her happy made him to be irritated. Marco was glad to be left alone. He was not happy with the company of Rosie. Raju notices tense atmosphere in the room between Marco and Rosie. Marco does not wish to waste his time waiting for Rosie to come with them. This kind of atmosphere was as usual for them. Raju degenerate himself to the level of serving them food. But Rosie does not allow him. She stops Raju serving them and she serves them and she would it at the last like a good housewife. Thus she is a traditional in her thinking. Rosie's inadvertent touch makes him feel very excited. But his conscience tells him that it is not right because she was a married woman. But for Raju it was not possible to forget Rosie's golden touch. Raju fears for his advances towards Rosie and thinks that Marco might shoot him. Raju was overwhelmed by her perfume suggests Raju's sensuality towards Rosie. Raju was so excited that he started breathing heavily. He wanted to put his face close to her and whisper about her marvelous dance. He longed to have Rosie as his sweetheart. When Rosie and Marco were alone they argued and quarreled over everything. There was no agreement on the most matters. He always left her alone until next night. Raju thinks that Rosie is bliss and it was impossible for anybody to argue and quarrel with her. Raju craves to declare his love to Rosie. He speaks out of his love. But Rosie says that he is a brother to her. She considers him as her brother and gives him an account of their daily quarrel. According to her their marriage just happened and she did not find any good reason to marry him. Rosie belonged to a family of temple dancers. According to her women in her caste are considered as public women. They are not considered respectable and civilized. Rosie's mother thought out of box and allowed Rosie to take higher education. Rosie took masters degree in economics. Rosie's marriage with Marco was not an arranged marriage. Marco had given matrimonial advertisement that he wanted a bride educated and good looking. There were no caste restrictions but good looking and university degree was essential. When Rosie and Marco met he examined Rosie and her certificate and then they went to registrar and got married. Thus Marco had married her as a status symbol. He wanted somebody to take care of him and his hobbies. He was a rich and upper class man. At Rosie's house there were many discussions over her marriage. But all the women in Rosie's family were happy and they saw a great opportunity in it. Marriage is a social institution. In marriage fidelity and loyalty are important factors. When there is loss of fidelity, marriage ceases to protect the interests of husband and wife.

He was a rich man. He had a big house, a motor car and he was a man of high social standing. He had no family. His only interest was painting and old art. Rosie was not happy with her lot. She was sad about it. When Raju placed his hand over her shoulder and gently stroked it saying that she was a gem lost to the world.

“She didn't push my hand. I let it travel and felt the softness of her ear and pushed my fingers through the locks of hair” (TG p.89)

Raju accompanied her as a true guide. He took Rosie to all the places. They sat on the sands and munched a large packet of salted nuts. She was very happy in Raju's company. Raju took her sub-urban streets. It seemed that for the first time she was seeing the world. Gaffur is a true friend of Raju. Gafur warned Raju that Rosie was a married woman and he should stay away from her. Marco had kept Rosie as a caged bird but she enjoyed common pleasures with Raju which were beyond her reach in Marco's company. One day Raju steps inside her room and closes the door on the world. Marco was not absorbed in family life. He was impracticable and absolutely helpless man. He could copy ancient things write about them. "Perhaps he married out of a desire to have someone care for his practical life, but unfortunately his choice was wrong- this girl herself was a dreamer If ever there was one. She would have greatly benefited by husband who could care for her career; it was here that handyman like me proved invaluable." (TG p.117) When Rosie wished to stay with Marco he would coldly say absent minded and casual manner if she liked. Raju was involved in Rosie. He lost his mental relaxation. He was always obsessed with the thoughts of Rosie. Raju grooms himself for the sake of Rosie. "The only reality in my life and consciousness was Rosie. All my mental powers were now turned to keep her within my rich and keep your smiling all the time, neither of which was at all easy" (TG p122) Rosie is torn between her husband Marco and Raju. The girl's nature is comprehensible to Raju. She allowed Raju to love her but she showed excessive consideration for husband also. Thus Rosie is caught between love and responsibility. Her relationship disturbed her emotionally. She sat on her bed brooding, her hair unattended, her dress all crinkled. Rosie cannot abandon her husband as an Indian wife.

"After all, he is my husband. I have to respect him. I cannot leave him there."(TG p123)

Rosie's nature is ambiguous for Raju. He was unable understand her statements. She allowed Raju to love her but still she was very much attached psychologically, emotionally to her husband. Rosie thought that she has been deceiving her husband. She doubts if whatever she is doing is right or not. Her husband has been so good to her as he has given her comfort and freedom. She knows that no other husband in the world will allow her to live in the hotel room by herself hundred miles away. Rosie thinks that it is the duty of a wife to guard , protect and help her husband. Thus, Rosie is torn between love love of Raju and Marco. Marco has preferred solitude all his life. He did not do anything for his life According to Raju he was a blind fellow. Marco did not spare any time for Rosie. He sat up all night writing and he spent his day in the cave. Dance was Rosie's primary obsession. She wonders if Raju is also like Marco who hates to see her dance. Raju was ready to do anything for her. He was ready to give his life to see her dance. While explaining a song from an ancient Sanskrit composition of lover and lass on the banks of Jamuna Rosie explains

"Love means always god."

Raju is after her not only for carnal pleasures but to find completeness of himself. While he watched her perform his mind was free from all carnal thoughts. He viewed her as a pure abstraction. Thus for Raju, Rosie is not a mere body but more than that. Raju feared that if Marco was too nice to Rosie she would forget him. Raju wanted him to be good to her at the same time to leave her to his care. Gaffur warns Raju to leave them alone thinking that they would make it up. He advised Raju to go to back to his normal work. When there is a quarrel between Rosie and Marco Rosie asks Raju to leave the room. Raju becomes angry. "I grew angry. This women who had been in my arms forty-eight hours ago was showing off" (TG 140) When Marco comes to know about the illicit relationship between Raju and Rosie he abandons his wife. Then Rosie goes to stay with Raju. It was Rosie's great blunder to tell her husband Marco that Raju had watched her dance in hotel. Rosie realized that she had committed an enormous sin. She didn't want anything more in life than to make peace with him. She was ready not to dance. She was filled with some sort of pity for him. Marco ignored Rosie totally. "I could never have imagined that one human being could ignore the presence of another human being so completely. I followed him like a shadow, leaving aside all my own pride and self respect. I hoped that ultimately he'd come around."(TG p156) Marco has made up his mind to leave Rosie. Rosie's adultery is a great shock for him. He does not want to talk to her. "This is my last word to you. Don't talk to me. You can go where you please or do what you please." (TG p.157) Rosie implores Marco to forgive her. But he wants to snap his relations with her. "But you are not my wife. You are a woman who will go to bed with anyone that flatters your antiques. That's all. I don't, don't want you here, but if you are going to be here don't talk. That is all." (TG p.157) Marriage has its sanctity. Mother calls Rosie as a tainted woman. According to her she is a real snake woman.

Raju's mother is a traditional woman who thinks marriage as a holy institution. According to her husband's place in life is very important. "Why can't she go to her husband and fall at his feet? You know, living with husband is no joke, as these modern girls imagine. No husband word name was ever conquered by powder and lipstick alone" (TG p.160) Whenever Raju's mother spoke to Rosie, she alluded to the problems of

husband and wife. She also quoted mythological stories of Savitri, Sita and all the well known heroines. Raju becomes Bankrupt. But he did not like to be bothered by anything.

Living with Rosie under the same roof was enough for him. She wanted no more in life. He was sleeping into a fool's Paradise. The world outside Rosie is unreal for him.

Rosie represents the West in the novel. Rosie's character does not fit well in the Indian context. She is a girl of modern stuff. R. K. Narayan has treated the theme of love and sex realistically. The novelist does not describe the act of love making between Raju and Rosie, but hints to it. It is the sex and illicit love between Raju and Rosie that causes down fall of Raju and Rosie.

The treatment of love is modern. Though Rosie is a traditional dancer, she breaks her husband's trust and has immoral relationship with Raju. This is nothing but adultery. Though Rosie is a traditional dancer, she lacks Indianness as far as love and sex is concerned. She behaves like a western woman. She abandons her husband and starts living with Raju Separately. In contemporary Indian society there is break of trust and people are engaged in live in relationship. This causes disintegration of family system in India.

'Temporary Answers' is a novel by an Indian author Jai Nimbkar. It is the story of Vineeta who is in her late twenties. Dr. Vineeta Sohani is a widow. After the death of her husband she is very much depressed and doesn't leave home. Her mother is very worried about her. Mother wants her to go into outside world and resume her duties. Vineeta meets Abhijit Gokhale a professor of geography. Vineeta had never practiced after serving her internship. The existence of husband had justified her non-working status. Her mother thinks that Vineeta makes an excuse of her widowhood to avoid doing things. Her mother wants her to take an honest look at herself. Madhu had married Kishori against his parent's wishes. Vineeta's mother asks Vineeta to think seriously about our future. Vineeta's husband dies of sudden heart attack. Vilas was attracted towards Vineeta because he thinks that she had a sense of direction but he might have been disappointed though he didn't show it. Nagendra expected Vineeta to be just like the other woman. Nagendra and Vineeta meet at wedding. Nagendra had everything he could have married the most beautiful and glamorous girl. He married Vineeta because he was looking for a different way of life. He wanted Vineeta to be independent. He was not really a strong man and he was looking for strength in her. Her husband's death creates a big void for Vineeta. After Nagendra's death Vineeta thought that she could never enjoy life again.

Marriage is an important phenomenon in India. Her landlady was of the view that there was an exact right age when a girl should be married. She told Vineeta's mother to think about Vineeta's marriage telling her that she could continue her education after marriage. According to her if the girls are not married beyond that age her looks start deteriorating. Beauty is given importance in marriage. As Vineeta was not beautiful she advised mother not to wait for a long time, afterwards chances of making a good marriage would be impossible. She hints to the fact that young people postpone having children because they are afraid of responsibilities. She wants Vineeta not to sit at house and waste herself but to go out, meet people and lead a normal life. Villas becomes a pleasant and undemanding companion for Vineeta. Madhuri dotted on him. Vineeta stayed late nights with Vilas. Mother never complained about her late nights. She thought that Vineeta was going to marry Vilas. But Vineeta told her that she was not going to marry him. Vilas wants to marry Vineeta even though she was a widow but Vineeta declined the proposal by saying 'No' family. Vineeta is attracted towards Abhijeet Gokhale. "There was a special intimacy in being alone with him in his flat at one in the morning; I thought he would probably be a very easy man to live with." (TA p.32) This clearly indicates Vineeta's fascination and inclination towards Abhijit Gokhale. Abhijit views love as 'sometimes they transcend the impulse to cruelty as for instance when they truly love someone. But much of the time what passes for love is not really love at all. It is either a form of self-love or a form, a very subtle form of quality. (TA p.36) Whenever there was silence between Vineeta and him it made him restless. He was almost frightened of them. Vineeta craved for the touch of Abhijeet. "One of his hands still rested on the table beside his cup. I looked at it and wondered what its touch would be like. I shivered. This was madness." (TA pp.38, 39) Vineeta craved for sex with Abhijit Gokhale "We had been standing facing each other. He took both my hands in his, pressed them briefly and let them go. I wondered if he could sense my sudden response to his slide touch. I wondered how much he knew about women, whether he had loved a woman, awakened her every nerve with a skilled and knowing touch. I found myself shaking and thought that if a man's casual touch did that to me, I must really be in a bad way" (TA p.53) Vineeta's sister Madhuri disappears one night. She elopes with a bicycle stand attendant of the college. Madhuri was fed up because of constant nagging of mother and therefore she had a run away. Madhuri did not marry with him. "Don't worry. He had more sense than I did. Marriage had never been part of his plans. He was just out for a good time with a girl. When he found out that marriage was the price he might have to pay for the good time, he kicked me out." (TA pp.58-59) Thus the boy was not interested in

marrying but he wanted to have carnal pleasures without marriage. Madhuri does not stay with him. Vineeta respected Abhijit's lack of aggressiveness and his reticence. The writer exposes Vineeta's is craving for sexual satisfaction. "I longed for him to touch me, but he didn't. What was stopping me from going to him, putting my arms around him, showing him that I wanted him to love me? Convention? Fear of rejection? He was right. If you accepted my definition of dishonesty, everyone was dishonest most of the time" (TA p.65) Vineeta is a widow and therefore she keeps restrain on herself. Mother warns Vineeta about her relationship with Abhijeet. Since Vineeta is a professional and has to be careful of her reputation. She preferred to if they were engaged. Vineeta is very keen about Abhijit's touch. "When I came back after washing my face and combing my hair he was sitting on the sofa and I thought, he is sitting where I was sleeping a minute ago. When he sat down, the place must have been still warm from my body" (TA p.71) Abhijit's mother remarks that it is unnatural to live without wife and children. Marriage held important by Abhijit's mother. Her remark makes Vineeta remember her late husband Nagendra. Their married life seemed to revolve around all the wrong things. "When people marry very young or they are not settled in a job or earning very little, one can understand their postponing in children. But we are not young. I was twenty five and he was twenty nine when we married. He had a good job. We had money, a home, a stable life. If we had wanted children there was really no reason to wait. If Vineeta had said that she wanted a baby immediately her husband Nagendra would have agreed. Vineeta was afraid to have one.

Vineeta was impatiently longing for Abhijit's touch and love. "I turned away again to face the window. He had not moved, but I knew he was watching me. I wondered if he felt the same as I did, that the silence between us was heavy with things waiting to be said. I heard the sofa make faint protests, and the moment of waiting before he reached me was almost unbearable. Then I turned around. I had forgotten what someone's arms felt like, holding me tight what someone's heartbeat sounded like against my ear." (TA p.72).

When Vineeta asks Abhijit to help her he wished to help her by loving her. But according to Vineeta it was a temporary answer. Vineeta could ask for nothing more for. What she had was enough for her. What had happened was natural and inevitable. "I could ask for nothing more for the time being. What I had was enough. What happened was natural and inevitable. I had expected and wanted it to happen since I first met him. Even the last gesture, pulling curtains was mine. And I didn't want to start thinking now about tomorrow. The only thing I kept thinking about, after he had left, was that it takes a certain kind of man to announce that he loves you in such a completely matter- of- fact manner, without dramatizing the idea at all and without asking for a verbal response." (TA p.72) Vineeta's smother wanted Vineeta to marry Abhijit. But Vineeta is not sure of it. According to her mother Vineeta was wasting her life. But Vineeta didn't think so. Marriage is a very important thing as far as Indian women are concerned. "Well, marriage has its shortcomings, but a woman can't leave her life alone. She needs the protection of a man, the security that only marriage can offer her." (TA p.86)

In India woman is considered as incomplete without her husband. Woman needs the protection of man. "It's better to have a man around, whatever he is. As long as he doesn't beat or mistreat you." (TA p.86) There is theme of marriage in the novel. Abhijit also asks Vineeta about marriage because he is doubted how much time they were going to be unmarried and still enjoying as husband and wife. Vineeta suggested Abhijit to marry someone who has not been married before. She had her doubts. "The first time you marry you do it sort of blindly like a heliotropic plant. You accept marriage as an inevitable condition of life and you take it for granted that it is pleasant condition. The second time it is different." (TA p.92) According to Vineeta marriage is difficult and troubled if any partner has his over demands.

"In any marriage, if one partner asks for more than the other is willing to give, then it is not a good relationship. It can destroy both" (TA p.92) Vineeta gave all of herself to Nagendra. She asked him for more than he was willing to give. She wanted to have all of him. But according to her it was unfair. She did not have enough balance then. Therefore they quarrelled. It was Vineeta who fought and not Nagendra. She accused him. He used to be calm because he was not really involved in the issue Vineeta fought over. Nagendra never shouted at her or banged the door in anger and went out as expected by her. He never hurt her. Vineeta was a very important part of his life. He wanted a pleasant, friendly relationship and no demands and tears. Once Vineeta wanted Nagendra to stay at home on Sunday and spend the day with her, but he went to attend a friend's wedding. He asked Vineeta to suit herself had not to interfere with his plans. Vineeta was at a loss to know if he didn't want her to interfere with anything. If He wanted her life to go on just as before why did he bother to marry at all? He goes to visit his parents after the wedding against the wishes of Vineeta. Vineeta wanted him to be with her and she craved for his company. She cried because it was impossible for her to reach him. She even thought of committing suicide. She even thought of Living a

suicide note not accusing him but leaving indirect hint about him. In marriage the partner needs the company of other. It is very important to spare time for the partner otherwise it causes disturbance in the psyche of husband or wife. Mutual understanding should be there. Vineeta thinks her husband does not love her.

“Some time later I felt his arms around me. I stiffened, but he knew exactly how to break down my resistance. After he had made love to me I felt that it was the final degradation. He had not allowed me a single way in which to register my protest” (TA p.94)

Vineeta thinks that she can't go through it all over again. Abhijit hints to the fact that Vineeta has been changed. She was more independent and more mature and having her work. But Vineeta fears that the changes maybe superficial and inside she might be the same person. Abhijeet is going to give her faith in herself, because he had loved her. He assured her that he won't leave her to fight her battles alone. He would help her and make her happy. Vineeta was so confused over everything that she needed more time. Vineeta loves Abhijeet from the bottom of her heart. When he had gone to Ahmedabad she felt so lonely without him that it frightened her.

“I did not feel like going home and spending the evening alone. Abhijit had gone to Ahmedabad and I felt so lonely without him that it frightened me. I had let him fill my life to the exclusion of everything else.” (TA p.96)

Madhuri and Vilas are to be married very soon. Vilas is nearly twice her age. Because of the issue of Vineeta and Madhuri's marriage their mother is always distress. She thought that Vilas was going to marry Vineeta, but Vineeta is not ready for that. Vineeta's

mother was so much bothered with a formal wedding because “I care about what people say even if you and Madhuri don't. She is my daughter and her marriage means certain obligations to relatives and friends.” (TA p.101)

Vineeta tries to search the reason for her relationship with Abhijeet. She warns him that marrying her will be like marrying and alcoholic hoping to reform him and she asks Abhijeet to leave her alone. According to her it would be the best thing if they never saw each other again. But she didn't want to give him up. She loved Abhijeet and had become dependent on him. Vineeta loved him and depended upon him.

“He came and sat beside me on the sofa. He took me in his arms as he would a hurt child. I rejected his gesture impatiently. His arms tightened around me when he realized what I wanted. I asked myself why I wanted it. Sex had never been very important for me. Then was I using it to prove something? What? That I was desirable to a man? Or to get something? A feeling of comfort and security which his words could not offer me? Why not? Why must love making be enjoyed for its own sake?

Madhuri and Vilas's marriage was performed at home by a registrar. It was an uninspiring and business like affair. Vineeta felt that being married by a registrar was equally silly as the religious ceremony was silly. Legalisation of any contract is necessary. A priest or registrar is the only instrument in the process. Vineeta's father's sister said that the next wedding in the family should be of Vineeta. “What's wrong with marrying again? She is so young still; it's stupid not to try to get married.” (TA p.120)

There is extra marital relationship between Vineeta and Abhijeet and for both of them sex is a necessity.

“He held me close and I thought of my sari being crushed and my eyes swollen and my nose running. An object of love. Abhijit reached out and switched off the reading lamp I had turned on when he came in. He led me to the bedroom and started to undress me. He took off my sari and looked around for a place to put it. I took off the rest of my clothes and dropped them on the floor. He said, ‘Let me turn on the light and look at you’”

“He pulled the curtains first so that for a moment it was pitch dark and then switched on the light. I felt self conscious and closed my eyes. After a few moments the light was switched off again” (TA p.121)

Vineeta is the most beautiful woman Abhijit had ever seen. “How many women have you seen?”

“Without clothes, only you. Unless you count magazine pictures”

From his voice I could tell that he was smiling. His hands were all over me, exploring gently, taking pleasure in the feel of me. They did not yet know me.

“Make love to me, I said” (TA p.121)

Sex for Kishori means different thing than Madhuri. For Vineeta it was a necessity to search and seek her soul. For Kishori it is not more than pleasure.

Abhijeet didn't want love to be an intense, serious thing.

Vineeta avoids getting married for the second time. Abhijit is also ready to wait for her.

“He said I am not going to say anything about marriage again. I'm going to wait until you bring it up, of your own free will.” (TA p.122)

Vineeta becomes ready to marry Abhijeet and she sends a letter to Nagendra's mother, her mother-in-law. Her mother-in-law was pleased to know that Vineeta was marrying again. Nagendra's father had never quite recovered from the shock of his son's death and suffered a heart attack. Her mother-in-law still considered Vineeta as their responsibility as a daughter-in-law. Navin Mehta a friend of Nagendra had always been attracted towards Vineeta. Vineeta thought that one day Navin would want the price of his selfless devotion to her. And as she was suddenly starved she could not trust her own reactions and therefore she decided to leave Bombay and came to Pune. According to Vineeta emotional dependence takes away freedom. After marriage there is emotional dependence. "I laughed. I said, 'Sometimes I wish we could remain suspended in this relationship where I still have some freedom'" (TA p.138)

Thus Vineeta thinks that outside marriage she has some freedom. 'Love is supposed to sensitize you to the person you love, but actually it only sensitizes you to yourself. You learn to look inside yourself, to savour the new sensations and to delight in the fact that you love and are loved. You love for someone else is only an extension of your self-love, an expression of your anxiety about yourself.' (TA p.156)

Abhijeet needed to go out for a few days to renew himself. Vineeta thinks that he couldn't renew himself through her because she was a cripple. But she didn't accept it that she was a cripple. Vineeta was marrying because she wanted to escape from the world, escape from herself. She was running away from herself but she had to stop running. When Abhijeet was away Vilas wanted to have sex with Vineeta. "He held out his arms but I stepped back and said, 'Think of what your wife would say' Vilas, if she saw you holding me in your arms." (TA p.170)

Vineeta wanted to be a perfect human being, independent and she did not want to be crippled. She wanted to marry but she was not ready to become dependent upon him.

'He had asked for strength in me and I had to give it to him. Anything less than an equal relationship was not enough, must not be made to do. We must stand alone, complete in ourselves, before we could meet in marriage. I could not remain lame, crippled, only half a person, and expect him always to lend me support, the illusion of wholeness. (TA p.123)

Thus, Vineeta wants to be independent and stand alone before her marriage.

Conclusion- Love, sex and marriage is one of the most dominant themes in English Literature. The above study shows that the theme of Love, sex and marriage is one of the important themes in the novels selected for study.

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