



Identity crises and self realization in Neither shadow nor reflection (Na Chaey Na Aks)

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ABSTRACT

The paper undertakes examination of Naseem Shifae's poem Neither shadow nor Reflection ("Na Chay Na Aks") translated in English by Neerja Mattoo by focusing on theme of identity. Literature looks at humanity with a questioning as well as affirmative gaze ,disapproving and approving at the same time, reaffirming stereotypes as well as breaking them . Throughout ages narratives in Kashmir have revealed the inbuilt discrimination and biases against women. Cultural space for women is highly restricted in Kashmir.Inspite of their marginalized position kashmiri women made themselves heard ,undeterred by established womanly restraints interrogated the patriarchal practices and refused to live in a culture of silence . Naseem Shifae is a powerful women voice acclaimed internationally with the publication of her first poetry collection Darichi Matsrith (windows thrown open)highlighted the existing reality of women in contemporary Kashmir. My paper will explore the incongruity between the societal image of female poetic persona and her own instincts about her true nature .It will be argued how poetic persona is trapped in male allotted and confined space, persuaded to look at herself continually in terms of social conventions according to which women are denigrated by patriarchal supremacy .The bewildered state of mind leads her to undertake the obsessive search for her authentic self identity .she questions what if roles were reversed? Naseem Shifae weaves a pattern referring to myths ,rendering from past women poets and exposes man's treatment of women through ages .She leaves behind patriarchal structures and frees herself from male domain there by entering into phase of self awareness and assures herself of her own identity .Naseem Shifae assume the role of the medium in establishing female non being into self realized person.

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