
**FROM REALISATION TO TRANSFORMATION: CHARLOTTE VALE-ALLEN'S
MIXED EMOTIONS AND VAASATHY'S MEENDUM NAALAI VARUM: A
COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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“Life today is rife with sick hurries and it is filled with divided aims.”

- (Arnold 2)

Abstract

The above remark by Mathew Arnold of his age his true even today. Though the advent of science has put a tremendous impact on human beings, the psychological impact remains the same. Suppression and transformation are interlinked. The realization is the prior step to transformation. The latter is not an easy process. It is a Saga, an expedition within the mind. The realization in literature means epiphany. It is a moment in which there is a sudden realization that leads to a new perspective that clarifies the problem or situation. The character may have an epiphany, or it may also occur in the narration. Such the reader has the epiphany. She leaves the house after several obstacles, Joins as a housemaid in Cameron's house. Though not handsome, Cameron is considerate, caring and is an embodiment of all virtues. Both the protagonists struggle for their existence. Margot's realization is steady and gradual, her transformation is also slow. Her emotions are mixed and blended. Then, on the other hand, is radiant in the beginning takes rash decisions such as proposing love to Deepak, participating in the beauty contest against the will of Deepak, rejecting Deepak and marrying Prabhakaran. She journeys from suppression, realization and ultimately transforms herself by breaking the fetters of marriage.

Keywords: *tremendous, narration, embodiment, .etc*

The above remark by Mathew Arnold of his age his true even today. Though the advent of science has put a tremendous impact on human beings, the psychological impact remains the same. Suppression and transformation are interlinked. The realization is the prior step to transformation. The latter is not an easy process. It is a Saga, an expedition within the mind. This paper attempts to explicate the expedition from realization to transformation with reference to Charlotte Vale -Allen's *Mixed Emotions* and Vaasathy's *Meendum Naalai Varum* (Tomorrow will come again), where the protagonists USA and Margot emerged as transformed selves after a great process of realization.

Charlotte Vale Allen was born on 19th January 1941 in Canada, lived in the United Kingdom from 1961 to 1964 and migrated to the United States in 1964. She is a contemporary fiction writer and her novels project the psychological and social issues of women. Her memoirs *Daddy's girl* (1980) has won her many prizes. The novel *Mixed Emotions* is one of her best novels. It focuses on Margot Seaton, a girl of impulsive nature, full of radiance and agility, who falls prey to the captivating and alluring character of Paul Rayburn.

The Tamil writer Vaasanthi (1941) was born in Tunkur, Karnataka. She portrays the different kinds of society within her native country. Her plots swing from one remote village in the southernmost part of the country, a Naxalite-infested village in the Chambal Valley in the North and extend even to the Figi islands. Her famous novel *Aagasa Veedukal* (castles in the Air) was published by UNESCO giving her the rare credit of being the first Tamil writer to be included in the UNESCO publications. Her work *Meendum NaalaiVarum* portrays a vivacious and rapturous young girl the USA who falls prey to confidence and meets failure, finally, she realizes and emerges as a translated self.

A comparative study of these two writers breaks the boundaries and widens the scope and creates tolerance. Though these writers belonged to different nationalities, cultures and different languages, their focus on the man-women relationship within the institution of marriage in their contemporary society is similar. These writers revisit reinterpret and rewrite the pain of women and observation.

Charlotte Vale Allen's *Mixed Emotions* depicts Margot Seaton who is full of life "Big, wide-set, hazel. Eyes that flashed with life, with amusement, with a kind of excitement" (ME 5). She rejoices in everything she sees. She is radiant and has been brought up by her parents that no changes can be made by force. She does not have a chance of apprehensiveness regarding her future, though there were some moments when she was frightened; the world according to her is vast and she feels that "her life would solve (the problems) by itself eventually"(ME 8)

The protagonist is attracted by the captivating, humorous and witty Paul Rayburn. She is enchanted by his accent and is overwhelmed by his affected manners. She takes the rash decision of marrying him the very next day they had met. After the wedding, Paul Rayburn begins to exploit her; dictates terms regarding as what to do and not to. The relationship which began as an attraction or infatuation, later depressed her very much. She can't withstand the suppression; she begins to realize. But haunted by ethics, she remains passive and stays at home tolerating the subjugation. She is bewildered and there is a conflict between her emotion and reason. She says:

"He's mad she argued. I know how he is. I have to stop trying to justify his actions. She no longer loved him. This knowledge made her so guilty, such a fraud, she is sometimes felt that leaving him would be the ultimate the fraudulent act she knew she shouldn't feel this way".(ME 127)

Something inside grieved over the loss of love. She has to leave. For living with him will depress her more.

The realization is not an instant process for her. She has to pass through several hurdles to break her shackles. She begins to realize that liberty from the clutches of marriage is her ultimate goal.

The realization in literature means epiphany. It is a moment in which there is a sudden realization that leads to a new perspective that clarifies the problem or situation. The character may have an epiphany, or it may also occur in the narration. Such the reader has the epiphany. She leaves the house after several obstacles, Joins as a housemaid in Cameron's house. Though not handsome, Cameron is considerate, caring and is an embodiment of all virtues. She juxtaposes the handsome exterior but bad interior of Paul Rayburn with that of Cameron. She has to wait for seven years to transform herself- her opinions and ideas- and ultimately expresses her love for Cameron.

The realization is steady; the journey from realization to transformation was not an instant or sudden one. She had to take several years to change her mind and accept Cameron as her husband.

The Tamil writer Vaasanthy portrays the man-woman relationship in the institution of marriage. Her serious concern is the journey within the self. The novel *Meendum Naalai Varum* portrays the trauma of existence in a hostile male-dominated society which is sick with taboos and conservatism.

The USA the protagonist of the novel is portrayed as a free and independent individual who like Margot is very beautiful and agile she falls the victim to the flatteries of her friends. Her youthful

vigor and her stubborn nature make her take part in the beauty contest against the wish of her lover Deepak. Her friends Divya and Asha say:

"if you win the title as 'Miss India', then you will get an opportunity to take part in the miss world contest. If he does not allow you to partake in India, will he permit you to travel abroad and participate in the event? Don't miss this chance" (MNV 40)

The USA goes against Deepak's wishes she feels that he checks her freedom and begins to dominate her even before their marriage. She participates in the contest with pride but fails. Her wavering and unstable mind and imbalanced thoughts make her quit her relationship with Deepak and marries Prabhakaran. When the latter comes to know about her love affair acts brutally. She gets legally separated from him, continues her studies with the intention of bringing up her daughter successfully.

Woman means beauty, man means valor and courage. Beauty is the scale for a woman to attaining her goals. Many women beautify themselves for the sake of others. The society expects a woman to live as a beautiful idol, instead of being an independent individual. USA's mother is frightened by the terrifying beauty of her daughter. Her continuous dictatorship torments the USA and does everything against the wish of her mother. At the last USA says:

"All that happened is because of my foolishness. I won't get trapped in any such things. I have that intellect and courage to face society. My only intention is to bring my daughter up to a good position". (MNV 98)

She has been created as a woman having realized her follies and understands what is necessary for life. When Deepak approaches her and expresses his willingness to keep her as his concubine she politely declines by saying, "We women long for basic liberty; not the physical comfort I will not attain freedom just because I maintain a relationship with you".(MNV 218). Deepak is taken aback by her determined vigor and the resolute approach to her problems. A woman should not be a 'commodity'.

Both the protagonists struggle for their existence. Margot's realization is steady and gradual, her transformation is also slow. Her emotions are mixed and blended. The, on the other hand, is radiant in the beginning takes rash decisions such as proposing love to Deepak, participating in the beauty contest against the will of Deepak, rejecting Deepak and marrying Prabhakaran. She journeys from suppression, realization and ultimately transforms herself by breaking the fetters of marriage.

In both these novels, the oppressive women speak for themselves and break the shackles. The writers Vaasanthy and Charlot Vale Allen project the problems of women. They make readers understand that the problems of women are universal. But they do not succumb or yield to the atrocities. But they emerge as transformed selves.

Works Cited

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