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The Pakistani Bride: Pain of A Woman

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Krishna Says in the Chapter 10 stanza 34 of the Srimad Bhagwat Geeta 'I am in the women as Kirtih Srir Vak Ca narinam smriti megha dhrtih k shama (Srimad Bhagwat Geeta Ch.10 Stanza 34). The lines reveal the strength of the woman in the same way as that urvedi Badrinath opines " Like a river, woman is the flow of life, and the flow is feminine" (1)

The truth of a particular woman in a particular situation is not actually what it conveys rather it becomes the spontaneous flow which explores the great reality of woman's life. Bapsi Sidhwa's 'The Pakistani Bride' explores the same fact. This novel is based on an actual incident of a Pakistani girl. Bapsi Sidhwa and her husband Noshir had been invited to a remote army camp in the Karakoram Mountains. There she came to know that a young Punjabi girl had run away from her tribal husband. But on finding her, her husband killed her on the spot as he could not bear the incident of losing his honor. This story inspired Bapsi Sidhwa to narrate the whole

incident through her artistic and practical approach.

Woman subjugation affects the lives of millions of woman worldwide. It involves so many cultural and religious barriers, impeding the right of woman to participate fully in society with her fundamental human rights. Though in reality the girl who inspired Bapsi Sidhwa to write such a great novel was murdered but in her book Bapsi allows her heroine to run to fight and to survive.

The novel is a story of the kohistani community as well as the Pakistani society. In kohistani tribal world, a woman is treated as a commodity. For them, the suffocating manhood is more important than the pious feelings of a woman. Woman have no place in decision making and process of her family. This novel is mainly a story of two brides zaitoon and carol. But in this paper I want to focus only on the life of zaitoon and a short account of another bride Afshan.

Afshan is such a character who is introduced by the novelist to reconcile herself with the

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