



LITERARY QUEST

An International, Peer-Reviewed, Open Access, Monthly, Online Journal of English Language and Literature

Kalpna Singh Chitnis' *Bare Soul*: An Aromatic Fusion of Love, Passion and Self

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Abstract

Since ages women have been considered to be the best creation of God, blessed with intellect and beauty. Kalpna Singh Chitnis proves it to the fullest. She is a legendary icon, the perfect combination of both. *Bare Soul* not only reveals the beauty of her thoughts but it also gives us a glimpse of her excellence and charm as a writer. She emerges as an exceptional writer who holds the power to make the readers dance to her tune. Through the commendable tapestry of her lyrics, the readers get transported to an emotional world where they celebrate the heavenly songs of love and life.

Keywords

Kalpna Singh Chitnis; *Bare Soul*; Love; Passion; Self.



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Someone rightly said that none can understand a woman's heart as it's like a fathomless ocean where one goes deep down to find the precious gems and the more you search the more you find. One needs to plunge into the mysterious ocean of her words to interpret the deeper meaning else the mystery will always be unfathomable. *Bare Soul* reveals the innermost feelings of Kalpana Singh Chitnis exploring the true identity of human beings. Starting from the initiation she appeals the readers to be what they are rather than posing to be a different persona. She asks the readers to be spontaneous and to discard the external casing as she finds no reason to be spurious if one wishes to enjoy the divine bliss:

Let's bare ourselves,
and bask in the beauty of the jungle.
Let's throw away our covers,
we've had enough of them!
In the jungle there is no need to pretend,
let's just be, whoever we are.
Let's be the lions, eagles, wolves, hyenas
let's bare our souls,
and keep the sacredness of the jungle;
let's discover now.

She wants everyone to identify oneself in order to maintain the holiness of the world. She offers the philosophical notion by asking us to be impartial and to stop discriminating people on the basis of various factors. She insistently asks the readers to become a river that purifies all. The generosity of her heart can be well judged with this noblest idea of hers where she quotes an example of a river that accepts all without any discrimination:

A river takes all
good or bad;
the heart of a river
does not discriminate;
everything becomes pure
as the river flows...

Life breathes in her hands. Her profound thoughts force us to take a dip in the Ganga. Yes, *Bare Soul* is like pious Ganga where we go deep down to purify ourselves and come out anew.

The theme of love, passion, morality and spirituality are at its best. Discussing the different facets of life she speaks about the eternal truth that remains to be the ultimate reality of life. Each word of *Bare Soul* appears to be a precious pearl that has been taken out of the vast and serene ocean to embellish our lives:

It's now time for me to become one, with the vastness of the ocean,
and let all the waves come crashing,
to shatter my pride...

It's now time for me to light the candles, and let myself be a firefly,
entering the periphery of your light,
and become immortal...

It's now time for me to wear the charms.

She finds herself in the process of purification where she can't afford the chaos, hatred and violence anymore and like an innocent child she admits that

she “can’t afford not to love anymore” as love is the only solution to all the existing problems of the world. A number of issues can be sorted out through love, harmony and compassion. Kalpna Singh Chitnis emerges as an immortal angel of love who just desires for a heavenly union with the Supreme:

Good or Bad,
I can’t discriminate!
Right or Wrong,
I’m not aware of it!
Seeing you before my eyes,
I turn into a waterfall,
You are my ancient thirst!

Though it is difficult to decide whether the writer is referring to the divinity or the lover but she openly admits her partner to be ‘her ancient thirst’. She loses all her senses to discriminate between right and wrong in front of him and gets preoccupied with an idea of being one with the lover. The glimpse of the epoch-making love can be seen here where she fails to avoid the call of her lover. The more she tries to go away, the more she gets stuck into the heavenly charm. Here the researcher is reminded of the spiritual love of ‘gopis’ who desired to be imprisoned in the love of Lord Krishna to get salvation from this mortal world. Similarly the author also expresses her helplessness to come out of the charm of her hypnotic lover:

When I try to close my doors at you
I break into a million pieces.
When I try not to hear my voice
you become louder than a thousand prayers.
When I try to lose your sight
I drown in a hundred rivers.
When I try to escape your thoughts
I’m captivated in your invisible arms.

So here I am once again before you
without any resistance!

One will be surprised to witness the power of her imagination that takes her to the holy world of the Supreme where she calls Him a painter and pleads Him to paint her with varied colours to create an immortal creation. The perfect reference of different colours gives us a reflection of Kalpna Singh Chitnis, the filmmaker, who succeeds in alluring us to the world of fantasy. This also indicates the desire of the author to emerge as the finest human being devoid of all the vices and follies of an ordinary creature. She is adamant to become perfect to fit into the frame of the Supreme.

Paint me gold like the sunshine;
color my eyes river-green;
color my tresses with the color sapphire;
color vermilion my lips;
paint the moon as a dot on my forehead;
and eyelids sparkle with stars;
paint my hands with the hue of the henna;
and borders of my feet with morning rouge;
color my days with the colors of the rainbow;
color my nights with the color of your light;
color my heart with the color of yours;
color my love just simply pure;
paint me, O painter! As the world awaits,
for the finest creation of yours!

But then everything appears to be a mirage in this complicated world that makes the author to express her innermost grief. It's difficult to escape the agony of her heart that hits again and again though she wonderfully covers that suffering by asking for mutual salvation. Still the readers will feel the pang of sorrow as it can't be ignored by a sensitive soul. She not only pleads for

salvation but also gets prepared to cross all the obstacles to reach the heavenly door. On her way to salvation she no more feels scared of her past, present or future but she focuses on the purity of love that has power to bring her close to the Supreme:

Escaping the black holes of fears,
I try to reach you in your dark heavens,
seeking mutual salvation,
not scared of the past, not scared of the future,
my love so fearless, my love so pure,
like a river of light...
breathing the moments,
walking on the milky way.

She is ready to emerge victorious as nothing can control her desire to reach her lover. Even after being reduced to dust she is ready to come out of her ashes like phoenix to meet him. We feel like saluting her determination and will power that constantly pushes her forward to unite with her lover. Here she certainly succeeds in touching the deep chords of emotions in readers and leave them spellbound:

Break me down,
bring me earthquakes,
reduce me to dust,
I shall recreate myself

The most arresting lines of *Bare Soul* reveal the ultimate truth of life that magnanimous people don't utter even a single word about their value, it is already known by others with the passage of time. Only hollow people have to shout to prove their worth. But one should not misconstrue the sanctity of her thought as 'ego' here refers to the self esteem of the author when she honestly clarifies her state of mind. She firmly believes that great minds certainly leave the footprints behind and live eternally even after their physical demise:

It has been bruised
trampled and abandoned,
but it won't die.

It's my ego!
I never said I'm a Buddha,
and the day I shall become one,
would I be here to tell
who I am?

At last we are back to the equation where she again questions the identity of a man and answers for herself. In the very first part of the book we find the poet appealing the readers to be natural and not to hide behind facade and in the last section again we witness her eternal thirst for an identity:

Who am I?

With the sparks of the shooting stars in the skies,
and fire of erupting volcanoes in my heart?
Storms of the deserts resound in my mind,
dark rolling clouds thunder in my soul.
The speed of the winds determines my pace,
I ask for the rain, for the touch of its grace...

Am I fire

or wind?

Am I clouds

or rain?

Am I stars

or space?

Or a bare soul

without any face?

Though her search for true identity does not come to an end but we feel satisfied with the magical charm of her lyrics. It's surely a marvellous book for

those who are in search of an identity and wish to get lost in the holy ocean of love leaving behind the entire trauma.

In a nutshell *Bare Soul* is a breathtaking poetic venture of Kalpna Singh Chitnis where she mesmerized the readers with her deeper philosophies. One can't let it go out of one's hands unless it is fully finished. The philosophy, emotions, spiritualism, pain, suffering and salvation....it touches all the aspects of life. I was astounded by the creativity and imagination of the poetess as she took us to the miraculous world of love. Undoubtedly it's an immortal collection that will be cherished by all irrespective of their age gender and class. Francis Bacon once said, 'Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed and some few to be chewed and digested'. *Bare Soul* certainly belongs to the third category of the books. If you are seeking love in its purest form, this book is a must read for you. Just go ahead and unfold the mystery! It's too enlightening bringing out the best from us. Last but not the least it is a dazzling manifestation of love and spirituality that is bound to become an immortal collection to be celebrated till eternity.

Work Cited

Chitnis, Kalpna Singh. *Bare Soul*. New Delhi: Partridge, 2015. Print.

MLA (7th Edition) Citation:

Tripathi, Mallika. "Kalpna Singh Chitnis' *Bare Soul*: An Aromatic Fusion of Love, Passion and Self." *Literary Quest* 2.8 (2016): 26-33. Web. DoA.

DoA – Date of Access

Eg. 23 Aug. 2015. ; 05 April 2017.