

# Literary Lining of John Gray's *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*

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*There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved.*

*-George Sand*

*We are most alive when we're in love*

*-John Updike*

The statements light upon the significance of love on earth. Besides innumerable mysteries of the world, the mysteries 'Love', 'Relationship' and 'Companionship' remain beyond solution. Love forms the main source of life whatever may be the relationship. While all the relationship to man occurs out of blood, 'Friendship and Marriage' are the two that the man deserve and can decide as he wishes. Marriage, the contract of trust, compassion, companion, and eternity signed between souls. Such sacred agreement has lost its significance in the present scenario. The problems that occur in arranged marriage custom may remain acceptable, for the match occurs mainly out of external influence. There, the couple may blame their parents. In case of the love marriages, especially at its wreck, the thing to be blamed is the lovers' love and trust. What goes wrong with the couple, either newly married or couples celebrating years anniversary is yet to be answered.

The common gender classification of living beings falls into two major categories as male and female. Not only in the physical aspects but also emotionally, intellectually, psychologically, the genders express their own uniqueness. Even though the individual can feel that he or she could change in favour of the opposite sex, it remains highly impossible.

John Gray's fictional account states that men are from Mars and women are from Venus. Being from different abode, their characteristics do not go together. Earlier, they lived together and even happily. On a sudden, some misfortunes or psychological disturbances widened the gap between two sexes. With none to bridge between them, the relationship scenario lies at its verge of extinction.

John Gray has spent years of his research in making the relationship survive. In his book *Men Are from Mars and Women Are from Venus*, he feeds his readers with some tips to protect the muse of marriage from death, to make relationship work and prolong for years.

As a first step, he makes his audience clear that both the men and women to understand the fact that they are from different places. It takes time for them to understand and accept each other. If they remain clear at this idea, the problems would not happen and can also be solved in its occurrence.

Even the primary needs between men and women remain extremely different. Woman needs "Caring, Understanding, Respect, Devotion, Validation, and Reassurance" and Man longs for "Trust, Acceptance, Appreciation, Admiration, Approval and Encouragement." (Gray 141). The problems arise out of misconception, misinterpretation and misunderstanding of these ideas.

'Expectation' between the couple is the root cause of several problems. The thing that does not happen as the couple expects, results in disappointment, frustration, anger etc. Besides the primary needs, man always goes with the nature of dominance. It is his Martian custom. He ever proves to be superior to his fellow Martian. This does not suit Venusians. He is not genetically prepared to accept woman's advice. Woman, to the contrary, prefers giving either love or care and advice. She advises him out of extreme care. But man feels such pampering to be annoying. Her advice instils in him the feel to be inferior, imperfect and most importantly incompetent.

The downfall of great Roman hero, Julius Caesar plays a second fiddle. He left the place only at the fear of world's criticism, upon the great warrior to remain home on woman's words. It is something that questions their nature of supremacy to woman.

'Sharing' remains the next brick of bridge between the couples. The emotions are to be communicated compulsorily for better results. Man always remains in solitude, thinking over his problems. Gray details it with the phrase 'Man in the Cave'. To the contrary, woman finds her comfort by talking with all others. She does not thrive for solution but always wishes to hear her companions. Man always wishes to portray himself to be a hero in his beloved's eyes. He demands for her admiration and attention. However he remains clear at the point of attention on things done and not of her advice upon things to be done. He feels for his partner's dependency but with a limit. He never prefers a frightening child to get guided in every aspect. To the other side, he feels like failure, when he could not satisfy her wants and make her happy.

It is Lady Macbeth's desire to coronate herself to be the queen and her question upon Macbeth's manliness, induced him to murder Duncan and face his downfall. Either willingly or pressurized, man run behind the accomplishment of woman's desire.

Distance leads not only enchantment to the view but also enhancement of love in relationship. Even extreme love proves to be monotonous where the couple grow tiresome with each other. Gray solves it with his theory of stretch and wave motion. Gray

calls men to be rubber band and women, the waves. Gray says that as the rubber band stretches, it has to regain its position. The faster the intensity of stretching away, the greater will be the intensity to get closer. Similarly, the waves rise up and fall to the bottom. Once it hits the bottom, it bounces with great intensity. Women are like waves. Both for men and women, it is the period to realise the relationship between intimacy and autonomy. Both should wait patiently during this period on giving space and time for their partner to come back normal.

'Money' forms the next subject of difference. It is often misconceived that women remain extremely happy if they are financially rich. Rather than house wives, the working women hold most stress. They remain ignorant in balancing between work and home. Paulo Coelho's characterisation of Linda in *Adultery* clears it. The character could not find satisfaction and joy even though her husband tops the millionaires list. Her longing for attention makes her fall into arms of her ex-schoolmate. "I don't feel heard" is her problem. Not only Linda but many women in society suffer from it. Man needs space to solve his problems; woman needs understanding of her partner to overcome her problems.

The other major issue that fails the relationship is that men do not say sorry and women do not ask for her things. Men always think that he do things correctly. Martians do not have the practices of apologizing in their world. But this does not suit Venusians. On the other hand, women feel comfortable in using this word countlessly. The problem with the women is that they do not ask for their needs directly. Women often test men. They think that their needs should be understood by men without getting them expressed. It is highly impossible. The other issue is that men take it for granted on their part. They feel that they have provided their partners surplusly and henceforth nothing to bestow.

The situation gets clearly explained with Maya and Gautama in Anita Desai's *Cry the Peacock*. Gautama, a successful lawyer felt that his wife Maya lives happily in his house with his assets. He did not even feel sorry or tell sorry for the death of her pet dog and upon his action of calling for corporate van to clean the corpse. Maya, in turn felt that by means of silence and sacrifice, she could make Gautama understand her. Either for Maya or Gautama, it is impossible to understand each other without getting expressed.

The couple could practise the trend of scoring points with their partner for effective results. As much the man commits mistakes and woman points out in an agreeable way, her score increases. As much as man pleases the woman with gift, her love for him increases. Woman does not give importance to gift's size or value but the love it carries along with it. Guy De Maupassant's couple Jim and Della could be scored even 100% for their love. The deed of buying things by selling their precious belongings for their precious ones excels the nobility of love in their arms.

Not all the women are Cleopatra to handle Antony tactfully. Men cannot be easily persuaded in getting the work done. "Men are much more willing to say yes if they have the freedom to say no" (Gray 280). In order to come out with a positive response, women could always use 'W' words (will, would) instead of 'C' words (can, could). Though the latter seems polite, it is mistaken my men for testing his calibre and competency. Thus he immediately resents.

As persuasion of man is complex, influencing him is counter-productive. Man should be accepted the way he is. The bad impact of influencing man is explained by Gray with a tale of 'Knight in Shining Armour.' Knight saved the princess from dragon by his heroic sword fight. In the second, third attempt, as the knight fails with the sword, queen counselled him to use the poison, the noose to kill the dragon. Gradually the knight lost his confidence upon using sword. He remained confused. It took days for him to gather up his spirit. Queen cared for him extremely. But it is her pampering exhausted his love for her. Desdemona's love for Othello comes handy when she accepts him the way he is.

"Just as communication is the most important element in a relationship, arguments can be the most destructive element" (Gray 160). The problem with the men and women is misinterpretation of their utterance. When a man says 'I am ok', woman should accept and give him space to reveal himself later. But she mistakes it in a way that he is not interested in her and she is no more important to him. When a woman says that, 'no one listens to me', man mistakes it and blames himself to be unromantic and incompetent. Break up starts there and the gap widens. While the arguments begin with reason, later the couple extend it on arguing itself.

Time and space remain the answer to all the problems of the couple. Couple should be mentally prepared to provide them to their partner for prolonged relationship and completeness.

#### **Works Cited**

- [1] Gray, John. *MEN are from MARS, WOMEN are from VENUS*. UK: Harper Element, 2012. Print.
- [2] www.quotes on love.Goodreads.com.web

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