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REVIEW OF ARABIC NOVEL “SHAJARAT AL BAUS” WRITTEN BY TAHA HUSSAIN

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REVIEW

The Novel entitled shajarat al baus the tree of misery written by Taha Hussin is one of the famous novels. Social issue has been raised in this novel keeping in view the situation and likelihood of Egyptian society. The writer has criticized the marriage system of Egyptian society which was dominated by Muslims. The main character of this novel is Khalid whose father was from middle class family living in rural area and was doing business with his friend who was from urban area of upper Egypt who used to visit his home to meet him where both of them were discussing the business related matters and issues. Both were religious persons believing on sofi thought and both believed on one imam or sofi saint whose name writer has chosen with “AL sheikh”

Once they went to meet him and had listened his advises, lectures and offered some prayers with him. During this all the Shiekh suddenly turned his face towards father of the khaid “Ali “and said: Get marriage of your child Khalid so that He can live an enjoyable and peaceful life and get help from your friend or business partner whatever help you need in this regard. Ali listened it very carefully but didn't respond and left to his home. Next day He met his friend Abdul Rehman and said why shiekh told me to get help from you? Why i should get help from you? I couldn't understand this all

please explain me whatever the shiekh would like to tell me. Abdul Rehman replied I also couldn't understand the same and i would like to tell you that the sheikh and people just like him usually talk in such a way which a common lay man can never understand so we have to visit to his home to understand the same. They both went to his home met with sheikh, listened his advises and at last tried to ask him to explain his last evening advise which they both couldn't understand, but sheikh himself told them when he turned his face towards Abdul Rehman and said how is Nafisa and have you married her? In the meantime both of them understood the meaning of the advise. They left and talked to each other what shiekh actually would like, so they decided to talk about that with their family members. Next day Ali met his friend Abdul Rehman and said I am ready to get my son's marriage with your daughter what is your opinion about that? His friend Ab Rehman replied I have no objection but I have three conditions which you have to follow before the final decision. One is My daughter Nafeesa is ugly bad looking girl so keep it in mind and take it in consideration. Second is khalid is not only your son, He is also son of his mother so get her consent too. Third is it is not you who have to marry but it is your son so get his consent also.

Ali went to home and told them the each and every thing and they agreed when Ali told

them that it is not me who has made this proposal but it is shiekh his sofi saint who did it .they wouldn't like to deny his order and next day they went to her home. When Ali's mother saw the girl, She didn't like her and she tried her level best to motivate her husband that this marriage will not be succesfull but Ali scold her and said if you will not accept this i will divorce you .She shocked and said : My father told me whenever you will face any trouble in your life surrender before Allah and let the Allah decide what will be better for you ,so i am going to do the same but remember it that if you will marriage your son with Nafessa , then you will only plant the tree of misery in your home.

Ali did what he would like to do so the marriage ceremony took place and everything has been done as per tradition of Egypt. In one hand Khalid has to meet his wife and in another hand his mother is too much worried what will be result of this marriage and she tried her level best to manage all things in good order and advised her son that character and attitude of a person has value but beauty and personality is not valuable.

Khalid couldn't understand what her mother would like to tell him but he met his wife and was very happy after fulfillment of all the traditions and Ali told his wife: Have you seen how peacefully they are celebrating their life? It is shiekh who has arranged this marriage so it is blessed one.

Khalid's mother was not happy and she couldn't bear this all , she got some Cordelia related health problems and died after some days when they returned from cairo to their home as she wouldn't like to face her neighbors and friends who will come to see this ugly bad looking girlin order to greet them for their beloved one's marriage .

After this khalid, his father and his father in law used to go to sheik to get advices. One day sheikh told to khalid who was son of Ali to arrange marriage of your father as He arranged for you. And Khalid obeyed his order and Ali has been married after his first wife died, but he was spending one night as per the turn in his first wife's room and was praying whole night and was hope full that the reward of this all will be given to his wife .

Nafeesa has given birth to a child and her name has been put Samiha .She was beautiful and her father used to compare between the beauty of her `daughter and her wife and according to writer he disappointed by seeing the difference and it was first time when He realized

and understood the talks of his mother. He remembered advice of his mother and tried to get rid of from such thoughts. Then his wife has delivered another female child who was ugly just like her mother. Her name has been put Jalnar. now he started compare between his two daughters and he spent sleepless nights as he got very much anxious and faced lot of troubles and according to writer it was shitan (dewil) who was playing major and main role to separate both of them so he was putting some thoughts in the mind of khalid against his wife then go to his wife and was doing his best to indulge in her mind the thoughts against her husband as she was then start thinking “ i am ugly, my husband doesn't like me, he will divorce me he likes this and this girl and after all devil succeed when Nafeesa suffered in depression and was continuously crying weeping etc .Then Ali informed her father he came and has taken his Daughter to his home.now Nafeesa was in her parents home and khalid was in his fathers home separate from each other .when Naffees's father felt sick, He made an agreement with the khalid in presence of shiekh so that He(SHEIKH) may be witness for this all if he dies ,the conditions which he laid down are :

1.Abdul Rehman will take care of your divorced wife, children and his wife till He is alive.

2.After his death his whole property will be transferred to Khalid and Khalid will be owner of that but he has to take care of his whole family which includes all his wife, children and mother in law.

The conditions have been accepted and after his death khalid fulfilled these all conditions as per agreement but later shiekh decided that he will be married with Masood's daughter. Khalid has bee married with Munna the daughter of Masood . The Munna was living with two daughters of khalid with good behavior and conduct but she could not continue it because of her own daughters .the main reason of that is khalid and his cousin brother Salim who made agreemnet that his daughter jilnar will be married with Saleem's son but when his Son grew up He refused to get marry with her as she was ugly and bad looking girl just like her mother and he used to say that he will suffer lot due to this marrige as khalid has due to her mother which was ugly so it should be avoided . Salem made his all efforts and remained in touch with khalid and proposed her another daughter Tufeeda the beautiful one in place of Jilnar and Tufeeda was a daughter of

munna who was his second wife .when Tufeedah has been divorced , her mother Munna said to her daughter that this all happened due to the jealousy and envy of your sister Jelnar ,but her daughter said no mother it is not because of that but it is because it was not my right to get marry with him ,it was actually her right only to get marry with him which couldn't happen because of me so it is why this all happened.

CONCLUSION

1. The writer has highlighted the issue of women who are targeted on small issues and is divorced whereas no one bother about their future.
2. The author has raised the issue of polygamy as the children suffer due to lack of concern or carelessness by their parents and discrimination by their step mothers and no justice is given to the wives which is the demand of shairiya (ISLAMIC JUDICIARY) but on another hand shariya is used as tool to follow the polygamy.
3. Role of step mother in society and its disadvantages.
4. Role of sofi saint and his unnecessary involvement in marriage which caused to plant a tree of misery in the whole family and due to which all coming generation suffered lot which is an unfortunate event.
5. Saint encourages Khalid for second marriage which was a wrong decision due to which his family suffered lot as the step mother played major role in that.