

Unveiling the Veil: Portrayal of Indian Muslim Women in Ismat Chughtai's Select Stories

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Abstract

The present paper deals with the pathetic condition of Muslim women in pre-independent Indian society as depicted by Ismat Chughtai—the most controversial and eminent writer of Urdu literature—in her short stories. Through her outspoken and ideological style of writing, Ismat Chughtai unfolds the untold, mute psychosomatic miseries of women, particularly of married woman in their marital relationship. Though she operated largely within the parameters of Indian patriarchy, she offered subtle critiques of its dominant assumptions through her writings. Through the study of her select stories, this paper shows that the institution of marriage always presents woman as secondary and subordinated. The paper also examines how the domestication of women through marriage embeds gendered behaviour within the everyday life of the home. Thus, the present paper attempts to show the inner connection of gender, marriage and desire.

Keywords : *Marriage, Gender-discrimination, Patriarchy, Marital relationship, Subjugation, Oppression.*

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