

“KAMA” by Vikram Chandra

NAME : DHAVAL PRAJAPATI

ID : 201401138

Vikram Chandra was born 23 July, 1961 in India. He is an Indian-American writer. He belongs to writer's family. His mother, Kamna Chandra is writer of several hindi films. His one sister, Tanuja Chandra is director and screenwriter. Another sister, Anupama Chopra is film critic. He writes on very sensitive, bold and complex topic. And maybe he has got this art in legacy. His stories are not like the fictional stories. He is one of those writers who really likes to spin a yarn. His first novel, Red Earth and Pouring Rain, won the Writers' Prize for Best First Book in Commonwealth 1996. Vikram Chandra's second book, a collection of short stories. The stories Dharma (Faith), Shakti (Strength), Kama (Love), Artha (Wealth) and Shanti (Peace) all deal with love and not just longing but loss. In "Kama," a policeman investigating a murder case into the mysteries of his own heart and also there are sensational and bold topics depicted in "Kama" through various character. It shows us how the characters see the sexuality and prostitution and how society view this. So let's jump into story.

First thing i would like to talk about the relation between Sartaj and Megha. Sartaj is angry young police inspector, also very handsome, good looking and sexy guy. Another side Megha is also very rich, hot, sexy and modern girl. That day, Megha came Sartaj's house to tell Sartaj about her marriage. Because Megha did not want that this thing he would know from outside the world. This shows that they were emotionally connected somewhere. Intimacy between Sartaj and Megha is depicted through very sensational moves, as they were getting into their intercourse, it was very erotic. Here they both have very comfortable physical relationship with each other. Here one thing should be noticed that they were getting in sex and no one had any kind of hesitation. Then whole scene is created like they were enjoying their Honeymoon Night. Yes, i understand that it was not intentional or already planned. It just happened. But maybe they knew that they were meeting last time that's why they have done that and they both were equally participated in this movement. But though don't you think so they were cheating themselves. Let's put Sartaj aside but Megha.. Who is going to marry another guy. Isn't it injustice to him. And they have no fear of society that if this thing comes out then it will bring trouble in their lives. Because society would not accept it.

In their relationship, they had only one issue which was shown in the text that Megha did not like Sartaj's job, cruel world. Other than that they had been wonderful couple. I mean divorce is very big thing, you met someone ..you like each other and

decide to live together entire life and suddenly because of small small things they get divorced..Means life is not like the “Gudda guddi o ka khel”and even Sartaj had never seen any divorce into his friends zone or in his family. So how could he be ready for divorce.In the text there is not clearly shown the reason behind their divorce.That's mystery for me.According to me this couple should not have got divorced.Their divorce hurts me very much.Here one question comes in my mind that Sartaj family or his mother did not know about his divorce..??If they knew that then they should have talk to them and comes with solution.But in text this is also no revealed.

Now let's move towards the chetanbhai and Ashaben Relationship.As represented in text they were very good and understanding couple.But at last they had became very mysterious and inexplicable couple.Let me describe some quality of Chetanbhai Ghanshyambhai Patel. He was very helpful to society, liked to hear ghazals, good businessman, Nice friend, liked to wander around in his car.So overall you can say that he was very jolly type or “Shokhin” type person. Asha ben is very calm and attractive as depicted in text. Now come to the main point. They were running prostitution Activities at Mr.Khanna's Khotha. Actually i don't understand which type of activity was going on there. it's not clearly depicted in the text. So first let me describe it, according to me they invite the couple or any single person through advertisement and then they provide sexual pleasure to them.In this Ashaben have to be victim or you can say she has to do sex to the invited party and Chetanbhai used to click the photograph.Ok. Now first question arise in my mind that how could some Husband allow his wife to sex with another person in front of him and besides that husband is clicking the photographs.I mean it's next to impossible to imagine that picture.it's very weired.Here may be chetanbhai and ashaben had discussed about it and then if they both agreed on it then they could have done it.if all thing has happened as i described ,then maybe Chetanbhai was doing this for earing,for money.But hear one thing we must have to notice is that Chetanbhai never forced ashaben to do this.As ashaben said at last that,“Nobody forced me, it's my decision”.it means Ashaben was comfortable with this Sex Activities.Means one or another way Ashaben wanted it or you can say it's her desire.And its human natural that we all want sexual pleasure in our life.That's completely fine. Here they were not harming anybody but they fulfill the desire of their guests.But now when someone is running Prostitution activities and they were hiding it from society.But as it is said that ,“If there is fire ,then smoke would be there”.So, they have always the fear of being caught and if it would leak out then society will not accept up. Their lives will be destroyed. In text we can smell this fear when Sartaj asked ashaben for sign on statement and she didn't want to do that and she wept.So this shows us that sometime we do things for

getting current pleasure, but we will have to face the consequences of it and those could be horrible...!!

Now let's talk about the main character of the story. The whole story wandered around him. Kshitij, The one and only son of Chetanbhai and Ashaben. Kshitij is very intelligent and brilliant student. Chetanbhai and Ashaben very proud on him. Kshitij is the part of "Rakshak" group. This group is blindly follow some traditional and old thought processes. According to Rakshaks, Prostitutions should not accepted in society. As this so called "Rakshak" group compared with Shivsena which is active in Maharashtra. They have their own rules. It's like dictatorship. They are against on each and every anti-traditional or anti-social Activities which include Prostitution, Homosexuality, Love Marriage etc. This people always try to finish this type of activities. And for this they can go any level. Because they have also politically strong.

Kshitij was strict follower of Rakshaks ideology. Therefore when Kshitij came to know this things that his parents runs prostitution activities which is against the ideology of "Rakshaks", then he might be in heavy shock. There might be big storm was going on in Kshitij's mind. One side he has his parent, because of whom he is exist in this world, Who love him most in the world. And another side there were Rakshak's fanatical Ideology. Any child could not believe that his/her parent are involved in this type of Activities. One can not even able to imagine it. As Sartaj tried to put himself in to Kshitij's place but he could not do imagen that. So we can understand that how much pain is going inside Kshitij. Then Kshitij choose Rakshak's Ideology over his parent's love. Maybe he would killed his father. But there is no clear evidence that Kshitij killed his father. But all the fingers were pointing towards him.

When Sartaj had knew all things through his investigation and he was asking Kshitij to tell the truth about his father's murder. Kshitij had knew that Sartaj find out everything. Though he was denying fact and had been saying that he did not know everything. He has also that fear which Ashaben had which i mentioned earlier. Kshitij knew that if would say something it will tarnished his family image in the society. He was behaving like that he himself giving him punishment. There could be many reason behind that. One could be regret of killing his father or maybe he did not want to reveal this disgusting truth in front of world because it will break people's trust from Husband-Wife or Child-parent relation or he would be protecting his family's respect such that his family could live their life peacefully. Which we can see in the text when Sartaj and katekar was beating him and he said that, "you can beat my body not me". he had became like beast. Sartaj understood that he was already in the hell. So he stopped beating. Here Sartaj wanted to close this case without doing any further

investigation.He knew that Kshitij already has been punished. So no need to give any other punishment.Here Sartaj, Kshitij and also Ashaben did not want that this truth comes out to society.if It would come out then people's trust on the marriage would have broken up.And specially country like india where we consider marriage as a holy relation.And there was atmosphere of chaos all around.Friend can not believe on another friend. Child can not believe on parents.husband can not believe on the wife's and wife can not believe on husband.Because no one can think about that any kind of desire whether it is for earning money,Lust or getting sexual pleasure can go to this level.And the consequence of that we we have seen in the text.

Now rahul is Megha's brother. He is young. He was very frankly with Sartaj. They both go to bar and drink the wine together and sometimes talk about the relationships. Sex is not the big thing for Rahul.it's like he got bored with it..it shows that the young generation opening up their mindset about the sexuality. As we can see slowly slowly lasbians and gays are getting place in society. Young blood is accepting this things.And that's good.But in the contrast, other side the Groups like Rakshaks they are still stick to their narrow minded view.which should be changed.

So now according to me we all are born as evolved human beings.But On this issue like sexuality we are restricted through social boundaries. But according to my point of view if two people want to be in relationship and want to get sexual pleasure from each other.So it's absolutely fine.For that it's not nassery that they should live their entire life together.i mean look at outside the world, nature is also working same way as i described. Except humans, all other species have not this kind of rules or regulation for living the lives. They are free. They can do whatever they want. I mean what is our fault, we have extra evolved or out mind is extra developed such that we have created this types of social boundaries,rules and regulatios.Here Chetanbhai and Ashaben were living their life very joyfully through Prostitution activities. But this Rakshak ideology came and destroyed three lives.One chetanbhai, another asha ben and last Kshitij.I mean who gave them write to do this. Which force is encouraging them so they became that much powerful and fearless. And look at the power of this force, one child killed his father....Pathetic...!!

So in this story we have seen different type of people with different mind set about the sexuality.Some take it as very causally some take it as very seriously.Some think it's as taboo and some might think it as if it is not harming anyone and we can get money and sexual pleasure then it is fine. And we have seen action and reaction of that actions in this story. And this story full of Emotions like lewd,Erotic,Greediness,Sexual desire,Regret. At the last i want to say any person can

do whatever he/she want to do without offending anyone and no one has right to interfere in anyone's personal matters.