

Assignment

Academic Session - 2025

Sem - 6th

Subject Name - Universal Human Values

Subject code - HS-304

Analysis of "Duvidha" on the Basis of Human Values, Nature, and Harmony

Vijay Dan Detha's Duvidha (translated as the Dilemma) is a powerful Rajasthani folktale that explores deep themes of love, identity, societal norms, and human emotions. The story revolves around a newlywed bride, a ghost who falls in love with her, and the dilemma of identity and relationships that follows.

Human Values in "Duvidha"

The story captures multiple aspects of human values, particularly:

Love vs. Duty: The bride desires companionship and emotional fulfillment, whereas her husband prioritizes wealth and business over relationships. Interestingly, the ghost, who has no societal obligations, is the one who truly loves her.

Truth vs. Deception: while humans in the story engage in deception and social lies, the ghost remains truthful about his identity, showing the irony of who truly upholds moral values.

Freedom vs. Oppression: The bride, despite being the central character, has little control over her own fate. She is bound by patriarchal traditions, highlighting gender-based oppression.

Sacrifice and Compassion: The ghost willingly sacrifices his own existence for love, showing that genuine emotions can transcend even supernatural beings.

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The contrast between the ghost's love and the husband's indifference challenges the reader to question traditional marital expectations and human relationships.

Role of Nature in "Duvidha"

Nature plays a symbolic and active role in the story, reflecting human emotions and societal conflicts:

The Forest represents freedom and love beyond social restrictions. It is in the wilderness that the ghost first sees the bride and falls in love.

As the ghost replaces the husband, nature mirrors the inner chaos with a violent storm, symbolizing disorder when societal norms are disrupted.

In the end, the ghost is trapped in a waterskin and thrown into the river, symbolizing fate's power to erase unwanted truths.

Nature in Duvidha is not merely a backdrop but an active participant, shaping and reflecting the emotional journey of the characters.

Harmony and Its Disruption

The story illustrates how forced societal harmony can suppress personal truth:

Marriage Disharmony: The bride and her husband lack emotional connection, disrupting the natural harmony of marriage.

The Ghost's Attempt at Harmony: The ghost, despite an outsider, brings love and balance to the household. Ironically, his presence is seen as a disruption rather than a solution.

Societal Order vs. Individual Happiness: The villagers ultimately choose to uphold social order over personal truth, eliminating the ghost to restore conventional harmony. However, the bride's final emptiness suggests that true harmony was never achieved.

The story questions whether societal harmony at the cost of individual happiness is truly just.

Conclusion

Dwidha critiques rigid societal norms and the oppression of personal emotions. Through the character of the ghost, it challenges traditional ideas of love and marriage. The story uses nature as a reflection of human conflict and highlights the illusion of harmony in patriarchal societies. The bride's final silence symbolizes the ultimate cost of forced conformity — proving that some dilemmas remain unresolved, haunting the human soul like the ghost in the story.