

REFORMATION OF LIFE FROM TEEN TO MOTHERHOOD: THE PATRIARCHY AND ASSERTING POSSESSION IN JAISHREE MISRA'S ANCIENT PROMISES

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Abstract:

Women are now performing as well as men in every profession, proving their strength physically and mentally in a variety of activities, and being recognized on a global scale; therefore, women and men should have equal rights and opportunities in life. Here's of life, in a society where men predominate, it is not an easy road for a woman to travel to the top. They've had to overcome numerous difficulties. Many social reformers and freedom fighters worked together to win women's rights in a patriarchal culture, and writers in particular gave their full support through their writings. Everyone deserves the right to live, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

This article analyses the qualities, responsibilities, and stresses of motherhood through the lens of the novel *Promises*. Women writers in India have reshaped the literary landscape country. Brining the attention away from the longstanding dominance of men, they have left an enduring impression on the world of literature. Jaishree Misra, one of the many modern women writers, was born in the United Kingdom to Malayan pa1961. In 1961. The year 2000 saw the release of *Ancient Promises*, Misra Novel. Janaki's (Janu's) life story is told exquisitely in *Promises*. The author illuminates the protagonist's experiences throughout the narrative, showing how she responds to and ultimately triumphs over adversity to live the life dreams. According to the author, a woman's priorities should include not only understanding, happiness in self-respect, but also following and conserving our traditions for generations. Misra provides a comprehensive look at the life of a woman before and after marriage through the eyes of her main Janu. Janu's life changed drastically when she was 18 and thrust into an arranged marriage. She starts having feelings for Arjun, obsessed boy at the neighbouring school. The novel begins and ends in a courtroom, and the first line is, "My marriage ended today."

Keywords: Adolescent romance, heartbreak, patriarchy, emotional strain, and reuniting

Introduction

Janu's friends and family are all from Delhi, yet she is a Malayali. Her parents have the idea that she should learn to speak English furthermore, they have enrolled her at an Irish school. During her hectic yet upbeat school days, she meets Arjun, a student at the local boy's school, through her best friend Leena. She felt an instant connection to Arjun due to their common interests, and the two began hang out often out school. Janu doesn't share Arjun's enthusiasm for cricket, but she still tags along on trips. Janu is confused about how she feels about him, but she assumes that her care for and interest in him love. So that she could bring Arjun home with her, she first-ever request of her mother: that her friends be allowed to lunch. Janu's parents worry when she gets so upset about Arjun, but the excitement of adolescence means that they have no say in whether or not the two of the outing. Janu informed Arjun, when her summer break began, that she would be visiting her grandparents in Kerala. Both sets of grandparents live there, and Janu has fond memories of spending time with them over the holiday youngster. Her Ammuma introduced her to the art of matchmaking during her stay. But Janu's mom isn't thrilled about it because she thinks her daughter is too young to start until she is 18. This will be Janu's last visit to Kerala as their daughter, but she has no idea. The peaceful rhythms of Kerala gave way to the frantic pace of Delhi as soon as Janu moved back there. Students were worried about their grades and getting into college for the following year, but Janu and Arjun's love grew stronger regardless of their surroundings. Arjun and Janu started having more and more non-academic get-togethers.

They were discovered red-handed by a friend of Janu's father, who told Janu's father, and Janu's father politely. Janu has been dropped off and picked up from school ever since, and she has been strictly forbidden from us telephone. Meeting friend pals in public is forbidden. However, the couple's acquaintances overheard their pass talk. While Arjun got accepted to Hull University and is moving to England to live with his mom, Janu's parents lost interest in sending her to college when she did poorly on an exam and instead took her on her annual vacation in Kerala. Poor Janu can't take joy in cad couldn't endure the sense of missing him, while Arjun is a bit delighted that his future life is going to happen in England and is busy with Visa and organizing departure. Janu told her mother that she and Arjun were going to meet Leena before Arjun left India for good. After seeing Janu's sad expression, her mother gave her permission to visit Leena. Arjun and Janu unexpectedly cross paths at Leena's place. Arjun said to Janu before he sent him home, "I will be back soon."

Several days before leaving for Kerala, Janu found out that a highly esteemed Maraar family was interested in him for their younger son. Mrs. Maraar worries that an affluent partner will be conceited and unable to adapt; therefore she and her son are arranging a marriage with the similarly traditional and conservative Janu family. Instead of telling her parents about Arjun, Janu has been delaying the marriage proposal by discussing her plans for higher education. However, her parents have assured her that she need not worry about her studies, as the bridegroom's family has already promised to make the necessary arrangements for Janu to continue her higher education even after the marriage.

Meanwhile, Arjun wrote Janu a letter in which he simply said, "I mivery much very," mentioned that it would take him three years to complete his course, and encouraged her to keep busy. But it seems like they are set

to leave for Kerala when she gets the next letter from Arjun, They were greeted by Janu's Maraar relatives as soon as they knew Suresh, the prospective groom, wants to have a conversation with Janu before they officially getting married it seems that this proposition has attention. Now that everyone is waiting for Janu's decision, which she was only given one night to make, the anticipate palpable. Arjun left for three years, during which time he visited a country with an entirely new aesthetic and life. She can't figure out if Arjun will return or not, and the uncertainty was driving her crazy. Since her birth, Janu's parents have sacrificed everything for her happiness, and she isn't sure if she can wait for him or not. She was so worried about pleasing her parents that she pushed her feelings for Arjun to the back of her mind before agreeing marriage .Janu penned a farewell letter to Arjun in which she explained her marriage. She goes on to say that after Arjun expressed his enthusiasm for moving to the United Kingdom, she became increasingly distant to him. She goes on to say that she trusts her parents completely since they have always made decision for her and she doesn't want to make them feel bad that. Janu wished Arjun well in the future and warned him not to contact again. She simply enveloped her feelings for love. There followed the wedding ceremony, attended by many friends and members. Janu is still unsure of whether or not her action appropriate. In the meantime, she just tells her mother that she's lost her mind, to which her mother responds by telling her to forget the past and over .Her wedding day, also planned for her eighteenth birthday in Guruvayur Temple at eleven o'clock, the most auspicious hour of the day, went off without a hitch thanks to the support of loved ones and the downpour. Janu is anxious and excited to settle into her new Valapdu home after wedding. Janu has a limited grasp of Malayalam, yet they seem to be speaking with speed, fluency style. She fell in love with a nice guy when she was sixteen, but now she wants to win over her husband's family by being person. person. Janu tried to make friends with everyone mother-in-law house from the start, but no one welcomed her with open arms except the kids and the animals. Instead, the entire Maraar family watched her every silence. She was surprised, even though men and kids usually eat first women. Her mother advised her to be quiet and reserved, so that she would make a decent daughter-in-law. Unfortunately, this is seen as a positive trait in India. Janu's homesickness and emotional breakdown stemmed from her emotional distance from her mother in the low house. As a son of Maraar, Suresh Janu's spouse is not keen on spending much one-on-one time with her.

There are far too many rules daughter-in-law of a Maraar must observe in order to win her. She had spent several months trying her hardest to herself seem her and become the preferred mother-in-law candidate, but to no avail. However, they did not interfere with Janu's schooling. Janu's life as the daughter-in-law of the Maraar family was very different from her previous life in Delhi. In between, she found comfort in the bittersweet recollection of her time with Arjun and Leena. It's in her mind that if Arjun had gone to England, he would have met someone more beautiful and forgotten about me.

After a year, Janu was still determined to integrate in the family. Janu's friends constantly make fun of her accented Malayalam, the way she wears her sari, and the little things she does, but she has never told her parents about it for fear of feelings. Janu thought that having a kid would improve her situation and raise her to the roles of Good Mother, daughter, Daughter-in-Law rather than finishing her BA. Suresh's confusion led him to momamma and would sister will take care of the situation after Janu told that she was pregnant. At the moment, Janu was hoping that Suresh would forego a business trip in favor of spending with her mother. On the other hand, Janu was received because traditionally, Indian women would return to their parents for

'childbirth. She was relieved to be reunited with her parents in Delhi, and whenever she visits locations where she and Arjun formerly spent time together, the memories of back flood back. Riya was born at 12:01 a.m. on Christmas Eve, and she is greeted by her mother and grandparents with the expectation that she will be the person to bring Janu joy in come. ears to come. Suresh presented his parents with a gem upon hearing that he is son. When some of her old friends came to meet her and Leena came to see her baby, meeting strangers two stranger meeting together, the attachment that to all being her before all gone. Janu and Riya were not greeted with the same level of excitement upon their return to that kerala, but it didn't stop Janu from making the most of Riya. A phone from Delhi came out of nowhere a few months later, with the news that Janu's dad had died in the off heart attack. His remains were sent to Kerala, the state he cherished. Janu's grandmother and mother began cohabitating when Janu's mother was sent back to the home she shared with her mother-in-law in Alleppey. The Suresh family is worried that Riya's development is slowing down.

Riya was transferred to the hospital so that her medical condition could be evaluated. In the end, it was shown that "Riya is mentally handicapped" due to the characteristics she possesses. Janu felt like the whole world was upside down after hearing the word mentally handicapped. A mother of a little girl, Riya, was not able to accept it she felt at least a new born may change her situation in her mother-in-law home and the attachment with Suresh will become better, but all expectations have gone out the window But it was more hurt full and strange to Janu that no one in Maraar's family shed tears for Riya's problem, not, even Suresh It was so clear and confirmed by the approach and behaviour of Maraars that Janu and her daughter Riya are not going to be Maraar's favourites forever In between, her sister-in-law's marriage ceremony made Janu busy. Janu whipped out all her sobbing towards Riya and her condition at her mother-in-law home and now decided to put Riya at special school. She, joined the school along with Riya as a teacher. Sheela informed her that the best place to get a degree in Special Education was in London, not India, and that it would be great for Riya if she could come along while Janu went to school there, as children with disabilities were celebrated and accepted there. No awkward look on the special children.

Janu started to focus in that direction to complete her progression with the British Council in Delhi. The Maraars family members began to pay attention to Janu's progress toward traveling abroad. Janu came to know that to apply to Arizona State University, she should complete a master's degree from India. She applied for an MA in English at Kerala University. In the morning, Janu and Riya went to school; once they returned home, Janu started to read her MA books. Suresh was a passing cloud throughout their hectic existence. Janu felt that this was the right time to inform Maraar's family and her mother that Janu and Riya are going alone to the University of Arizona to pursue her MA in Special Education, and now she has been called for an interview in Delhi. Everybody in the family, even Suresh, was trying to stop her from going aboard, but Janu was very strong and said she did not want to miss this opportunity. Janu left Riya at her mother's home and started her train journey to Delhi. During the train journey, all the bitterness was just running through her mind, and just to relax, she started a conversation with the co-passenger. From the station, Raghu's uncle accompanied Janu and took her to his home for a stay in Delhi. The next day, along with ten others, Janu is waiting at the India International Centre for the interview. At the end of the interview, with lots of thrill, they asked Janu to wait till 5 p.m. at the centre for the result, but Janu decided not to waste time there and decided

to see her old friends. First, she called Leena to check out whether she was at home; positively, she was, and on the way, she brought some new clothes for the new born baby with lots of excitement, but surprise and shock were waiting at Leena's house, Arjun came to meet Leena and her baby. Her favourite dream of meeting Arjun came true. Janu felt that she was sitting inside the roller coaster after seeing Arjun, running through old memories, and started her conversation about her family and Riya's disability. The discussion that goes on between the three of them is like three old friends just finishing their school. They just forgot whether they were talking about current stories or old ones. Janu felt that it was an unforgettable day in her life. She wants to hold on to this moment forever. After two hours, Janu left Leena's house with Arjuna, and he offered a lift in his car to reach the centre. On the way, Arjun took Janu to his house, where the situation made them indulge together. Arjun is still carrying Janu's photo in his wallet, which made Janu the happiest person in the world. Arjun insisted Janu not leave Delhi and asked her to stay with him forever, but Janu is in a situation where she cannot accept his offer because she is the wife of another man and the mother of a disabled girl child. Moreover, in India, legally, it is impossible for a married woman to walk out of marriage just like that. Arjun does not care about all these things. He does not want to lose Janu again. He informed Janu to come along with him to study in London instead of going to Arizona and bringing Riya along with her. Arjun showed his fear that he would lose her again because of her family pressure. But now Janu is very strong and has said this time it might not happen. I promise, please wait till then. Arjun believed her and promised he would wait for Janu till she came back to him, and she could reach him anytime to start a new life. Janu felt that both of them had missed a beautiful life in the past few years. Janu will re-join Arjun at the Indian International Centre at 5 p.m. to know the result. Mrs. Rustomji read out Janu's name along with two others. After hearing the result, there was a big smile on the faces of Janu and Arjun because they got an opportunity to begin their new life in the future. Janu is not ready to lose Arjun for anything.

Janu returned to Kerala with an offer letter for a scholarship and the joy of meeting Arjun. Following Shobha's aunty's phone conversation about Janu's scholarship result, Suresh was at the Cochin railway station and had a new respect in his eyes. From there, they are both going directly to Alleppey to see Riya. On the way, Janu started to talk about the interview, and Suresh started to ask questions in the context of preventing her from going aboard. At Alleppey, Janu stayed with her mother for a few more days to slowly reveal that she was going to ask for divorce from Suresh and start a new life with Arjun. For an Indian lady, ending her marriage and beginning a new life with another man is not an easy task. On one side, an opportunity to live again with the lovable one, and on the other side, a woman of dishonesty, heartlessness, liars, and adultery—all these words are waiting for her in the near future. Janu even thinks Riya has no other sibling, whose reputation she shall soon tarnish as a result of her choice. With all these thoughts, she spends sleepless nights there. After Janu's father's death anniversary, she told her mother and grandmother about her plan to get divorced from Suresh before she leaves India and lives with Arjun. Janu's mother is not at all okay with Janu's decision. Suresh came to pick up Janu and Riya the next day to take them to his home. On the way, Janu said she wanted to talk to Suresh, and they stopped at a restaurant. Janu straight away told Suresh that she wanted a divorce from him. Suresh had a look of fake amazement on his face. As he spoke with Janu, his face showed signs of shock, hurt, horror, and grief one after the other. After much deliberation, Suresh realized that there was nothing he could do to stop Janu from making her choice. So Suresh said he would get divorced.

Janu reached her mother-in-law's house without revealing what had happened or the decision made between Janu and Suresh. Janu just leaves that matter to Suresh. A few days passed, and without Janu's knowledge, a well-planned play was conducted one day at Suresh's house to set up the idea that Janu was suffering from a mental illness. Everyone was led to believe that Janu had developed a mental illness by the Maraar family in an effort to stop Janu from moving to England and preserve their family honour. After observing Janu's struggles in the hospital for a number of days, Janu's mother took the decision that she would look after her daughter. After much concern and effort by Janu's mother, she came out of all illusions. Once more, Suresh and his mother invited Janu to join them in a drama they were planning, but this time Janu's mother came to the conclusion that since Janu is so fussy about it, it would be best to grant divorce. Janu and her mother approached a lawyer to apply for her divorce, but that did not work as expected. Suresh appeared out of nowhere one day, asking for Riya and expressing his dislike for having another man raise his daughter. Despite Janu's request not to do so, he took Riya along with him. Janu has no clue where Riya is staying. She is sobbing in agony because she misses her a lot. Later, she came to know that Suresh had appointed a person to take care of Riya at home. Janu tried many ways to get Riya before she went to England, but all attempts failed. Riya is the final weapon Suresh has at the moment. If Janu returns to Suresh, she can live with Riya; otherwise, it is not at all possible for her. But Janu and her mother are sure that Janu is not returning to Suresh once again, even if it is for Riya.

The time has arrived, and Janu is at the airport with her mother and grandmother's blessings. She bid her homeland farewell while thinking of Riya. Arjun was waiting at the airport to welcome Janu. Arjun helped Janu with the process of University admission and her accommodation. Janu started to learn many things when she was in the UK. Janu made new friends and began to hang out with Arjun on the weekends. Whenever she is calling her mother, Janu is curious to know about Riya, and she recently learned that she is well and happy with her father. After ten months, Janu will soon return to India to finalize the divorce and repatriate Riya to the UK, as she had originally intended. It's time for Janu to say goodbye to Arjun, but she's not sure if she'll come back. Arjun tells Janu that as soon as she gets divorced, they will get married within a month. Once Janu reached India, she was welcomed by her mother and grandmother. The time has come for Janu to show up in court to obtain a divorce and reclaim her daughter Riya from Suresh. Everything happened as she had anticipated. Janu was really happy right then. Now, with Riya and Arjun, she is going to begin her happy life forever.

CONCLUSION:

Jaishree Misra's book *Ancient Promises* is semi-autobiographical. Misra sheds light on the situations that the women are going through at her parents' home and her mother-in-law's home. A woman also has the right to live a happy life, but freedom to live is abolished in the name of patriarchy. The protagonist of this novel made every effort to make all situations better, even when there was no concern for her or her daughter. She only expected love and caring people, but that was lacking. The decision taken by Janu after meeting Arjun is only because of the inadequate responsibility of her husband, Suresh, who ignored her expectations and showed no concern for their daughter. In the novel, the author tries to show the woman is ready to accept whatever

situation comes in front of her, even if it is not the way she wants it, but cornering her to the core makes her set herself free from the situation. Through Janu's character, the author shows women that they should take ownership of their lives.

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