

Theme of love in Abhigyan Shakuntalam by Kalidasa=

'Waiting is a real sign of true love and patience, anyone can say I love you, but in reality not everyone can wait and prove that its true'. These lines are proved true in the play Abhigyan Shakuntalam. It is a beautiful tale of love and romance written by one of the greatest poets of India, Kalidasa, one of the greatest Sanskrit poet that India ever had and his life history is absolutely fascinating and interesting. Perhaps the most famous and beautiful work of his is Shakuntalam. This is a love drama and we can feel love showering throughout the play. Their love brings us on a journey that makes us laugh, cry tears of happiness and sorrow, and even blows us away by their love. This story basically focuses on the theme of love. It centralizes on the thought that 'We are born alone, we live alone, we die alone. Only through our love and friendship can we create the illusion for the moment that we are not alone.' It defines love very well as we can feel a very different kind of sensation in almost every aspect of this play.

According to me love can not only in between a girl and a boy who are planning to get married, infact love is everywhere. It can be between us and god or between us and our parents. Similarly even in this play when sage Kanava spotted the new born child, surrounded by Shakuntala birds then taken by kindness, he decides to take the child home and name her Shakuntala. This shows how love does not bothers about blood relation or anything and can make someone adopt a child out of love.

Even when we move further in this play, we can see how Shakuntala grows up to be a beautiful young lady just like her mother Menaka. One day, King Dushyant, while returning from a deer hunt, happens to stop by the hermit's cottage. There he saw Sakuntala engaged in a friendly banter with her friends. Shakuntala found her deer whimpering in pain and tried to comfort it. Shakuntala very much loved the animals of the forest and her attachment for the animal touched Dushyanta's heart and he asked her to forgive him for his cruel behaviour. She forgave him and he asked to stay in the forest for a few days to tend the wounded deer. They fell in love and they decided to marry.

Their love was so deep that for instance at the beautiful surrounding, the inner joy of Dushyanta and of the beauty of Shakuntala triggers the feeling of love in him. Though standing behind the bushes he too is unable to control himself from adoring and appreciating Shakuntala's magical youth. On the proposal of marriage Shakuntala asked the king to wait for the sage Kanava to return, but the strong love between them did not let them wait as both of them were willing to marry this is when in the absence of the sage, they secretly married in the ceremony of "Gandharva Vivaha" with Mother Nature as the witness.

After some days, the King got news of unrest in his city and is summoned to return. He leaves sadly, but promises to return soon and take his beloved with him. As a token of love, he gives her a signet ring and promises to send an envoy to escort her to the palace. But then the king did not kept his promise and from here begins the waiting period of Shakuntala which is the actual test of her true love. Shakuntala waits for Dushyanta's people to come and take her to his palace. But they do not come.

Every love story is not always a straight road which means that in every love story the lovers have to face many difficulties to get their love and become one. It is not always easy to achieve what you want and one needs to fight for his or her love. Same was in the case of

Shakuntala. She was already suffering from so much pain of separation and waiting, but as said earlier it is not easy to get one's love, so here comes one more obstacle. One day, sage Durvasa, famous for anger, stops by the hut for hospitality. Lost in her love thoughts, Sakuntala fails to acknowledge his presence. This rises the temperamental sage and he curses Shakuntala, that the one whom she is thinking about will forget her. Sakuntala begs for mercy and explains her situation. On the plea of Shakuntala and her friends, the sage agrees and says that if the king sees any significant thing that he gave her, he will remember everything.

Now we again are confronted with the love of sage Kanava towards Shakuntala. When he returned he knew by his spiritual insight that Shakuntala and Dushyanta were united by Gandharva Vivaaha and his daughter was pregnant. The sage puts his seal approval on the marriage as divinely ordained and, in due course Shakuntala delivers a male child. After so many months of waiting, when she fails to hear anything from the king, Sage Kanava arranges for the visit of Sakuntala to the court of King Dushyant. On her way, she stops by a lake to drink water and unfortunately the ring slips out of her finger and suddenly a fish swallows it. She reaches the royal palace, but Dushyant did not recognize her because of the curse given to her earlier. She then remembers the ring but realizes that she has lost it somewhere. With disappointment, she returns back to the forest.

As it is very well said that never lose hope and if there is true love then one can even change the lines of destiny from his or her hand. This belief was proved true because at the time when Shakuntala was very disappointed then all of a sudden a miracle happened and the angler came in the play as if he is a messenger of the God. In the play after sometime, an angler finds the ring in the stomach of a fish. He immediately takes it to the king, who on seeing the ring recalls everything and rushes to the hermitage to meet Sakuntala. There they reunite. At that time this is the message of Kanava to Dushyanta concerning Shakuntala: "considering us hermits whose only wealth is tapasya, your own birth in a noble family, the love of Shakuntala for you in bringing about which her relatives had no role, you, as her husband, should give her an equal status and love among your wives. Anything beyond this will depend on her bhaagya or luck, the relatives of the bride have no say about that."

At the end of the play, one feels sad at the sufferings of Shakuntala and we are at a loss as to whether we should blame Dushyanta or the divine power for these happenings. Though young in age, she speaks but a few words in profound sense. One wonders at the manner in which she has transformed herself from a pleasure seeking woman imbued with a sense of total renunciation and service. Through portraying scenes of Shakuntala's maids teasing her, Sage Kanava's far sightedness, the king's pining for Shakuntala's love when she is away, Shakuntala's unlimited sense of love, the divine grace which brought about the happy reunion, all these presents us an image of victory of true love. Everything happens for a reason. Even in this play, from starting to end it was the power of love which was influencing in all the situations. Whether it was the situation of a new born child surrounded by Shakuntala birds or the fish which had swallowed the signet ring, all these played a very important role in the contribution of love..

All this was possible only because of the love, patience and trust of Shakuntala. If she would have given up then it was almost impossible for them to reunite. It was the true love of Shakuntala because of which even the nature and others around her helped her to succeed.

This proves that true love never dies. If one has strong determination to achieve something then he or she will surely succeed. It teaches us a fact that one needs to have faith on your love, and should not leave the sensitive rope of hope. One single mistake may loosen the grip of love and trust from your relationship. It is very well said that if you desire something from the heart then the whole universe will work towards getting you that.