

Hedging of Masculine Hegemony in Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*

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Abstract

Zadie Smith's third novel *On Beauty* entitled "My dear Liard". *On Beauty* has been derived by Elaine Scarry's "*On Beauty and Being Just*". The story is of an interracial family living in Wellington. *On Beauty* focuses the tale of two families, the Harold Belseys and the Kippses. The skin colour of the kippses is alike. But they are bold enough to solve problems. There problems are just like the problems of Belsey's. Monty's wife couldnot understand that her husband has much interest in family life. Both the families exhibit highly literate middle class, Belseys belong to USA and the Kippses are the natives of England. They don't have mutal understanding and they are problematic. The Belsey's and kippses are opponant in the college and both of them are Art History Professors with highly different views. Belsey and kipps are interested in Rembrandt's work and they couldnot share are accept the ideas or opinions of others. Howard have three children Jerome, Levi and Zora all are genius in their own background but mixed race causes identification problem of their own. Unity is not so strong in Belsey's family. Kipps wife Carlene is less lustful about her husband's academic field and acts as a motherly figure in this story. Kiki and Carlene are intimate friends. Michael and Victoria are the children of Carlene. Victoria is more clearly attains in the novel than her brother. The Belsey's and Kippses are particularly unfamiliar in the novel *On Beauty*. The behaviour of these two characters are very equivalent beyond their expectation.

Key Words : Relationship, Family, Race, Friendship, Profession, Moral values.

Relationship is the procedure in which more than two people, countries and teams are connected with. Family, friendship, affection, religion, caste, education, profession etc are the foundations of relationship. *On Beauty* focuses the tale of two families, the Harold Belseys and the kippses. Both the families exhibit highly literate middle class, Belseys belong to USA and the kippses are the natives of England: They don't have mutal understanding and they are problematic. The Belseys and kippses are opponant in the college and both of them are Art History Professors with highly different views. Both are interested in Rembrandt's work and they couldnot share are accept the ideas or opinions of others. The Belsey family resides in Wellington in New England, USA. Howard Belsey is a Professor in Art History at Wellington College. He is a white originally from New England because of his Profession he has to move to United states of America. His wife Kiki is black from the South part of

United States. She is from middle class family and has supervising role at the local hospital. They have three children Jerome, Levi and Zora all are genius in their own background but mixed race causes identification problem of their own.

Howard Belsey's father Harold Belsely is an illiterate and butcher in London. He attended University against the wishes of her father and moves to abroad and married the black lady kiki. Harold wishes his son to marry a decent working class job lady but Howard marry a middle class woman. This create problems among their relationship and they avoid talking with each other.

He [Howard] didn't mean to be so aggressive, or to raise his voice or to pick fights. He meant to be kind and tolerant. Equally, four years ago, Harry [Harold] surely hadn't meant to tell his only son that you couldn't expect black people to develop mentally like white people do. He had meant to say: I love you, I love my grandchildren, please stay another day. (296)

The class variations distract their contact as "Howard could hear his own accent climbing down the class ladder a few rungs to where it used to be" (297) communicate to his father. Howard Belsey in his middle age raises to the higher position in his life. He hails from a lower class family in London. Howard feels shame of his father as he is not intelligent. Howard's children feels shy of his father because he fails as father. When he takes steps to solve the problems of his children he was not able to find good solution. Howard observes the world on the real Universe. As a father he should have responsibilities of his family. It is his duty to run his family in a smooth manner and take care of his wife and children. A father is the backbone and the role model of his family. A father is expected to sacrifice his life for the sake of his family, otherwise his children and wife may go on their own way.

Howard's wife kiki tells him "You know what's weird ? Is that you can get someone who is a Professor of one thing and then is just so intensely stupid about everything else" (15). Jerome is the only converted Christain of his family since he doesnot have contact with his father Jerome paid his attention toward his crush with Victoria. He is too young and so that he is unsatisfied with his father's relationship. Jerome was grown up in a varied race family by his parents who are engaged with affirmative deeds. Added kiki further remembers the result of isolation and segregation towards her family life in her childhood stage. Kiki sacrificed her life for her family and improved a sensitivity for her community. She is pleasant hearted intelligent and fond of affairs of life with her spontaneous feelings which cannot be seen at her husband. She is affectionate but not so lenient and creates a smooth career of her husband and three children. Unity is not so strong in Howard's family.

There is rivalry between Monty and Howard in their profession. Monty's wife Carlene has less liking towards about her husband's academic activities and she is a perfectly caring mother of Michael and Victoria. kiki and Carlene are intimate friends with mutual understanding as both their husbands served irresponsible . The most crucial occasion occurs when Carlene suffers from cancer which leads her to death. Kiki takes care of Carlene and spends her time fully when she was ill. Monty kipps is a visiting lecturer of

Humanities in Wellington College where Howard works. Kiki's humane attribution is exhibited in her caring tenure of Carlene.

Jerome and his love as his father, lack responsibilities and for Victoria is not entirely honest. He is not satisfied with the unity of his family which he feels unhappy regarding his family bonding. Jerome's attitude towards Kipp's family is impractical by his aspiration to find variation from his family. In general Victoria's connection with Jerome is not sincere obliged as their life is not tuned to the habits and honours of others.

The friendship between Carlene and Kiki ended with in a short span of time to the death of Carlene. But it is significant for both as though they occasionally visit they are delightful and caring for each others. They review the matters which are not suitable for their husband. Carlene is a classical housewife clubbed with all traditions expected. The thirtieth wedding commemoration is a horrible one in Belsey's family life. The house of Belsey is a meeting place for the co-worker of him. Howard's passion with his co-worker Claire Malcolm, a poetess whom Kiki's recognize as her friend. Howard's dislikes for his wife creates indifference and paves the way to Kiki's close intimacy with Carlene Kipp's. Kiki's daughter Zora confirms Kiki's intimacy with Carlene as her father being a dishonest person.

I guess you know Monty is going for Dad real bad at the moment. He wrote another totally vile piece in the Herald. He wants to give his toxic lectures, and he's accusing Howard of get this – curtailing his right to free speech. It freaks me out to think about how much that man must just be torn up by self – hatred. (198)

Zora resembles her mother and has possessed the character of her father towards aim and courage. Zora is bold enough to solve the families of her father and venture his contact with Claire for her own aims. Claire Malcolm is a eminent poetess known to the academic world. Zora followed Claire's lifestyle and behaviour and changes herself like Claire. She is half black and white and slightly stout in size.

Levi third son of Howard, being a familiar honours the street life since some of the hip-hop craftsperson have reached a good economic position. Though he belongs to a middle class family lives without financial problems. He is not money minded to carry on his weekend profession. His personality is very weak though he is sixteen. His job in weekend is the means out of Wellington.

If he didn't get his measly thirty – five dollars a week, then there was no money to escape Wellington on a Saturday night, no chance to dance with all those kids all those girls who didn't give a fuck who the hell Gram-ski was or why whoever – Rembrandt – was no good. Sometimes he felt that these thirty five dollars were the only thing that kept him half normal, half same half black. (193)

There is rivalry in Rembrandt's work on the delicacy of art between Howard and Monty. Both Howard and Monty are writing their books on the basis of Rembrandt's work but they couldn't give importance to beauty. Monty is considered as a rational and selfish

representative of Haitian paintings. As a loving couple for thirty years the Belsey's have imparted their offsprings with love and affection. Due to his affair with Claire and Victoria Howard destroys the unity and face everyday problems when his life beings without Kiki. Howard cannot admire the beauty of his wife. Kathleen Wall has quoted in his article "Ethics, knowledge and the Need for Beauty : Zadie Smith's *On Beauty* and Ian Mc Ewan's *Saturday*. Kiki follows different methods in appreciating the beauty of art.

Zadie Smith portrays attractive things in life just like poetry, beauty of arts, family and morality for humankind. She specifically present events and family relationship, martial relationship, parent – child affair, affinity in education and profession , friendship , infautation are expressed through the character. Family is crucial necessity in development of ideas and behaviour of children. Smith follows to analyze the difference between the family to which they belong to. The strong focuses on interracial marriage and cultural clash reveals through family clash and confrontation with children.

The novel focuses on the failures of family bonding, irresponsibilities of a father, children starving for love & care. The differences in couples creates unexpected separation & interruption. The unflowering experiences in the family due to masculine hegemony, encounters humiliation and segregation which envelops a bitter experiences in the family bonding.

Works Cited

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