

From Silence to Speech – The Voice of Ayaan Hirsi Ali

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Abstract – Ayaan Hirsi Ali is the name not to be missed in English literature. She is well known in the world of English writing because of her bold, outspoken, especially regarding women rights. Ayaan Hirsi Ali is a famed speaker, debater and journalist. Times Magazine has chosen her name among the hundred most influential people in the world. Her boldness is inspired by her father Hirsi Magan Isse, who was a Somali politician. He had great influence over her. Memories of her childhood reiterated the continued unequal condition of women around the world. Going through her novels-Infidel, Nomad, The Caged Virgin and Heretic, we came to know about her journey from silence to speech. Her novel Infidel was the bestseller of The New York Times. She came in the limelight when her friend and director of the documentary movie-Submission, Theo Van Gogh was murdered. A great supporter of women rights, she is also a vocal activist. Memories of her life are not the mere collection of her past, but they are reflections of her struggle for a free life: a life free from orthodox thinking bounded personality and caged emotions. But the way she came out of that is the most important part to be known by all of us. Her journey is the journey of strong determination and will power fighting in odd situations.

Keywords-: *Ayaan, Infidel, Nomad, Virgin, Heretic, Submission*

INTRODUCTION

Ayaan Hirsi Ali is not only a writer but also a voice of those women whose voices are unheard. She is that controversial figure that is both admired and treated with skepticism by people all around. She is known as Europe's brave and elegant political figures, which became a target for terrorists. Ayaan is a peerless writer, and with her unique writing skill she is known in that rarebit manner.

Her spirited recollection and defense of women's rights to independence and self-expression are inspiring to women of all cultures. She also talks about FGM (female genital mutilation). Her writings made her a heroine who celebrates triumph over distress.

Her marvelous body of work is really a 'must read'. From her first novel 'Infidel' to the movie 'Submission', her work is superlative in entirety.

AYAAN AS NON CONFIRMIST

Ayaan Hirsi Ali or Ayaan Hirsi Magan was born on 13 November 1969. Her father Hirsi Magan Isse was a Somali politician and leader of opposition party. She is a Dutch – American Activist from Somali origin. She opposes FGM and support for a reformation of Islam .She is a great supporter of women’s rights and an atheist. She is a vocal activist. She is a powerful story teller, weaving memories of her early childhood stories and events into her present life. Living in the West, she publicly criticizes the ill-treatment by men to women. She is considered to be a perfect feminist and socialist by many. She fiercely fights for women’s rights.

In her family, her father was a very famous leader. He was a strong person. He had a contradictory attitude to women than other Muslims. He always urged for modern ideas .He advocated for women literacy that is why he insisted his wife to attain education .He send Ayaan and her sister to school to educate them. He insisted that woman play as importation role in a child’s life as man. In his point of view they are important and valuable in this world. His thoughts were always inspiring for Ayaan. Her mother was Asha Artan Umar. She was second wife of her father. When she came to know that her husband had married a third woman having another child, her mother became aoristic with pain and violence. Her sister was Haweya, who died of depression and psychotic attacks. Her brother Mahad was somehow different in thoughts and work from his father. He was not able to stand in the queue of his father’s honor and

leadership. He was a careless person. Her grandmother was bold and daring lady. Besides she belonged to a large family of cousins, aunts and uncles.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali had a very tough time going through a long journey of struggle. With her family she left Somalia in 1977 for Saudi Arabia, then Ethiopia and later settled in Kenya. In 1992, Ayaan applied and obtained political asylum in the Netherlands. She graduated in political science and published articles. Her political views sparked the new thoughts in support of Muslim women.

It is note-worthy for its passionate insistence that so-called Western values such as uncontrolled speech and gender equality are fundamental and universal rights but still out of reach of millions of men as well as women . Ayaan always tries to raise her voice for those.

She wrote a very famous book *The Caged Virgin: An emancipation proclamation for women and Islam*. It was first published in England in 2006. She discussed her struggle with Islam and Islamic views about Muslim women. Women are treated as only a follower of instructions given to them by their masters-the men. But Ayaan showed them ways to escape from that cage. Muslim women may achieve their own emancipation by following the ideas she wrote in the book

Ayaan’s work depicts the condition of women (specially the Muslim girls) worldwide. She also mentioned that Muslim women are not free even to feel the emotions which come in their mind .Even they can’t have longings .I felt the same

when I read those books. Even she is not free to make her own decisions. She tried to demonstrate that women there have no individual identity.

Ayaan is against the ill practices of FGM. There are many people who are fighting against it and want that “this should be stopped as early as possible”.

Ayaan wrote in *Infidel* about the countries like Somalia and the Middle East, where girls are made ‘pure’ by cutting their genitals out. It is not done by the entire Muslims and it is also carried by certain non-Islamic communities. In Somalia, every girl becomes the victim of this practice which is justified in the name of religion. It is a belief that it keeps the purity of every girl. But it proves dangerous for girls. Due to infection many girls died. Many complications are caused by this. Ayaan’s father was a man of modern thinking and according to him the practice was inhuman. He never wanted his daughters to be cut. Mutilation of Ayaan and her siblings took place in his absence. He was annoyed to know the incident.

She worked jointly on a short movie with her friend Theo van Gogh, named ‘submission’. The film was a satire on the situation of women. In the movie, women were punished in the name of religious law. But the hardcore religious persons took it in a serious manner. After the release of the movie Theo van Gogh was murdered brutally by an Islamist as well as she came in to limelight and threatened that she would also be killed.

Her work is honest, real and sad in all the right places. She shows the true and wonderful dispensation of inner and outer fight with basic natural inheritances. It details just how Ayaan dealt with irony, struggle, luck, error, adventure, her experiences, opportunism and become a noticeable figure in the world. Her books unlocked the global truths of the life of women, especially Islamic.

She clearly described female sexual exploitation of women by their own relatives –the fact that is still there.

CONCLUSION

The writer, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, appeals in a powerful way that a reformation of religion is the way by which we can end the evils against the society especially in case of women. The author is surprisingly optimistic. She believes that, “a reformation – a revision of Islamic doctrine aimed at reconciling the religion with modernity – is at hand and may even already have begun”. She is seeking freedom for herself and for women who are necessary for the wholesome development of society. Each person, regardless of sex, orientation, color or creed, deserves basic human rights and protections in return for adhering to the laws of land where they live.

“Don’t give up and don’t give in, for hope is there to make you win”. So all of us hope that all the women will get equal rights and opportunities without any discrimination.

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