

A Love Story.

A one act play.

[There are two people seated on a bench. One is a short bald man of maybe 45, he is overweight and is clearly uncomfortable sitting on the bench. He would have preferred a sofa any day. He has a moustache which resembles that of Hitler. His face is pockmarked and he wears a pair of spectacles, which are black-rimmed and can be termed as 'soda-bottle' spectacles. He wears a shabby looking suit that is two sizes too small and a worn out pair of shoes. The other is a dark lady of about 40. She is wrinkled around her eyes and looks sixty. She has a long gaunt face, which is hallowed. Her eyes are placed very deep inside her sockets. She wears a saree that is faded and has frayed corners. They stare at each other for sometime. He then speaks]

man:- (speaking in a light feminisue voice) You are the apple of my eye, my dearest. For how long do we have to continue to meet in such an unromantic manner?

Woman:- (speaks in a gruff male voice) I agree darling. Maybe we should elope, to some land far far away, where our pious love is not scorned at. But how can I oh! How can I? For I am but a slave in the hands of the society. They control me as if I were a puppet. Oh! What am I to do...woe is me!

Man:- I wish to elope too my love, but I am too bound by this society of ours. They do not wish me to fall in love. Let alone try and elope. I am controlled by the society, they wish not that I be seen with you. Oh! They mock me so.

Woman:- I know your plight my dearest, and you do mine, so what do we do, how do we free ourselves of the pain that we suffer-that of seperation. What do we do, I ask you?

Man:- I do not know my beloved. I am in utter shock as to how the society has degenerated around us. They are unable to understand our true and pious love. They have forgotten the values that they were brought up with. Love in any form is to be encouraged. One should not shun another, even those he does not see fit to befriend...

Woman:- I am too shocked my love. Look at the society that is unwilling to befriend us. Look at the people who fail to recognize us and our feelings. Look at the society that is willing to accept those two together(*points to a corner on the stage. There is no one at present there, in the view of the audience*), but is not ready to accept our love, even though the love that we nourish is one far more pure and pious.

Man:- I agree dear, but it has not always been like this. Don't you remember those holy days, when our love was the talk of the town. People wanted us to be together. The society helped our cause. In fact all those who were against our love were scorned upon...

Woman: [sighs heavily] Yes, I agree. But look how the society has changed. Look what the people call values. Look the loves they help flourish. They should take a leaf out of

the past and help us realize our love, realize our integration. I do not know if I can hold on any longer. I do not know if I can survive this separated life....

Man:- But we have to. We have to be alive. We have to survive. We have to be there when the society reverses its current trend and begins to accept, no not accept, begins to propel our love, our sacred, pious and holy love forward. We have to hold on until then. Remember what is said - Hope is the candle that lights the world.

Woman: [gives a crooked smile] Do you really think that world is going to change. Do you think that the society, the people are going to realize the truth. Are they going to accept my presence? In today's society I have lost all value. People do not even realize that I am there. They walk past me, as if I do not exist. It is atleast better for you. They, the society at least accepts the fact that you exist. Even if they spit on your face each day, and corrupt you at night time, they accept that you are around. They do not even accept that I exist... and you tell me that I should hold on...that the society will change? I think not. The society that accepts their love [*she points to the same corner again. Seen in the corner are a beautiful looking girl and a young boy. The boy has a wheatish skin. His eyes are blue, and he had blond hair. He is clearly well built, and loves to show off his physique. He wears a tight T-shirt, and a pair of Jeans. The girl is just about eighteen. She wears a tight top, that enhances her curves, and a pair of cream slacks. She has jet black hair that flows to the joint of her knee. Her eyes are as black as the night. They are fondling each other, hugging and kissing.*] a vile one if any, and supports it so, will never change, it will never turn back to realize the presence of the purest form of love.

Man: The problem with the society is that they go only on external appearances. They are so superficial. We may look ugly to the naked eye, but that is only at a cursory glance. When they explore us deeper they will realize that we are far more beautiful than the couple you speak of. They are just beautiful on the outside, on the skin. This beauty that appeases only the eye is easy to acquire, it's the beauty that is within that is more difficult. Look at them, (*he points to the couple*) they look so beautiful, but filled in them is so much of malice, so much of evil. Will the society never realize...

[The stage is silent for a moment or so. Then the boy and the girl walk up to the couple on the bench. The man addresses them]

Man:- Hi there, greed (*he says to the boy, who waves.*) And how are you lust? (*she shrugs and smiles.*)

Boy:- We are fine Soul. But maybe (*pointing to the woman*) Miss T. honesty is not so good. (*turns towards the woman*) Are you all right Truth...

Author's note:- If you have read so far and read the last line you would have realized what this play is about. I urge those of you who could not understand the end to read thorough the play again. It is as I wrote the above piece that I thought to myself, is it really true that the concepts of truth and honesty have lost all meaning in this modern day world of ours. Is only greed, lust and money that is on our minds. Have we lost the

human touch – have we corrupted our soul? How is it that in the years that we say we have “advanced” we have actually left behind the values on which our entire society is based?

The society, just like a building requires a foundation, and this was provided by our values – those of truth, honesty, sincerity. But now the society stands like a building built by a contractor who promised that the foundation would be strong, but in fact put in sand and gravel only- greed, lust, money, anger. Can we actually improve the society...can it actually change...I think not, what about you?