

Same-sex marriage not comparable with 'Indian Family unit concept', argues Centre

PALAK SHARMA

Same-sex couples who live together and have a sexual relationship are not comparable with the Indian family unit concept of a husband, a wife, and children born out of the union between the two, the Centre told the Delhi High court. The Centre's reply came on a batch of pleas that sought recognition of same-sex couples under the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act (1955), Special Marriage Act (1954), and the Foreign Marriage Act (1969). The high court on October 14 had issued a notice on the same.

Aryan Raj, a second-year student of Btech, said, "What's normal for heterosexual beings need not be normal for homosexual beings, and centre's views are based on 'Appeal to Tradition'. This is deemed as right in the eyes of many because we have always done it this way". Another student from the capital believes, "recognition of same-sex marriage by the legislature would change the stereotypical Indian family unit concept that has oppressed many."

Among its arguments, The Centre submitted that the Supreme Court's 2018 Navtej Singh Johar verdict decriminalizing gay sex covered aspects of human behaviour that was within the personal private domain of individuals [akin to the right to privacy], but the same cannot include a public right like recognition of same-sex marriage and thereby legitimizing that particular human conduct.

A second-year student in Delhi has resonating thoughts on this verdict, he says, "Any relationship is a matter of individual liberty, but on the other hand, deeming marriage as a union of feminine and masculine souls only, also draws the question of how religion outplays itself."



A first-year student Alfiya says that marriage is not only about having children, two lovers who want to stay together as soulmates need not ask for permission.

Khushboo Kumari, a former student at Bharati College asserted, "In my opinion, a democratic government should behave progressively. It should be left on the individuals with whom they want to live. Taking away the right to marriage from same-sex couples is like pushing India back to the regressive era where being gay was a crime. For me, the concept of India is inclusive and should accept all progressive thoughts. Indian Family Unit should be as inclusive as the amendment in Article 377 was."

A third-year student at Indraprastha university implied, "this debate shouldn't even exist. Marrying should be my personal choice, regardless of any given fundamental."

"Celebration of marriage gives rise to not just legal but moral and social obligations, particularly the reciprocal duty of support placed upon spouses and their responsibility for supporting and raising children born of the marriage and to ensure their proper mental and psychological growth in the most natural way possible," the Centre said while making its point. Even as the Centre strongly objected to the plea, in a separate reply, the Delhi government has left the decision to the wisdom of the high court.

Everything getting back on track except higher education

RITIKA CHAUHAN



Striding into a whole new life virtually, right after 12th, Open book exams are going to be a first time thing for the freshers of the University of Delhi. The classes of first-year students for the 2020 batch began in November last year and since then their college life has been limited to the screen. Many students remarked that college was not just about studies and online classes were inhibiting their personality development.

Bharati college is fitted out in the pattern of conducting OBE's after two such rounds in December 2020 and May 2020 respectively. Yet the uncertainty of the future remains intact with the majority of the classes still operating online in the wake of fluctuating COVID cases.

The hopes amid students saw a rise when the institution reopened in February for practical purposes but the issues of virtual accessibility continue surfacing a major lot.

A second-year student of sociology honours hailing from Orissa mentioned "it has been a year since classes went online but the whole year was no less than a catastrophe with limited mobile-data and inaccessibility of resources at the right time. I hope everything goes back on track soon".

With a year following the closure, most of the activities and events apart from the classes also shifted online but according to Ananya Mehta, 1st-year student of psychology, "online events cannot compensate for the physical feels and sudden gush of emotions while performing any particular extra-curricular activity".

Everything across the country seems to gain a sufficient amount of speed. Even though there have been several meetings held across colleges regarding the resuming of classes, higher education still lingers in scepticism.

A soulful friendship is centric to most relationships

SHAHEEN CHOUDHURY

Tales of love are unique and special to each individual. Each story depicts a pattern of emotional evolution and sets of experiences that sometimes go on to define an individual. Artists and various poets have talked of forms of love through a plethora of definitions. In the same trail unfolds the story of Ava and Michael.

"This story might resonate with some and for some, it might sound very superficial. However, it was an experience that had shaped me into who I am and how I view love in today's world", says Ava.

Ava was in 8th grade when she first met Michael. It was according to Ava a 'love at first sight'. She would go to school with enthusiasm like never before just to be able to see him and sit next to him on the school bus. Within a blink of an eye, they became each other's confidante.

"The thing about feeling an emotion as pure as love at a tender age is that it somehow brings out a new purpose, which is very fragile", mentions Ava. They grew up and started experiencing life through numerous lenses. Although Ava and Michael were in touch, they lost the spark they once had and eventually grew apart.

Five years went by, while both of them became engrossed in their lives. On one fine day, the universe aligned and social media came to Ava's rescue.

They reconnected via Snapchat. Ava was surprised by the news she had found out. Michael had moved to South Africa to pursue his dream in aviation. Days went by and their friendship was rekindled again.

"After so long I felt an old feeling flowing inside of me. A sensation of being whole and not being aloof. He was reluctant at first because he wasn't ready to face the truth. But I didn't let him go.



I comprehended what was in his heart and was pretty sure of what was in mine. He still had that old innocent love hidden inside his subconscious, all these years. Above all, I did not want to lose that friendship again." said Ava.

The only person in Ava's life who knew the most humane parts of hers was Michael. A go-to person who has been there always when no one else was around. Being able to get back together with him has been life-changing."

He motivates me to become a better version of myself and stands as a firm pillar during bad days", Ava explains proudly.

What she cherishes most is the friendship they share that never gets lost between their relationship issues. With him, it has always been easy to hit the pause button and at times even the reset button and start all over again to make things better. From childhood till now he is the constant she has always been looking for who never gives up on her, always picks her up and gives that push she needs from time to time.

Ava asserts that she doesn't know what the future holds but one thing that she observes is that what both of them have is special because above all they are best of friends. Friendship is what they value most. A romantic relationship is no different than a friendship. Even in a friendship, one needs to be respectful, loyal, kind, caring, understanding.

"Everyone out there who is struggling to find a balance in their relationship should try connecting to their partners as soulful friends too. Our relationship is becoming stronger because of it and even if hell befalls, the friendship we share will never be lost", suggested Ava.

Learning the art of self-love

BY ANJALI JHA

The 'idea of love' might bring the stereotypical concept in our minds which now has been created due to popular media but it still can vary from person to person. For me, the idea of love is peace. A sense of satisfaction and acceptance of who I am and who I am going to be. To me, love is everything that makes me feel good and happy. It's my appreciation for nature, it's my attachment to my parents. But out of all these forms, the one that sticks out to me the most is self-love. In my opinion, it is the most difficult one to develop yet the most important one to have. But it wasn't always very easy for me to love myself.

Often, when we fall in love with someone, we overlook their flaws. Everyone is flawed, me, you, and the ones we love.



But when it comes to us, we keep perfecting every aspect of our lives telling ourselves if we work on just one more bad habit, we would love ourselves. Only if I were a little prettier, I would be happy with myself. We would never say these things to people we care about so why do we become our own worst critics? Pondering on these questions I realized how we talk to ourselves influences the way we grow. From that point onwards I decided that I would not be the reason for my grief anymore. I know it will be difficult but no matter how hard I fall or how many times I fail, even when the world loses the faith in me, I will stand up for myself. I will be there to hold myself when falling back.

Sometimes, this love gives comfort but other times, it demands effort. Pushing yourself hard through the pain for a better tomorrow or even to just get out of your bed to go to work or college is as much of self-love as lighting candles or taking a hot bubble bath is. Learning the art of self-love has been the most transformative idea of love so far to me. This is ideal with the perfect amount of black, white, and grey. This does not save me from making mistakes or keep me away from the pain but it gives me the strength to get up and learn from the mistakes that I made and the power to sail out of the pain with flying colors!

The need of the Ancient Greek Vocabulary of Love

Schooloflife.com

Love is our highest value, what we all crave and what we believe makes us fundamentally human, but it is also the source of considerable anxiety. Chiefly, we worry whether we are entirely normal because it frequently feels as if we are not experiencing love the way we should be.

Society is subtly highly prescriptive in this regard. It suggests that to be a decent person, we should all be within sexual relationships and furthermore, that within these, we should 'love' in a very particular way: we should be constantly thrilled by our partner's presence, we should long to see them after every absence. In other words, we should follow the script of Romantic ecstasy throughout our lives.

This is beautiful in theory and hugely punitive in practice. If we're going to define love like this and peg the idea of normality accordingly, then most of us will have to admit to ourselves (with considerable embarrassment) that we don't know much about love – and therefore don't qualify as decent, sane, or normal people. We've created a cult of love radically out of line with most of our real experiences of relationships.

The Greeks anointed the powerful physical feelings we often experience



at the start of a relationship with the word 'eros' But they knew that love is not necessarily over when this sexual intensity wanes.

Our feelings can then evolve into another sort of love they captured with the word 'philia' (φιλία) normally translated as 'friendship' though the Greek word is far warmer, more loyal and more touching than its English counterpart. The word adds an important nuance to our understanding of a viable union. It allows us to see that we may still love even when we are in a phase that our own, more one-sided vocabulary fails to value.

The Greeks had a third word for love: agape (ἀγάπη).

This can be best translated as a charitable love. It's what we might feel towards someone who has behaved rather badly or come to grief through flaws of character – but for whom we still feel compassion. It's what a God might feel for his or her people, or what an audience might feel for a tragic character in a play. It's the kind of love that we experience in relation to someone's weakness rather than their strength. It reminds us that love isn't just about admiration for virtues, it's also about sympathy and generosity towards what is fragile and imperfect in us.

Having these three words to hand – eros, philia and agape – powerfully extends our sense of what love really is.

The Ancient Greeks were wise in dividing the blinding monolith of love into its constituent parts.

Under their tutelage, we can see that we probably have far more love in our lives than our current vocabulary knows how to recognise.

WOMEN IN HISTORY



AUDRE LORDE: A self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet," Audre Lorde dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. She was central to many liberation movements and activist circles, including second-wave feminism, civil rights and Black cultural movements, and struggles for LGBTQ equality. In particular, Lorde's poetry is known for the power of its call for social and racial justice, as well as its depictions of queer experience and sexuality.



HARRIET TUBMAN: Tubman was an escaped enslaved woman who became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, leading enslaved people to freedom before the Civil War, all while carrying a bounty on her head. But she was also a nurse, a Union spy and a women's suffrage supporter. Tubman is one of the most recognized icons in American history and her legacy has inspired countless people from every race and background. In 2016, the United States Treasury announced that Harriet's image will replace that of former President and slaveowner Andrew Jackson on the twenty-dollar bill.

HISTORY THIS MONTH

FEB, 1812 - British novelist Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England. He examined social inequalities through his works including; David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, and Nicholas Nickleby.

FEB 3, 1870 - The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

FEB 26, 1848 - The Communist Manifesto pamphlet was published by two young socialists, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It advocated the abolition of all private property and a system in which workers own all means of production, land, factories and machinery.

March 15, 44 B.C. - Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate chamber in Rome by Brutus and fellow conspirators. After first trying to defend himself against the murderous onslaught, Caesar saw Brutus with a knife and asked "Et tu, Brute?" (You too, Brutus?)

MARCH, 1930 - The Salt March, took place from March to April 1930 in India, was an act of civil disobedience led by Mahatma Gandhi to protest British rule in India.

Redefining Family: A Holistic Approach

SAKSHI SHAH

Societies construct patterns of behavior by considering certain actions or speech as acceptable or unacceptable. These patterns of behavior within a given society are known as societal norms. Societies, and their norms, undergo perpetual gradual changes. But what if the 'well managed societal system' starts to pierce your comfort, and violate your rights?

As per the center's affidavit, you have no fundamental right to 'Same-Sex Marriage'. It states, "Same-sex individuals living together as partners and having a sexual relationship is not comparable with the Indian family unit; the concept of a husband, a wife, and children, which presupposes a biological man as a 'husband', a biological woman as a 'wife' and the children born out of the union between the two." This advocates the intent that same-sex marriage is not suitable for society in the context of Indian culture.

Sadly, while justifying their actions by referring to our culture, the government is not only showcasing our culture as conservative but is also tarnishing the image of our rich and diverse past. Citing some examples from our religious mythologies would be suitable. In the Mahabharata - there's an interesting story about **Shikhandi**, who was born as a female but her father 'King Drupada', raised her as a prince to take revenge from the Kurus, the rulers of Hastinapur. Drupada even got Shikhandi married to a woman.

Similarly, during the great churning of the milky ocean, according to '**Matsya Purana**' Lord Vishnu took the form of a beautiful woman, 'Mohini' to trick the demons so that the gods could drink all the 'Amrit'(the immortal juice found from the churning of the ocean). Meanwhile, Lord Shiva saw Vishnu as Mohini and instantly fell for him.

Their union led to the birth of a child - **Lord Ayappa**.

The '**Kamasutra**', a Sanskrit text, on human sexual behaviour uses the term 'Tritiya Prakrita' to define men with homosexual desires and describes their practices in great detail. Likewise, the Kamasutra also describes lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, and intersex people. '

The Khajuraho Temples are famous for their erotic sculptures and contains several depictions of homosexual activity.

Our liberal and multifaceted culture has been grossly misunderstood in terms of homosexuality. Even historians have long argued that pre-colonial Indian society did not criminalize same-sex relationships, nor did it view such relations as immoral or sinful. In 2018, the Supreme Court's verdict in section 377 empowered the LGBTQ+ community by decriminalizing sexual acts between consenting adults of the same gender.

Now the government has taken a step back, which shows their archaic and stereotypical mindset. All the organisms are the creatures of God. All of them have their own identity. Each organism has its way to show love towards its beloved. Ethically, there should not be any restrictions for anyone regarding whom should they love.

Loving someone is a spiritual feeling. It is as pious as '**God**', it doesn't need any materialistic factor-like culture, gender or caste, to match with whom you love. 'Marriage' is a legal relationship that involves two individuals uniting their lives with the permission of the state. Marriage gives them the right to engage sexually and have offsprings. But individuals engaged in same-sex marriages, can't have offsprings biologically.

Looking another way round, in a country where 29.6 million children are orphaned and abandoned, adoption can be a lifeline for these children as well as for those, who aspire to be a parent.

In a democratic country like India, one can hope for progressive laws and amendments. Society and its norms are created by us, and there is no harm to reform them owing to the contemporary realities. The true development of a nation lies in the progress of Human beings as resources.



'THE COOL GIRL TROPE' - A notion

MANAVI CHAUHAN

So here's the most classic (beaten to death) format of "character development" that mainstream cinema could ever have to offer a female lead. Meet female protagonist, a girl who's too tired of being too comfortable in her own skin (???)

She's most predictably going to be all the right "raw materials" wrapped under the guise of someone who's very unpolished or uncouth. She's completely comfortable being the way she is until made to realise that just being herself isn't enough to attract her love interest.

Queue; shiny new makeover, meant to show us that she always has been a true diamond in the rough and that's really all that will ever really matter.

Now she gets the guy, the job, the awe, the approval and her life is sorted because she has achieved the otherwise impossible task of being smart and good looking at the same time.

Now if I had to cherry-pick my favourite part of this clusterfuck, I'd stop at the first line so I could introduce you to what is called the Cool Girl trope, a phenomenon (very loosely speaking) like no other. And **nobody** sums up 'Cool Girl' better than Gillian Flynn in 'Gone Girl'. In simpler words, a cool girl is a guy's girl. She's "not like other girls". She's "different".

A cool girl knows how to chill, and more importantly, she knows how to let *you* chill. Cool Girl can drink you under the table, Cool Girl orders ribs and steak and not salads, Cool Girl never tries too hard. Cool Girl doesn't count her calories yet magically maintains the body of a Sports Illustrated cover girl.

She likes cigars, sports, casual sex, scotch, comic books, blow-jobs, sailing, swearing, you name it. So essentially, a Cool Girl is essentially a dude in a hot girl's body.

You may know the Cool Girl character from some of the 90's bests like Cameron Diaz in *There's Something About Mary* or Kate Hudson as Andy from *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days*. These poster-Cool Girls seemed harmless at the time because they were fun, carefree and fun-loving and some may even say badass, but it dawned upon me much later than I'd like to admit that they were written up as people-pleasing characters, very specifically; written to please men, to fuel this fantasy of theirs that a woman with those exact qualities (no more or less) does exist out there. Now the chief problem isn't that women cannot genuinely



enjoy and partake in stereotypically male hobbies and interests.

It's just that you will never identify the Cool Girl, because you were never meant to. Instead of resonating with this character, you will instantaneously start to compare yourself with this charade to see how "effortlessly cool" others may perceive you to be. The problem is that these women aren't relatable, **mainly because they're not real**. They (she) are just a sordidly perfect amalgam of what men want in a woman.

The Cool Girl is a scam that has been conjured up by an all-male ensemble of writers, producers and directors fit entirely for male consumption as it defines "desirable" women through the male gaze. For women, it projects unto us yet another impossible standard to hold ourselves to.

The Cool Girl is a myth. And the mythical part isn't that women can't like sports or sex or scotch. It's that they never present themselves as challenging to the male protagonist.

Cinema-verse requires the Cool Girl to be smarter than other girls, tougher than other girls, funnier than other girls but never enough to pose as a real competition or threat to the ego of the male protagonist.

The 'Cool Girl' is just a stereotype to supersede other gender stereotypes.

The problem becomes problematic when young women try to model their behaviour after this fictional farce not knowing that this is just another classically mislabeled case of internalized misogyny. Embracing the Cool Girl charade puts down another kind of girl; the very feminine, meticulous girl who in comparison gets the unwarranted labels of "uptight" and "clingy".

The unspoken golden rule of this trope is that the Cool Girl must be hot. If she's hot then all else is forgiven. Like Sandra Bullock in *Miss Congeniality*, originally seen as a sloppy and brutish woman without an ounce of femininity in her, but it wasn't until she had this marvelous unwelcomed make-over to partake in a beauty pageant, that brutish became badass, and sloppy became sexy.

I also seem to recall a very clumsy Mia played by Anne Hathaway

in *The Princess Diaries* who just straight-up skips the awkwardness of adolescence altogether after her transformation shows us that 'dorky' totally can be 'quirky' and charming, that is if you're good looking enough. The list wouldn't be even near completion without an honorary mention to Megan Fox in *Transformers*, whose knowledge of car innards made both her and automobiles look more attractive.



It's just a real shame because it means that an existing set of qualities in women are criticized and overlooked because they didn't have an immaculate, shiny exterior to them. Once they started looking nothing like themselves (originally) is when those qualities and traits were appreciated, nay, **glorified**. It's a damn shame that these characters needed a big green signal of validation from men to truly take agency over who they already were. As women, you don't get to say what's cool about us, we get to tell you what's cool about us, and you will listen.

SPECTRUM

Corner of Imagination



A LONG WAY

Poem by Sonal Agrawal

Still, a long way for the moon to set
and still our times I can't forget
there's still a charm that the sky has
you still find a place in my heart
perhaps

with every moment passing so slow
the cloud puts a curtain on the moon's
glow
the hope that darkness will retrieve
and before the end, our love shall sur-
vive

but on my face, the tears haven't
dried
none but me knows how much I have
cried
and when I used to shed my tears
alone
I remember those days of our are
gone

so long I don't know when we laughed
together
to get over this it's taking me forever
forever shall not we stay apart
but for now, I play the sad part

up in the sky, the moon has its shine
my love for you, they can't define
so little the flame of my hope burns
I don't know if your love, this flame
earns.

SUNSETS

Poem by Yashika

The fading colors of the sky,
getting toned down,
Still make it beautiful,
To catch everyone's espy.

The calmness of air,
when the sun reaches the horizon,
brings solace,
which cannot be found anywhere.

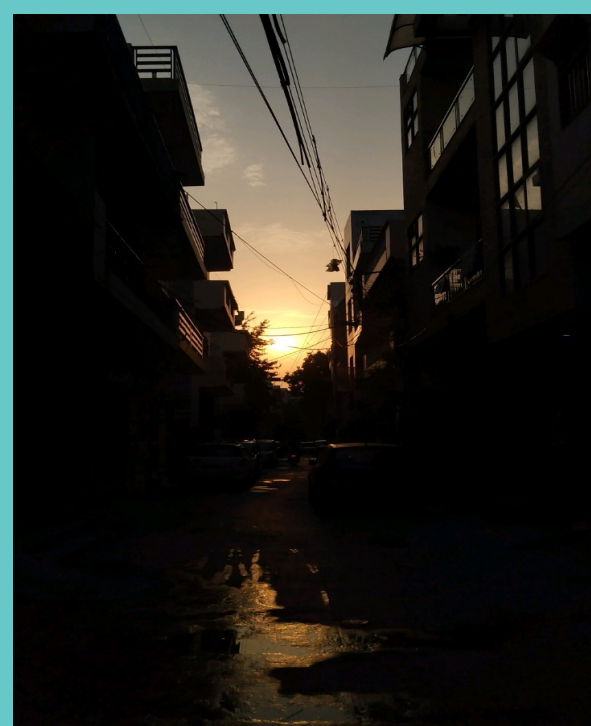
Every sunset,
Shows the beauty of end,
Followed by a desire,
of new commencement.

The loneliness that comes up,
with the darkness of Dawn,
is bliss
Try to never miss it.

The catastrophic sky,
above our head,
full of stars and moon,
is a token of love.

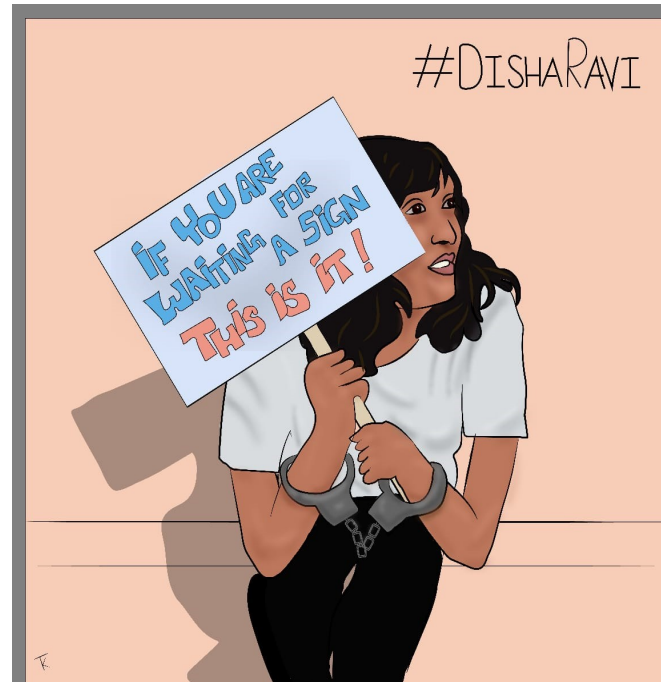
The darkest nights,
hold deepest thoughts,
with restless minds
but calm smiles.

SHOT BY YASHIKA



'A REGULAR SUNSET'

ILLUSTRATION BY TANJAL KAPOOR



Climate activist, 22-year-old Disha Ravi, arrested in connection with the 'toolkit' case.

ARTWORK BY KAUSHIKI BISEN

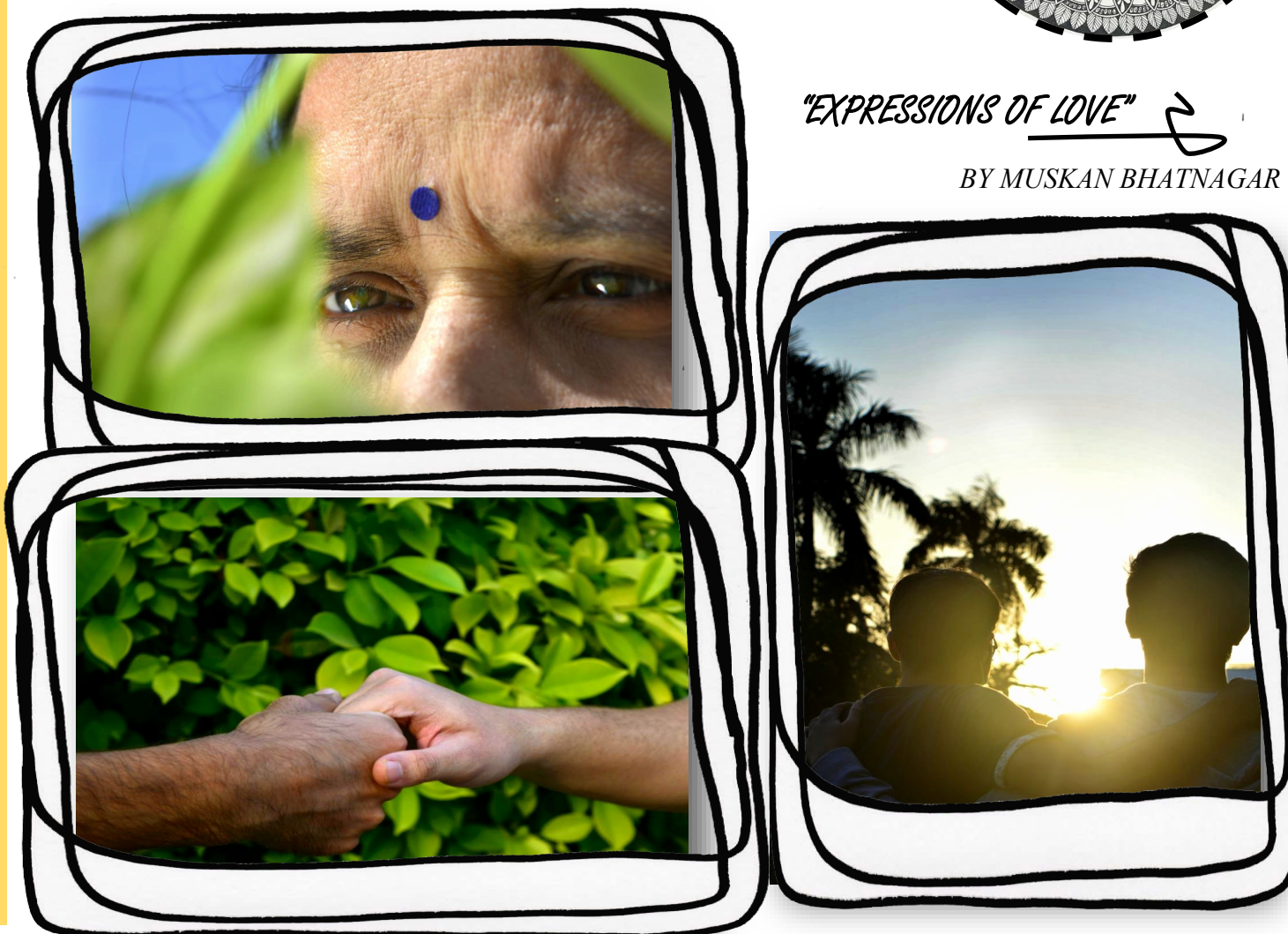


"There is a law somewhere that says that when one person is thoroughly smitten with the other, the other must unavoidably be smitten as well."

— CALL ME BY YOUR NAME

"To me, love equates to disen-
tangling chaos of the mind
through strokes and lines. Get-
ting into the practice of making
Mandalas has been life-altering.
Every space — filled or empty,
amid these mandalas, represents
me and my journey of getting
close to self."

— MANDALAS BY ANCHAL SURYAWANSHI



"EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE"

BY MUSKAN BHATNAGAR

SHE/HER

Poem by Harlin Kaur

She's always been the silent type
The type that doesn't let much people in her
life (except for her mains)
The type that rarely shows any feelings
(cause she's afraid to)
The type that feels that she's a bit too insen-
sitive (but oversensitive at times)
The type that guards her heart so fiercely that
no one can get anywhere near it (cause she
doesn't want anyone to see it)
The type that's always strong on the outside
(but like a little girl on the inside)
The type that doesn't believe in fairy tales
(but wishes to experience all the magic)
The type that feels that she can never be
loved (but wants to fall in love)...

But can she hide from love?
'Cause emotions aren't something that can
be controlled
the heart isn't something that always over-
hears the brain
And the brain too, can't stop the chemical
reactions that it creates
when it feels that we are letting our guard
down around someone
And that's what terrifies her
What if someone sees through her disguise?
What if someone gets to know the real her in
life?

What if someone sees her heart?
What if someone breaks her guard?
What if someone makes her feel loved?
What if someone becomes the one she
loves?
Can she hide from love?
Maybe...maybe not.

Is she still scared to fall in love?
I guess...I guess not.

But is it worth it?
I believe...I believe not.

उतना भी गलत नहीं!

-- गरिमा

आज हमारा कहना है सब बराबर हैं कॉलेजों के नारों में, स्टूडेंट इलेक्शन में, एडमिशन में क्लासरूम के डिस्कशन में, सब ही बराबर हैं, सभी को डेमोक्रेसी खतरे में दिख रही है हम सब ही फासीवाद के खिलाफ लड़ रहे हैं इंस्टाग्राम पर दिल्ली के दंगों ने हमें इतना हिला दिया कि लगभग सबने अपने टाइमलाइन पर एक स्टोरी डाल दी सबने आज तक, रिपब्लिक टीवी को छोड़कर रविश कुमार के फैन हो गए, Ndtv के पेज को फॉलो कर लिया गया है रोज ही हम अपनी आवाज़ बुलंद करते रहते हैं किसान आंदोलन के फेसबुक पेज को लाइक करके पेटिशन तो मत पूछो इतने साइन किये जाते हैं सोफे पर बैठ कर ऑनलाइन क्लास में बैठकर घंटों डिस्कसन होता है Farm laws के फायदे और नुकसान कितने रिपोर्टर ने तो डंडे और जेल की हवा भी खाई है मज़दूरों और किसान के लाश की सही एंगल से तस्वीर लेने में फिर इंस्टाग्राम पर पेटिशन साइन किये हैं, 'रिपोर्टर को रिहा करो' स्टोरी लगी है, पोस्ट हुए हैं, हज़ारों लाइक मिले हैं जंतर मंतर पर हम देखेंगे कई दफा गाया गया है। दो चार सेलेब्रिटी ने भी दो लाइन लिखे हैं ट्विटर पर और उस हफ्ते उनके फॉलोवर्स में कई गुना के इजाफे को भी देखा गया है.. आज अगर इसी को आवाज़ उठाना माना जाता है दर्द को यूँ ही महसूस करना कहा जाता है तो ना बोलना शायद उतना भी गलत नहीं..

पापा

---ग्रेसी त्यागी

भगवान के बदले जिन्हें मैंने पाया है, मेरे ऊपर रहता हरदम उनका साया है वो कोई और नहीं मेरे पापा है। जिंदगी जीना उन्होंने सिखाया है, मुश्किलों में हँसना उन्होंने सिखाया है वो एक इंसान मेरी हर जीत पर मुस्कुराया है, दुसरो को खुश रखना मुझे उनसे ही आया है। अपना तिनका तिनका हमारे लिए बचाया है, खुद को भुलकर पहले हमे खिलाया है, घर का कोना कोना अपने हाथों से सजाया है, हमारी जरूरतों को अपना बनाया है। दुनियाँ में है नही कोई ऐसा, भगवान के बदले जिन्हें मैंने पाया है मेरे ऊपर रहता हरदम उनका साया है वो कोई और नहीं मेरे पापा हैं।



लव जिहाद कानून: सरकारी एजेंडा

-पूजा

इश्क सच्चा था मगर मुक्कम्मल न हो पाया था, इश्क को इश्क ने नहीं समाज ने ठुकराया था ,

हौसले बड़े थे वो आगे बढ़ने लगे, मजहब अलग थे जिसे लोग 'लव जिहाद' कहने लगे। (—रुचिता सिंह)

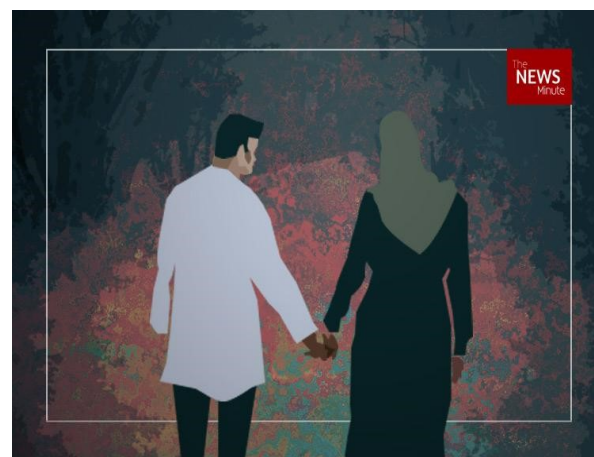
जरूरी नहीं की जब कोई विषय ट्रेंडिंग हो तभी उस पर बात किया जाए, कुछ बातें ऐसी हैं जो अपने में बहुत साधारण हैं मगर धर्म से जुड़ा हुआ जानकर हम बात करना नहीं चाहते।

प्यार किसी मज़हब या उम्र को देखकर नहीं किया जाता, प्यार तो किसी से भी किया जा सकता है। मगर जब बात धर्म की आती है तो यह समाज धर्म की ज्यादा परवाह करता है, और दो लोगों के प्रेम को 'लवजिहाद' का नाम दे दिया जाता है। उन्हें अलग करने में पूरा समाज एकजुट हो जाता है और उस समय तो ऐसा लगता है की हमारे अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता का कोई महत्व नहीं है। अगर किसी लड़की का धर्म परिवर्तन भी हुआ है तो इसका मतलब ये नहीं की हर हिन्दू लड़की की शादी मुस्लिम लड़के से बहला फुसलाकर ही की जाती है। जो लोग सच में एक दूसरे को पसंद करते हैं और शादी करते हैं उन्हें भी लवजिहाद कह देना कैसे ठीक है? हमारे शब्द लोगों पर बेहद असर करते हैं और उनके बीच मानसिक तनाव बनता जाता है। लवजीहादी जैसे कानूनों का होना लड़कियों की चयन के अधिकार को खतम करता है अगर कोई अपने साथी को चुनता है ये उसकी पसंद की एक अभिव्यक्ति है जिसे संविधान की धारा 19 और 21 के तहत मान्यता प्राप्त है जोड़े को समुदाय, परिवार और समाज से किसी अनुमति की जरूरत नहीं है।

2016 का हादिया लव जिहाद केस 2017 में केरल हाई कोर्ट ने हादिया की शादी को अवैध घोषित कर दिया था मगर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 2018 में हादिया और उसके पति शाफीन जहां की शादी को सही करार दिया और फैसले में कहा है कि हादिया और शाफीन जहां पति-पत्नी की तरह रह सकते हैं क्योंकि इनको अपना साथी चुनने का पूरा अधिकार है। कोर्ट ने कहा कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद-21 ने अपनी पसंद और इच्छा से किसी व्यक्ति के साथ शांति से रहने की आजादी देता है।



'लव जिहाद' के बारे में ऐसी थ्योरी दी जाती है जिसमें दावा किया जाता है कि मुस्लिम शख्स साजिश करता है और किसी गैर-मुस्लिम से प्यार करने का दिखावा करता है, खासकर हिंदू महिलाओं से, जिससे उसका धर्म परिवर्तन कराया जा सके। ऐसे में अगर कोई धर्मपरिवर्तन के मामले में दोषी पाया जाता है तो इसकी सजा राज्य सरकारों ने निर्धारित की है। हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तरप्रदेश, मध्यप्रदेश राज्यों में लव जिहाद कानून लागू है जबभी सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा लवजिहाद के मामलों के जब प्रमाण मांगे जाते हैं तो राज्यों के पास कोई प्रमाण ही नहीं होता। इस लवजिहाद की आड़ में झूठे मामले जरूर दर्ज हैं जिसका अकड़ा नहीं है मगर गूगल पर पढ़ा जा सकता है ।



26 दिसंबर 2017 गाज़ियाबाद बीजेपी अजय शर्मा दर्जनों लोगों के साथ शादी रोकने चले गए थे क्योंकि लड़की की शादी मुस्लिम लड़के से करवाई जा रही थी परिवार की सहमति से, मगर परिवार ने विरोध किया तो मामला ठंडा हो गया है। हर चीज़ में कट्टरवादी हो जाना गलत है, पिछले साल ही तनिष्क ज्वेलरी के एक विज्ञापन को भी लवजिहादी करार किया जाने लगा था जबकि उस विज्ञापन में भारत की विविधता और एकता को दिखाने की कोशिश की गई थी। इस कंपनी का इरादा किसी धार्मिक भावनाओं को ठेस पहुंचाना नहीं था, खैर विज्ञापन कुछ लोगों को पसंद नहीं आया और उनके अनुसार यह लव जिहाद को बढ़ावा दे रहा था। मगर देश की आधी जनता विज्ञापन के समर्थन में थी।

मेरा मानना है की अगर दो लोग एक दूसरे को पसंद करते हैं और खुश हैं तो उनमें उनका प्यार देखा जाये ना की उनके धर्म से उनकी जिंदगी का अनुमान लगाया जाए। हम ऐसे समाज का हिस्सा हैं जहाँ प्यार हो जाना ही खतरों से खली नहीं है प्यार को एक अपराध के रूप में देखा जाता है, आज हम हिन्दू मुस्लिम कर रहे हैं फिर कल हम दूसरे धर्मों को लेकर आलोचना करने में जुट जायेंगे मगर हम भूल जाते हैं कि प्यार एक ऐसी कड़ी है जो दुश्मन को भी एक कर देती है। माना की लोगों की सहमति के बिना धर्म परिवर्तन करवाना गलत है और उनको सज़ा होनी चाहिए मगर इसका मतलब ये नहीं की हम बाकी लोगों को छुपकर जीने पर मजबूर कर दें, जो खुशी से जीना चाहते हैं। हमें सबकी भावनाओं का ध्यान रखना और सम्मान करना जरूरी है।