

English (Hons) Part-3; Paper-7; Unit-I; Topic
"INDIAN WOMEN", BEC-Series 51; by:-
GIANDESH KUMAR.

INDIAN WOMEN: SHIV K KUMAR

Shiv K. Kumar is a gifted Indian English poet. He was a professor in English at the University of Hyderabad, visiting professor in several universities including Cambridge and Yale. He is widely travelled and has published several works. Notable among them are, 'Articulate Silence' (1970), 'Cowwebs in the Sun' (1974), 'The Last Wedding Anniversary' (1975) and a play 'Subtle Fugues' (1976). A remarkable welcome feature in his work is the pervasive and irony humour. Cultural interaction is one of his recurring themes.

The present poem "Indian Women" has been taken from the anthology "Cowwebs in the Sun", captures the plight of the Indian women waiting in an expectation in a male-dominated society.

Shiv. K. Kumar is known for his portrayal of India and its different aspects of in a very beautiful way. He is essentially concerned with the "Indianness" of his experience in order to recreate new themes, techniques and idioms, distinct from writer all

over the world who write in English. His poems on Indian subjects depict the natural scene and environment, Indian life and Indian myth and philosophy. His treatment of Indian themes is so genuine and obvious that it remains unaffected from the Western attitude of the poet. His poetry epitomizes the multi-dimensional experience of being Indian - the inheritance of a glorious culture and civilization, the suffering of the present and glimpses of aspiration and hope for the future. In his specifically Indian poem, "Indian Women" we can see the Indian culture and tradition when he describes the patience of Indian women waiting for ^{their} men's return.

" Patiently they sit
Like empty Pitcher
On the mouth of the village well...
waiting for their men's return.

In the poem, the poet describes the patient waiting of Indian women for their men to arrive. He draws an analogy between this waiting and empty pitchers sitting on the mouth of the well to be filled with water. Through this analogy, the poet vividly describes the helplessness, dependence and acceptance of fate women learn to live within the village of India. The poet says that life

in India is baked in the fire of sun, sex and poverty. Women in Indian village wait for their men folk patiently.

They do not sketch any impressions of a angry eyebrows on the mud wall of their houses. While pleating their hair, they think of their hopes which they have from their men for whom they are waiting. They look into the water of the well which acts like mirror and reflects the moisture in their eyes.

While sitting they sketch zodiac sign on the sands and take care of their fair thighs which have tatoos marks on them. Indian women keep on waiting for their husbands to arrive till late evening & inspite of having neglected their household chores. Women of the west are logical and consider waiting to be a time waste of sitting down on a hot day like unlike Indian women who are intuitive can wait till any longer duration for their beloved husband to return. Taking care of husband and house work becomes the first priority for the Indian women more than her food, sleep and rest.

"Patiently they sit like empty pitchers".