

## ***The Bachelor of Arts: An Inspiration for Young Generation***

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### **ABSTRACT**

A writer gets inspiration from his surroundings and from his social milieu. He also writes many things from the experience of his life. R.K. Narayan is one of the most renowned writers of South India. In his novels, he has presented whatever he has found in society and the surroundings around him. He also expressed many things which the life presented before him. Narayan was an inspired writer; he got his inspiration from all the ordinary people scattered all around him. Narayan has presented the realities of life in many of his novels. He wrote for all ages, for children, for youth, for men, for women, for parents etc. His writings cover all the aspects of life. It is said that Narayan never tries to preach or sermonize, but if we go through his novels, there are some particular messages for the readers. A close study of his novels reveals the fact that there are so many temptations and factors which deviate the human beings from their routine life or their usual paths. Among these factors, love is a very powerful emotion which attracts the man. Since ancient time love has been a powerful attraction. It attracts and deviates the man from his path, this message is given by Narayan through his novels. The deviation creates so many problems and sufferings in his life and also to the persons related to him. But with their firm resolution, they can overcome the problems of their life and return to their normal routine life as Chandran (the protagonist of *The Bachelor of Arts*) does. The life of Chandran is an inspiration for the young generation.

### **KEYWORDS**

R.K. Narayan; Love; Young Generation.

A writer gets inspiration from his surroundings and from his social milieu. He also writes many things from the experience of his life. R.K. Narayan is one of the most renowned writers of South India. In his novels, he has presented whatever he has found in society and the surroundings around him. He also expressed many things which the life presented before him. Narayan was an inspired writer; he got his inspiration from all the ordinary people scattered all around him. Narayan has presented the realities of life in many of his

novels. He wrote for all ages, for children, for youth, for men, for women, for parents etc. His writings cover all the aspects of life.

It is said that Narayan never tries to preach or sermonize, but if we go through his novels, there are some particular messages for the readers. If we closely look at his novels, in each novel, he presents the wonderful part of life. His writing career started with his first novel *Swami and Friends*. His first novel presents the innocent life of school going children. It is the story of Swami, a carefree and naughty

child and his friends. After this novel, he wrote different novels with different themes which present many aspects of life.

As in *The Bachelor of Arts* the protagonist Chandran is attracted by the love of Malathi and he also deserts his parents. In *Waiting for the Mahatma*, Sriram is attracted by the love of Bharati and he forgets everything and he also deserts his granny who brings him up with care. In *Mr. Sampath: The Printer of Malgudi*, Ravi is also attracted by the love of film actress Shanti and becomes crazy for her. In *The Painter of Signs*, Raman is deviated and attracted by the love of Daisy. He is so much attracted by her that he follows her blindly and even deserts his business and also his aunt who always takes care of him. In *The Guide*, Raju is attracted and deviated by the love of Rosie, even he does not care for the society and for his mother and he starts to live with her. All these characters Chandran, Sriram, Ravi, Raman, Raju, they all are attracted towards the attraction of women, their love, their beauty or by their sex.

The deviation creates so many problems and sufferings in their lives and also to the persons related to them. For example, in *The Bachelor of Arts* Chandran himself and his parents suffer a lot. In *Waiting for the Mahatma*, Sriram has to face many problems and even his granny also faces so many troubles in her life. In *Mr. Sampath: The Printer of Malgudi*, Ravi and Mr. Sampath have to suffer a lot of mental agony and also their family bear all the complications with them. In *The Painter of Signs*, Raman suffers, his business spoils completely because of Daisy and also his aunt leaves the home and goes away leaving him alone. In *The Guide*, Raju loses so many things because of Rosie, he loses his business of railway shop, his job as a tourist guide, his mental peace and also his mother has to leave the home. Thus, through these novels Narayan has given a message that love is a strong human emotion which affects the human

being powerfully and can deviate them from their path, but with their firm resolution, they can overcome the problems of their life and return to their normal routine life as Chandran does. The life of Chandran is an inspiration for the young generation.

*The Bachelor of Arts* (1937) is a very famous novel of Narayan. Through this novel he has presented the life of youth, through his protagonist Chandran, he has presented the problem of youth. He has presented their struggle for career, their confusion, and their complications after their deviation in life. Actually, this novel is an inspiration for those youth who are at the threshold of their career but they fall in love and this love deviates them from their path, their goal. How they suffer and also their families with them, it is described vividly through the protagonist Chandran. He has so many hopes for his future after completing his graduation but after falling in love his career is spoiled and his mind is deviated and he faces many problems but with his determination. He faces all these situations and overcomes the problems of his lives. In this novel, Narayan has presented the problems of Adolescent mind.

*The Bachelor of Arts* is the story of Chandran. He has a happy family including his parents and his younger brother Seenu. He is studying in college and completing his graduation. He has no worry about life, enjoying the life with his friend Ramu.

But suddenly a twist comes in his life. He is a graduate now. He has so many dreams for his future, for his career but he doesn't know about the twist that life is bringing for him. He is also preparing for going abroad, but suddenly one day Malathi comes in his life, when he sees her, he is attracted towards her at first sight and he falls in love with her and from here everything is scattered in his life. Instead of thinking about his career, he always thinks about that girl Malathi, his mind is deviated by her thoughts. He can't decide anything

in his life, he loves her passionately and wants to marry her. His parents also become ready to marry him with that girl, but due to horoscope matching and some other reasons, he could not marry her and she marries to some other person, now his life, becomes pessimistic, he falls ill and disappointed with life.

He does not like the surroundings and the things which remind him about Malathi. His parents also help him to come out of all these frustrations but failure in love scatters his life. He tries to runaway from his life and from the complications which life has presented before him. He becomes a fake Sanyasi and wanders from here and there but he does not get satisfaction, he faces so many troubles and the bitter experiences of life and life itself makes him realize that 'Love is only an illusion'. His thoughts also express his realization about love.

He railed against that memory, against love. There was no such thing; a foolish literary notion. If people didn't read stories they wouldn't know there was such a thing as love. It was a scorching madness. There was no such thing. (*The Bachelor of Arts*, P.112.)

He thinks about his parents and he also feels his responsibility towards his parents:

He had deserted his parents, who had spent on him all their love, care and savings. He told himself that he had surely done this to spite his parents, who probably had died of anxiety by now. This was all his

return for their love and for all that they had done for him. The more he reflected on this, the greater became his anger with Malathi. It was a silly infatuation. (*The Bachelor of Arts*, P.111.)

He decides to return to his home. After returning home, he again starts to think about his career and with his firm resolution, he establishes his own business, he takes the agency of paper and with determination, he tries to avoid his all-past memories and he also agrees to marry a girl Susila selected by his parents. After marriage he again returns to his normal life. Thus, with his determination, he tries to overcome his past complications and he succeeds.

This novel gives a wonderful message to young generation that anything may happen in life and circumstances can create so many problems and complications in life but if a person realizes the reality of life and he decides to do anything with determination, he can face the life boldly as in the novel the protagonist Chandran who goes in depression with life, his firm resolution helps him to come out from all these situations and finally he returns to his normal routine life again. The young generation can take inspiration from the protagonist Chandran.

To conclude we can say that the story of Chandran has a wonderful message that failure in love can lead the life towards depression but try to explore the new ways for a new beginning of life.

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