

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Duncan has created an egoistic heroine Elfrida who breaks the love relationship with Kendal and friendship with Janet Cardiff. She does not win at the end of the novel. As she frustrates in love she commits suicide. It is the shocking end of the novel because death is not the final solution on the worries, tensions and frustration. As a new woman she had to accept her life with its good and bad aspects. Except this, she is a hardworking girl who rewrites her journals according the opinions of different editors but does not leave her hopes for success. In the end she writes her own novel "*An Adventure in Stage-Land*". In the novel, Elfrida thinks over the problems and lives of the ladies at the chorus line of the Peach Blossom Company at Cheynemouth. She exposes the problems like poverty, exploitation, money, divorce, second marriage, jealousies, an intrigues, etc. Elfrida is really conscious of the condition of the women who are neglected in the society. So, the novel *A Daughter of Today* is portrayed the new woman, Elfrida.

Elfrida is today's daughter who likes to live as a single woman because she considers marriage and love as major obstacles in achieving her ambition. So, Elfrida is career minded woman who sacrifices her love and friendship to achieve her goal.

In the same way Duncan has portrayed the new woman in the novel *Set In Authority*. Dr. Ruth Pearce is an independent woman and a friend of Arden who is a Chief Commissioner of Ghoom. Ruth is a doctor by occupation and has no established in Pilaghur. As a single and a professional woman, she visits everywhere lonely. Being a courageous woman, she creates her own place by developing friendship with the commissioner and

takes part in the conversation with Sir Ahmad Houssein, as well as shows her interest in philosophy and takes part in philosophical discussions with them on spiritual issues.

Ruth rejects the convention of marriage and proves that any woman can live without marriage and stand on her own feet by earning her own living. She believes that a woman can get prestige in society by taking education. According her, every woman should be conscious of her rights; get employment and try to live independently. Ruth puts her own example as a new woman before Hiria who is ignorant about her rights.

As a friend, she supports Mr. Arden and takes part in the investigation of 'Morgan Case.' She helps him in this case and finds out the real culprit of the matter. She also becomes the prominent participant in the Anti-Government agitation which begins in the Dufferin Hospital for women. Here she behaves as a political woman who is interested in the affairs of British government. By giving the effective speech to the people she inspires all the women in India.

She is associated with Arden only on the ground of their shared ideals, but when he admits that he has physical attraction for her, she ends her friendship with him and starts living alone. So, Ruth is portrayed as the new woman who is independent and does not believe in so-called principles of love and friendship.

Jessica Arden who is a wife of Mr. Arden is also a new woman. In some proportion, she is partly new and partly orthodox woman. She is highly educated but lives her life as a traditional woman. Believing in the new thoughts, she has full faith in her

husband and allows him to dance with other ladies. She is not possessive about her husband and so does not feel jealous of other women. Her keen interest in reading as well as her talent for arranging her house reflects that she is a typical housewife as well as a new woman.

Ruth Pearce's maid Hiria is an illiterate and a conventional woman. Though she is not educated, she does not make discrimination between a daughter and a son. Thus she shows her belief in equality of sexes even though she is illiterate and common woman. Duncan portrays her as a New Woman.

The novelist has explored in the two novels the women like Elfrida and Ruth who are stronger than their men counterparts. They are the New Women because they have acquired their independent position with their sheer efforts to think individually. In the two novels the heroines overcome their emotions, pettiness, smallness and self-effacement of the traditional feminine personality. In *A Daughter of To-Day*, Elfrida overcomes the limitations of her feminine gender. She is so sure of independent, sexless genius in her that she scorns what her friend Janet calls love, especially on its physical basis. She declares that marriage is probably a necessity of the species of human being. The women can live their life without husband. She does not want a subordinate position.

Elfrida is a symbol for all modern women who take the opportunities of their rights and face the challenges of their concerned occupations. Elfrida, Ruth, and Mrs Tring all the heroines, prove that women can live without a parental support and

control, because two of them Elfrida and Ruth live unmarried. Elfrida is an ambitious woman, who has creativity but is not practically skilled. She is often deceived, and is so much convinced of her own rights, opinions and talents. She commits suicide in the end of the novel. Here we understand that she lacks self confidence which she needs in every stage of her life. She wants quick success but cannot understand her surrounding world and its manners rightly. She requires self-discipline and proper judgement which is necessary to shape her career. The novelist Sara Duncan believes that women should need to move slowly into the positions of power and responsibility. Ruth is a prominent New Woman who is highly qualified. She knows the society: the people, their behaviour, manners, life-style, etc. and she also knows the condition of women in India. She hates marriage system and proves that a woman can live a single life and make her career at her level best.

Thus, in the two novels of Sara Duncan, Elfrida and Dr. Ruth Pearce are portrayed the astonishing heroines who are better than men and prove themselves as the New Women.

BARR. BALASOBI KUMAR . LIBRARY
SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR,