

Rumi's Daughter

Name

Department and university name

Course code

Subject: Literature

Professor name

Date

Introduction

“The story of the Rumi’s daughter” by Muriel Maufroy is around a girl name as Kimya. The theme of the story is all about spirituality, mysticism, Sufism and a true love for God. Half of this novel is imaginary and the half of it is based on reality. The main characters of the story are Kimya, a 7 years old girl, her father Farokh who is new in that area and is Turkish, her mother Evodokia who is a Christian, Jalal ud Din Rumi who is referred as Maulana that means a guide or a teacher in the whole story and Shams, a Dervish from Tabriz who is a spiritual personality.¹ There are other characters as well in the story like Sultan Walad and Alaud Din that are grown up children of Maulana, and another is a six months old son of Maulana who is named as Alim. There are also some of the friends of Maulana named as Sadruddin Qonavi, Namj al Razi and Salah ud din Zarkob. The setting of the story includes the place and time. The place where the story is based is Anatolia in the start and in the mid till end it is based in Konya while time of the story is Thirteenth century and the story starts in 1239.

Description:

The story starts with a beautiful quote of Jalal ud Din Rumi in which Rumi compares the rose to the life of man. The rose that have more water will blossom more. In the same way spiritual life can make more blossom in anyone’s life². This Story starts in the small village of Anatolia. In the village, there was a father named as Father Cristodom. From there the writer wants to show that Islam and the language of Turkomans were slowly getting over the Christianity and Greek

¹ Ghazal, Shumaila. 2021. "Book Review: Rumi’s Daughter." September 1. Accessed January 25, 2022. <https://defensetalks.com/book-review-rumis-daughter/>.

² Maufroy, Muriel. 2004. *Rumi's Daughter*. London-Sidney: Rider Books. <https://archive.org/details/RumisDaughterMurielMaufroy/page/n5/mode/2up>.

language in that area¹. Now a days Anatolia is known as Turkey³. In that village of Anatolia, there was a seven years old girl named as Kimya who is seen different from all the rest of the children of the village. She loved staying all alone. She found calmness in the mountains, spring, murmur of wind, in the dawn, etc. She would ask herself questions like, “Why am I alive? Where was I before I was born?”² One day she was telling her mother while sobbing that she was somewhere where she was really happy but suddenly it was all over³. She was dying of being lonely and despair³. Her father Farokh who was new in that village and her mother Evodokia who was a Christian were really worried about their child. Even sometimes her father would joke that she might be a witch. Both of the parents wonder every time how come she can be their child. Her father talked to his cousins about his daughter and they suggests them about the nearby cities Konya and Laranda where people would wear strange cloths and speak strange languages¹.

Kimya’s father did not wanted her to go for education t another place, but was finally convinced by her mother and was taken to another city called as Konya. They decided to take her to some orthodox nuns in Konya so that they can educate her, but unfortunately the nuns were no longer there, so they went to a renowned and reputed leader and philosopher, Jalal ud Din Rumi, who identifies her alterity. Jalal ud Din Rumi is a kind of character in the story that accepts people of all kind of beliefs and give them education. Here the writer wants to draw on the belief that the

¹ KOHSHAN, SIDRA. 2018. "RUMI’S DAUGHTER- BOOK REVIEW." January 21. Accessed January 25, 2022. <https://sidraaa456.wordpress.com/2018/01/21/rumis-daughter-book-review/>.

² Maufroy, Muriel. 2004. *Rumi's Daughter*. London-Sidney: Rider Books.
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³ Ghazal, Shumaila. 2021. "Book Review: Rumi’s Daughter." September 1. Accessed January 25, 2022. <https://defensetalks.com/book-review-rumis-daughter/>.

gender and religious differences are mere in the eyes of God. The Maulana adopts her as her daughter. He treats her as his daughter and also takes her into his guidance wing.

Kimya has a strong relationship with Maulana and his family and treats Maulana like her father. The Maulana's second wife, Kerra was also Christian¹. The Maulana would tell Kimya different stories and she started learning from these stories. He tells one of the famous dialogue to Kimya, "Love for the Creator is latent in all men."¹ Kimya already know about Maulana and his teachings from Ahmed who teaches her the Persian word, "Doost" which means "A friend" or "The person I love."² In the rest of the novel Kimya learns from the acts in his day to day life and stories that Maulana tells Kimya³. The Maulana has kindness and warmth for Kimya who is not even ten at that time. There are other characters in the story like Sultan Walad and Alaud Din that are grown up children of Maulana, and another is a six months old son of Maulana who is named as Alim. There are also some of the friends of Maulana named as Sadruddin Qonavi, Namj al Razi and Salah ud din Zarkob.

There is another friend of Maulana named as Shams of Tabriz, who is mentioned as "The confident of (his) soul."⁴ in the novel. He has an influence over both Rumi and Kimya. He is like a saint to both of them that transforms their life forever. Maulana is so much attached to Shams.

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³ Ijaz, Quratul Ain. 2020. "BOOK REVIEW: RUMI'S DAUGHTER!" Accessed January 25, 2022. <http://blogs.dunyanews.tv/27238/>.

⁴ Maufroy, Muriel. 2004. *Rumi's Daughter*. London-Sidney: Rider Books. <https://archive.org/details/RumisDaughterMurielMaufroy/page/n5/mode/2up>.

When Shams arrived from Tabriz, he shared a few words with Maulana Rumi and he fainted due to that¹. Maulana Rumi took him to one of his friend's home and over there both of them stayed in a room for eighteen days¹. The family of Maulana and Kimya could see only the light under the room. When Maulana came out from the room after eighteen days, he looked much happier than before. When even he came out, he would spend most of his time with Shams.² After that people hatred towards Shams developed as they thought that Shams have hypnotized Maulana. People said that Shams was involved in blasphemy after he arranged a musical night that had wine in it and a prostitute dancing². Suddenly Shams disappears from the place and Maulana Rumi is very unhappy. He remains sad every time and talks about Shams³. He then sends his son to find Shams, who somehow manages to bring him back. He then gave consent to Kimya his foster daughter to marry Shams. Kimya agreed and was then married to Shams who was a spiritual soul. Kimya's actual parents were not there in her marriage⁴ they never visited Kimya and nor did Kimya tried to visit them in her life. This was an arranged marriage and their relationship was none but of a teacher and a disciple in the whole story⁵. One night she went to Shams' room where there was a

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⁵ KOHSHAN, SIDRA. 2018. "RUMI'S DAUGHTER- BOOK REVIEW." January 21. Accessed January 25, 2022. <https://sidraaa456.wordpress.com/2018/01/21/rumis-daughter-book-review/>.

bright glow. She noticed that there was fire in Sham's room. The door was open. When she entered there, she noticed that Shams was unconcerned about it. She wanted to rush to rescue Shams and help him out but was suddenly stopped when she saw that the fire was a protection rather than threat. She stood there still for a while and then returned to her room shivering.¹

This shows the spiritual nature of Shams and how much he has travelled in love for God. Kimya was sometimes really happy with Shams and overwhelmed with joy, while at other times she was burning in pain and could not express her feelings and the pain would be never ending for her¹. The relationship of Shams and Kimya tells the main theme of the Sufism that is the love and separation. There is a quote in the novel that says that love is all about separation². It has nothing to do with happiness³. It was really a challenging part for Kimya when she was trying to get in the lifestyle of Shams because of his spiritual nature and how much he has been absorbed in the love for God. Kimya is very much in love with Shams². Later in the whole story Shams refuses to sleep with Kimya, even though she uses some of the tricks to attract him towards herself. After getting married nothing in the life of Kimya changes except her morning routine as she had to give breakfast to Shams. Shams and Maulana Rumi would spend the whole day in the study discussing on different matters especially on their love for God and Sufism. Kimya wanted attention from Shams³. Even the villagers would back bite and would say that Shams is not allowing Kimya to

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meet with people, but that was also not true. It was again a propaganda on Shams as the villagers hated him. This gives the idea that “Sufi is a celibate” and a Sufi should be free from all worldly desires and should only focus on his love with God. Kimya and Shams lived like strangers till Kimya found the real purpose of her life². Shams would always tell Kimya that one can find God if he/she wants to, and would tell her that she is really blessed. Kimya was becoming weaker and weaker day by day¹. Her face was turning pale until one day she fainted in the kitchen when the Maulana second wife Kerra was there. Kimya saw her husband at the side of Kerra and said that her heart is bursting open. She was then fainted like that for the next two weeks. This story mostly tells about that how Kimya was so young and agreed to set her soul ablaze in pain².

Shams was with Rumi for a very long time and obeyed whatever Shams said. One day Shams asked Maulana for wine and he agreed¹. The villagers came to know about this and were really shocked. Even Kimya saw Shams one day when he was pouring wine into a glass and then drank it. He also gave some of it to Maulana Rumi who obeyed what Shams said and drank the wine³. The whole story says about how Kimya managed her divine journey of self-discovery and how she managed to know the purpose of her life. Kimya Set her soul ablaze and in the whole novel it is witnessed that how Kimya is burning and transforming as Shams allows her to, “almost at will to enter the place where her heart [is] content.”⁴. Shams would neglect her for many days and would be locked in the study room with Maulana Rumi without food even for many days and

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⁴ Maufroy, Muriel. 2004. *Rumi's Daughter*. London-Sidney: Rider Books.
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night and both of them would be discussing some mystical conversations. She would bear this behavior of Shams because she understood that her goal was to understand the real meaning of love and God have made her because of that². She would bear Sham's mood swings and his strict behavior towards her so that she can learn from him to love and to be loved¹.

The end of the story is a real tragedy in which Kimya died after being pale and weak. She was fainted for two weeks after which she died and that Shams disappeared for ever. Kimya was in the kitchen and was thinking of her conversation with Kerra who was the second wife of Maulana. Her health was really weak in the last few days. It was November afternoon and she had a great burden on her heart. She emptied a water bowl so that it can be refilled in the next morning. Then she left for visiting a woman whose husband had died recently. Maulana and Shams were in the study and Alim who was the youngest son of Maulana Rumi was also asleep and there was silence all over the home. She was really tired. She sat down and closed her eyes and suddenly it seemed difficult for her to breath. She felt as if an invisible hand is squeezing her heart. However, she was feeling a strange joy of being dragged away. She then opened her eyes and saw that Kerra was looking at her with a great concern. Maulana was standing behind Kerra who asked her that what has happened to Kimya. Then Kimya asked Kerra why was she in that bed. She told her that one of the sons of Maulana found her unconscious in the kitchen and brought her to the bed².

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Kimya felt so weak and wanted to sleep. Kerra then gave her a liquid to drink as she will feel better after that it tasted bitter. Then second time she opened her eyes she found herself all alone. Alim was crying in another room, but she was unconcerned with everything. After that Kerra came in and told her that we had no hope that she would open her eyes again. She said that she is alright but feel a little weak and is thirsty. Kerra gave her some water that was cool and refreshing. Then Kerra told her that she had been unconscious for almost two weeks. Kimya hardly remembered anything. Kerra offered her with some soup. Suddenly she heard her mother voice and told her that she is really fine and is going where she meant to go, to the mountains, springs, murmur of trees and the dawn. She also noticed her father. She then suddenly heard Kerra telling her to drink some of the soup. She then screamed where she is and where her father is. She then screamed and said that she is going where she meant to go. Shams was also there but at this time she could not see the intense look on his face. She could see Shams as well as Maulana, her father as well as her mother. Her heart was drifting faster and faster. Her final words were that, "My heart is bursting open."¹ There was nothing left then but light flooding in. After her death, Shams also disappeared forever. This was not an end for Kimya, but was only the beginning².

Conclusion:

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² Ijaz, Quratul Ain. 2020. "BOOK REVIEW: RUMI'S DAUGHTER!" Accessed January 25, 2022. <http://blogs.dunyanews.tv/27238/>.

This story is all about spirituality, mysticism, Sufism and a true love for God. It is a story of a young girl, Kimya who is not like other children of her village. Her father and mother are really concerned about her and wanted to give her to some orthodox nuns so that they can educate her. Unfortunately the nuns were no longer there and she was handed to Maulana Rumi who educated her through his life and through some stories. Kimya was only ten at that time. Then there is the entry of Shams who is a spiritual soul. Maulana became very much closer to Shams and spent more than two weeks with him in a room. After that the people in the village started to say that Shams have hypnotized Maulana. After that suddenly Shams disappeared. Maulana was very much sad and would always talk about Shams. He then sent one of his son and he found Shams and brought him back. After that Maulana became very much close to Shams. He then asked Kimya to marry him and Kimya agreed. Kimya was in love with Shams, but Shams would spend the whole day in the study with Maulana. She was facing a real difficulty in her life with Shams, then she learnt the real meaning of her life and then her love for God developed. At the end of the study Kimya dies after which Shams also disappeared forever.

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