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## Man Woman Relationships in R. K. Narayan's the Guide

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**Annotation:** R.K. Narayan is one of the towering and dominating men of letters among the Indian novelist writing in English. his work, *The Guide* is a powerful exploration of the theme of man-woman relationship where through Raju and Rosie, he has projected it very vividly and clearly. While delineating this relationship, Narayan has delved deep into the relationship of Raju and Rosie as he also take into consideration the extra marital affair between both of them which we find in adulterous and conventional sense. So, besides man-woman relationship, this theme is also expressed by Narayan with an uncommon degree of complexity.

**Key words:** ideology, malgudi, matrix, identity, relationship.

R.K. Narayan finds a place of pride among the illustrious Indian English creative triumvirate- the other two being Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. Unlike them, he never strays into the mazy intricacies of metaphysical fiction or the complexity of committed writing, but chooses to depict the foibles, follies and absurdities found in the life of the common man.

The most noticeable aspect of R.K. Narayan's fictional works is perhaps his commitment to Hindu ideals. Religious identity in general, and caste factor in particular, form an ideological matrix from which Narayan appears to operate his consciousness. His novels are set in an ideological space, the imaginary South Indian town, Malgudi to such an extent that some critics calls Malgudi as the real hero of his novels. The confined kingdom of Narayan, thus, exemplifies an underlying ideology which affirms cultural superiority and hegemony over the subordinate groups ,or overshadow them with its blind presence.

R.K. Narayan is richly endowed with the gift of seeing common characters from within and revealing them to their own plane. He has a very keen eye for the common things that lie around us as well as the ability to impart some random truths. Finding pleasure and happiness in simple things is a recurring feature of existence, which is the hallmark of his writings. The core of his heart lies in his singular gift, to present as valuable and beautiful anything that comes his way which is his greatest asset as an artist.

*The Guide* holds a place of eminence among his novels bagging the much coveted Sahitya Academy Award for his brilliant accomplishment. Like D.H. Lawrence who depicts men-women relationships in his novels, R.K. Narayan also is also pre-occupied with the theme of human relationships, particularly man-woman relationships. The rising fortune of Rosie, the talented dancer with the able support of Raju, a railway guide, forms the motif of the novel. Rosie, a lovely girl passionately fond of dancing, is supported by Raju and suppressed by her husband, Marco whose imagination is fired only by whatever is dead and decaying 'rather than things that lived and move their swing their limbs.

Rosie arrives in Malgudi with her husband, Marco, and his interest in archaeology takes them there. Rosie's association with a railway guide, Raju, tends to open the closed chapter of her life and gives a vent to her choice obsession of dancing. With Raju's assistance, her ecstasy for dancing is unabated and overturned as she comes up with gushing and buoyant when she excels as a

dancer. She is catapulted to dizzying heights of success, much applauded, living 'in the glow of this radiant existence'.

When Rosie starts practicing dance, Marco defies the wishes of his wife who desires to sell A to see a king-cobra. He says 'don't expect me to go with you. I cannot stand the sight of a snake- your interests are morbid. He is too steeped in his zeal for archeological that he neglects his wife's interests.

Both Raju and Rosie enjoy their life to the fullest as they live without the relation of husband and wife. They enjoy life to the brim. Uptill now, love and sex were the predominant factors in their relationship, but now money becomes the dominant factor as Rosie gets famous day by day, she is getting rich and prosperous. The huge amount of money earned by her is wasted by Raju in drinking, gambling and maintaining a lavish life-style. Rosie, on the other hand, also indulges herself in money as there are too many engagements, not even a moment of respite, and so she feels like a circus animal, going round and round and suffers from a feeling of weariness. Earlier, and there she was a believer in art for art's sake, but here it is art for money's sake.

In the meantime, Marco also tries to seek some reconciliations with Rosie in their relationship. He tries to convince her by sending a book for Rosie so that the relationship can be revived. When Raju finds the book sent by Marco, he suffers from a sense of jealousy and insecurity as he hides the book sent by Marco to Rosie, for he is afraid of her admiration for his genius. Raju forges Rosie's signature on a voucher to get jewellery lying in Rosie's and Marco's name, but the forgery is detected and Raju is sentenced to three year imprisonment. Now, Rosie has to look after all her business herself and she manages her own affairs.

During his jail terms, Raju turns out to be a model prisoner who has the knack of adjusting himself to the changed circumstances. After his release, he is not aware of the fact what role his destiny is going to be played from him. Some are born saints, others become saints, and there are some whensainthood is thrust upon them, and such one is Raju.

He becomes a saint or a spiritual guide at village, Mangal having same gift of eloquence, the same ability to make grand and mystifying statements, the same art of knowingness enables him to play his role with much success. He tries to run from the village, but could not as he has himself closed all the avenues to escape. The villagers ask him to undertake fast for rain, and finding no escape, he decides to for it thoroughly as the novelist also says in this connection: "for the first time in his life, he was making a personal effort; for the first time he was doing a thing in which he was not personally interested".

On the last day of the fast, he dies opportunely as a martyr as the novelist says: "he went down the steps of the river, halting for breath on each step, and with that he sagged down".

The novel has been hailed as a social, psychological, emotional and spiritual transformation of Raju in terms of his interactions and experiences, finally terminating into the role of a Mahatma.

In this way, R.K. Narayan's vision of life presented in the lie novel, *The Guide* is both comic and serious along with temporal and spiritual transformation of Raju- Rosie Malgudi syndrome.

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