

APHRA BEHN AS AN AUTHOR: A WOMAN OPERATING IN THE WORLD OF LITERATURE, THE DOMAIN OF MEN

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Abstract: The research focus on the status and empowerment of women in Aphra Behn play "The Rover". How she put herself on an equal footing with men. Through her writing she replied to all her male fellow competitor. This article basically focuses on the female characters.

Aphra Behn was called the first professional woman writer in English. She was the voice of the social group in seventeenth century England. She was the woman of the world and successfully steered her course in the contemporary society. This article explores the time in which men dominated in all the important social areas such as economics, commerce, politics, religion and culture. Therefore, in that Era the most striking about Aphra Behn, particularly is that she was a woman operating in the world of literature, the domain of men. It is beyond question that no one would treat a woman with serious respect in the domain of literature. The prejudice against a woman writer in itself was obvious in seventeenth century, the time in which men dominated in all the areas. The research show that how Aphra Behn made the males feel insecure in the English literary world of the time.

An age old method of suppression of women has been verbal abuse and crudity. In sense, the femininity in women helped men to assume power over them. It is possible that Aphra Behn recognize the direct matter-of-fact statement as a weapon to challenge male supremacy in the literary domain where she preferred to look straight into the eyes of men.

She absorbed uncritically a few things detrimental to her individual creativity. Her commercialism should be attributed to such an exposure, because of which she wrote plays, poems and fiction for the market. It has been supposed that her boldness in the treatment of love and marriage is a consequence of the pressures of living. Some find it a positive development in an era of upheaval and ferment which created conditions for free expression of views. In this way, her boldness is considered in terms of the demand of the period. We should appreciate the courage of a woman writer in times of deep social prejudice against female sex. If a woman stepped out of a traditional household to sell "wares", she was a whore.

Keywords: Empowerment, Prostitution, Sexual, Status and Women.

About Aphra Behn: Aphra Behn was a British playwright novelist, poet and translator. She was the woman in the world of men a staunch royalist a spy and scarlet woman condemned for loose morals. She was also the first woman in England to identify herself as a professional writer. She wrote to the occasion, and she wrote to make money. Her origin remain a mystery, in part because Behn may have deliberately obscured her early life. One tradition identifies Behn as the child known only as Ayfara who travelled in 1650s with a couple named Amis to Suriname, which was then an English possession she spend at least some time in Suriname. She return to England in 1664 and soon married a Dutch merchant. Her husband died before the end of 1665, leaving Aphra without a means of income. Almost nothing is known about Aphra Behn early life. It is estimated that she was born around 1650. There are few theories about her parentage. Something she was a daughter of a gentleman named John Johnson, a close relation of lord Willoughby. Others think Johnson may have taken her in as a foster child and still others think she was the daughter simple barber, John Amis, from Kent.

Introduction: It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of the women is improved. It is impossible for bird to fly on only one wing any woman had four fold status-role sequences as a daughter, wife, housewife (homemaker) and mother. The status and role of woman is

now experiencing far-reaching changes. Woman's equality in terms of education, employment and power is still an individual rather than a universal achievement. The Restoration period was a time of change in England. The influence of French fashion made the people frivolous and shallow. Aphra Behn raises interesting question on the position of woman in such a society. Her female character in the play "The Rover" expresses their freedom and identity in the manner in which they stand up against the choice made by the male character- both Florinda and Hellena go against their brother's designs for them. Unlike most early Restoration comedy, where the woman character were reduced to mere commodities who were being fought over by men, Aphra Behn portrays her woman characters as intelligent and free-spirited individuals. She aims her satire at a society that reduce woman to being mere trophies to be won.

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Evaluating woman social and sexual options: The Rover, speaks to this double standard, which limited her female peer's sexual desire to the realm of convent, Brothel or home. Sex loose in the topsy-turvy world of carnival, her characters demonstrated the active, complicated game required of women seeking to secure personal happiness. The dangers of the chase and the plays tidy conclusion, on the other hand, suggest at how ladies neither could nor should stray too far into the masculine roles of wooer and possessor. Late Stuart society, Behn seems to lament offered no place to the sexually free, libertine women. Behn's female characters strive for independence within the limitations of the English system of courtship and marriage. In "The Rover," the three leading ladies are all capable and proactive young woman who exhibit the initiative and daring reserved for cavaliers. Over the place of the place, each takes upon herself the position of active wooer. The foppish cavaliers of "The Rover" ARE juxtaposed as foils against these woman to further emphasis feminine ability and power. The romantic heroes, Willmore and Belvile, do win Hellena and Florinda, as well as their bounteous dowries, in the matrimony; however, their actions are nearly undoing along the way. The blundering behavior of the English cavaliers speaks to the reason and abilities of woman and encourages late Stuart Britain to respect the female libertine as a strong, capable lady, not a whore. Each woman begins the play bound one of the three fate Florinda to marriage Hellena to the nunnery and Angellica Bianca to well-paid prostitution-but they took their own decision to take all freedom. Their decision implies Behn's opinion that her peer should seek to escape the restrictions that define them. The action and treatment of women in Aphra Behn's play expose the narrow social limitation within which early-Modern British woman found themselves. Each of these characters endures a social struggle that fits into a bigger picture for the time, marriage, self-identity and social representation are all topics that woman of the Restoration were faces with and characterized what it mean to be a woman during that time. Behn's execution of these element make "The Rover" a critical part of the history of Restoration Theater. Aphra Behn as a female play wright in the seventeenth century, herself represent a conflict between the private and the political. First because knowledge was supposed to be the prerogative of men and second, because by doing so she would be violating feminine modesty in that she would be moving from the private domestic sphere into the public masculine world. In the words of Judith Kegan Gardiver and Jacqueline Pearson, "she imagines a new social order free of capitalist interest in men and in which men and women are equals. There is present in longing for community, a society in which the radical values of liberty, equality and fraternity would be possible for women and defined in women's terms." The lives of heroes and heroines of Aphra Behn's The Rover and the playwright herself can be interpreted as principal characters more or less totally negating the commodity centered. Contemporary ethos researching for a paradigm that was closer to genuine freedom and principled existence.

Conclusion: The basic aim of all feminist stances is to identify and challenge patriarchal male assumption which exploit and undermine the position of women. It is by no means an easy task since this assumptions underlie all the structures and institutions of a patriarchal society. Some of it is easy to identify, for example, the institution of marriage, where a women's will is not worthy of consideration, for she is to be given away according to the convenience of father and brother. Therefore we can see the same case in the play "The Rover" by Aphra Behn that hoe the three leading ladies of the play were forced to spend their life according to their brother and father. As the play moves on we see the three ladies of the play decided to mold their life and choose to their own happy freedom and desire.in

conclusion, to some extent it could be said that status of women and empowerment is not only confined only in some plays and writings of authors but it is a serious issue of the whole world thus we can say that equal and empowerment of women is the most important aspect of the world. Today Indian women have excelled in each and every field from social work to visiting space station. "When a man gets educated, only the man learns. When a woman gets educated the entire generation learns."

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