

A WOMAN'S STORY

A MIXTURE OF
EASTERN AND WESTERN CULTURE

 MOUSUMI HENSH DAS

A Woman's Story – A Mixture
of Eastern and Western Culture

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About the Author

MousumiHensh Das. (English M.A., Net, Research Scholar of Visva Bharati University, Former Lecturer in Seacom Skills University & Former Guest Lecturer in Purnidevi Chowdhury Girls' College)

This book is about the two stages of a woman's life named Rittika. Rittika is an Indian and loves everything like Indian culture, Indian heritage, Indian literature, Indian architecture and Indian sanskriti. After the completion of engineering degree, she has to go U.S.A. unwillingly for job. At first she remains indifferent towards U.S.A, but after remaining some years, she loves everything like American culture, American heritage, American literature and even the people of U.S.A. Being an Indian, her existence gradually becomes Americanized. She thinks why not East and West meet together because both are the creation of God. Rittika loves U.S.A. too much that even she does not want to return her own country India.

(I don't want to neglect E.M Forster's view who has said – "East is East and West is West, and never the

twain shall meet.”I don’t want to look down upon
Kipling’s saying-

“Oh, East is East, and West is West, and
never the twain shall meet,”

In my book, my heart and soul endeavour is to
mingle East and West into one unit.)

Preface

This is my first book. I have written this book with an ambition to mingle the East and the West culture together. From the ancient time, it is considered that thinking, culture and life-style of Eastern and Western people cannot mingle together. But in my fiction, my endeavour is to mingle both cultures into oneness. E.M. Forster in *A Passage to India* published in 1924 says- “East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet.” Kipling’s poem “The Ballad of East and West” was published in 1889, where Kipling says-

“Oh, East is East, and West is West, and
never the twain shall meet,”

I don’t want to neglect Forster and Kipling’s view. But in my fiction, there is a new aspect where two cultures are presented side by side and the similarities of two cultures are also presented.

**Dedicated to
my parents and husband.**

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A woman of 32 years is standing on the western coast of Mediterranean sea. The lukewarm wind is blowing and she looks at the setting sun raising her hand. The woman is dressed in a white top and black trouser. Her eyes are dark and steady. She is probably trying to remember some memorable events of past. Now she closes her eyes and goes to remember the incidents of past before nine years.

She is a girl of 23 years who lives in India. Her native place is Kolkata and educated in Birla Girls' High School. Her parents are Indians, she has enjoyed her childhood in India and by heart she is an Indian. In her childhood, she has visited each and every historical and educational places of India. She is the only loving daughter of her parents. The girl has so many friends like Anita, Priyanka, Somrita and Ruqya. She leads a very happy school life. She always gets marks more than 80%. After Madhyamik exam, Rittika chooses science stream as she wants to be an Engineer, she passes joint entrance exam and is now a student of Seacom Marine College. She is pursuing her engineering degree. In school life she led a very happy school life. Every year in school there was arrangement of educational tour. India is really so beautiful, because God has created India with a touch of healing balm. India is merged with so many

beautiful places. Not only India is beautiful but also Indian people, their habit of eating, dressing and thinking - all are beautiful. Rittika feels proud for her motherland and she does not want to go outside India. All Indians don't watch India with heartiness and passion, but Rittika is such a girl who tries to enjoy each and every beauty of her motherland and natural landscape of India. She is interested to know everything like Indian Myth, Indian Epic, Indian culture, Indian history, Indian constitution and visiting places. At first Rittika goes through Indian myth and Indian epic. Rittika quenches her thirst by acquiring knowledge from Indian epics like *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. Maharshi Valmiki is considered as the harbinger-poet of Sanskrit literature *Ramayana*. From Uttara Kanda, we come to know about the story of Valmiki's early life. In his early life, he was a robber named Ratnakar who used to robe people before killing. One day, he used to robe Narada Muni and Narada Muni helped him to realize his sin and provided him the way in which his all sins will be removed away. He told Ratnakar to repeat the name and after a long penance, a divine light came upon him and said that he is now free from all his sins and he was called Valmiki. *Ramayana* is written in Sanskrit and translated into so many regional languages. *Ramayana* is an ancient Sanskrit epic which follows Prince Rama's quest to rescue his beloved wife Sita from the clutches of Ravana and for this he takes the help of monkey Sugrib's army. The date of *Ramayana* is around 500 BCE to 100 BCE. The epic contains the teachings of the very Ancient Hindu

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This Is My First Book. In This Book, My Endeavour Is to Juxtapose Two Cultures- Eastern and Western Side by Side. I Think That When Reader Will Go Through the Book He or She Obviously Will Like This Book. If Readers Will Like This Book and Appreciate My View, I Will Think That My Writing of This Book Is Succeed Now.



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