

# **Existential and Cultural Concerns of Women in the Contemporary Society**

**Editors**

**Sutapa Choudhury**

**Soumita Chatterjee**

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The Almighty Great Mother is associated with "birth, transformation, death and rebirth" (Eckard35). However, Shyam Selvadurai's Amma represents 'transformation' and/or 're-birth' coupled with 'dismemberment' and/or 'death'. Amma is instrumental in transforming both herself and Arjie in the novel. Her assistance in embellishing Arjie's imagination to be bride by allowing him to enter her room is a sort of 'transformation' and/or 're-birth' for Arjie. Barring it, Amma's dogged self to go for the justice for Daryl Uncle's death is an example of 'transformation' and/or 're-birth' for Amma and a transformed Amma comes out. She in this case is 'Isis'-'The Good Mother'. But she also 'dismembers' Arjie's imagination ordering him to play with boys and thus she's incarnating herself as 'Kali'-'The Terrible Mother'.

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#### Web Links

- [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Well\\_of\\_Loneliness](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Well_of_Loneliness)
- [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Great\\_Mother](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Great_Mother)

## Chapter - 12

### A Study of the Nemesis of Women and Womanhood in Modern Era: The Practice of Dowry from Rabindranath Tagore's "Dena-Pauna" to Recent Issues

POULOMI SAHA\*

"Any young man, who makes dowry a condition to marriage, discredits his education and his country and dishonor womanhood"

—Mahatma Gandhi.

The above-mentioned meaningful line remains a kind of mere quotation in our 21st century. If we minutely observe the whole situation of a certain group of people then it will not be incorrect to establish the fact that this shameful evil system 'dowry' is still existing in our developing society. Dowry is one of the evil customs in which the groom's party in a marriage is paid by bride's parents in cash or some other expensive things and thus they ensure a proper reception of the bride at her in-law's residence. In easier way, it can also be defined as transformation of parental property at daughter's marriage. If dowry is not given then it leads to domestic violence, sexual exploitation, marital abuse and finally dowry deaths. Various writings like Rabindranath Tagore's 'Dena-Pauna', Manikuntala Sen's "In Search for Freedom: An Unfinished Journey" have been written, whereas various movies like "Puja"(Bengali movie), "Dahej"(Hindi movie) have been made, not only that, the News channels are still sharing real examples from various places. Keeping the whole critical situation in mind, my present paper, however, is in quest for the answers of few questions-

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