
**DETERMINATION OVERCOMES DESTINY
IN PREETI SHENOY'S NOVEL LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT**

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Abstract:

Everything in human life happens according to the decision of destiny. People used to say that the worst thing happens in their life are happening because of the fate written in their head. Ankita Sharma, the protagonist of the Novel *Life Is What You Make It* is also affected by the same law of nature, destiny. Ankita Sharma lives her life peacefully till she has finished her college. But when she enters the college life, which she doesn't like, the destiny drags her to study in a women's college.

A determination is also known as firmness, single-mindedness which will be simplified as will power. To attain a specific goal or destination, determination plays an important role. Destiny is often changing and it is sometimes fortunate and sometimes doomed. A human being doesn't have any control over it. If a person can control it, then he will become fortunate and to attain it, a determination has to be attained initially.

Keywords: determination, destiny, fate, control, study etc

Ankita Sharma doesn't try to overcome her destiny when she meets Abhishek in a 'Symphony' as an Office bearer of Mahaveer's College. The destiny brings entertainment in the life of Ankita Sharma through Abhishek. She enjoys the loving days that she spends with Abhishek. Here the author variants the difference between happiness and sorrow of human being. When the human gets happiness, he gets more excited but when the sorrow comes he gets more depressed.

Here, destiny is considered as a dangerous one from which one cannot have any chance to escape. The characteristic of destiny is giving everything an endless one whether it is happiness or sorrow. The depression because of the destiny makes Ankita think herself as worst and prompts her to commit suicide. Preeti Shenoy expresses her thought through the above lines that human cannot run from their destiny easily. The destiny has the power to win the life of human until they feel reduced by that. Ankita Sharma also overcomes by destiny until she feels herself is reduced by destiny.

Within a few days, the destiny takes all happiness from Ankita's life, it gives sorrows, instead of joys. Ankita gets an interview call from a great institute in Mumbai. It gives happiness to Ankita, but the destiny makes her separate from Abhishek. Ankita's father feels himself flying when her daughter gets in big IT Institute in Mumbai. Ankita's father also gets a job transfer to Bombay. The destiny turns the whole family of Ankita and she becomes happy. But Abhishek's destiny becomes worst by the decision of Ankita Sharma.

Ankita wants to fly to Bombay, but Abhishek wants her to be with him. Ankita cannot overcome her destiny, because she wants to go to Bombay. Abhishek wants Ankita to marry him. The sudden decision of Ankita changes the destiny in Abhishek's life completely, Abhishek also cannot overcome his destiny. He wants Ankita, but he cannot change her decision. At last, he decides to end his life.

The destiny brings the life of Abhishek to an end. If he tries to overcome the destiny, he can win it, but he cannot try it. So the destiny gives the joyful moments and sorrowful moments according to the mindset of a human being. Abhishek cannot win the destiny even at one time till the end of his life, because he doesn't fight against destiny throughout his life. He lets everything in the hands of destiny.

Abhishek kills himself by drowning in seawater. If he tries himself, he can overcome his destiny. But he doesn't do that. Instead, he accepts everything as his destiny and he thinks that he cannot escape from the grip of destiny. Here, the power of destiny overcomes the determination of human being. Here the condition of Abhishek reminds us of the character of Dr. Faustus in a drama *Dr. Faustus* of Christopher Marlow. In *Dr. Faustus*, Dr. Faustus doesn't repent to God even after he gets a chance.

The destiny drags Abhishek to the worst condition of entering into the hell. If he gets will power or determination to ask for repentance, he can get his life back from god. But he leaves

his life to hell by thinking that everything is his fate. The same thing happens to Abhishek. If he has the determination that his pure love can bring Ankita to him, he would not have taken the decision of committing suicide himself. But he thinks that it is his destiny to leave Ankita. When a man cannot overcome the destiny by his determination, the destiny can overcome a man, even end his life as Abhishek did.

Here, the destiny makes Ankita think of her life as a pointless one. Preeti Shenoy gives importance to the parents because the hope of the parents only gives the determination to overcome destiny. The persons, who are affected by bipolar disorder, want to kill themselves in the extreme level. Ankita also tries to kill herself in the extreme level, but the hope of her parents only makes her live.

Ankita enjoys her life in Bombay; she gets perfect in her life, in her studies, dance, and running, she is proud of being the best girl in her college. She thanks her destiny for giving a good life to her. She describes her mentality to Vaibhav and Suvi, her friends, through her long letters. Ankita's destiny becomes worse than ever within a few days. She cannot prove herself in academics, dance, and running. Ankita cannot read and write. She wants to die instead of living. She is taken to the best psychiatrists in a city by her parents.

The hope starts to disappear from Ankita's mind. But the hope of her parents never ends. They continuously take her to a psychiatrist, when one doctor cannot cure her, they look for another doctor. Ankita's destiny doesn't make her live her life peacefully; everything becomes dark in her life. But she starts to live for the hope of her parents. Ankita goes with her parents to the hospital, one of the best health care institutes in Bombay. She doesn't go with the hope; she is in a feeling of frustration when she enters the hospital. But she goes to fulfill the desire of her parents. There they wait for the doctors like waiting for Pope in the Vatican City.

Here Preeti Shenoy exposes the nature of human being that when people lost all of their hope, they pray to get help from God. The doctors look like a Pope to the parents of Ankita, when they lost their hope. The positive person has the power to change his companion and he also becomes positive. The hope of Ankita's parents makes Ankita live her life again. The determination of Ankita is Dr.Madhusudan.

The destiny enters through a young man Abhishek in Ankita's life. The determination enters through an old man Dr.Madhusudan in Ankita's life. Dr.Madhusudan teaches the value of human life to Ankita. Ankita gets hope from Dr.Madhusudan as,

“He was offering me the last vestiges of hope and I was clinging to it with the desperation of a drowning person.” (p 164).

Dr.Madhusudan is the lifeline of Ankita and he gives hope to Ankita. The hope given to Ankita is like giving hands for holding the drowning person at the last minute struggle for

life. Ankita starts to believe Dr.Madhusudan blindly, his presents calm her, his words reassure her completely. Ankita thinks of faith as, "Faith is a strange and a powerful thing and it can work miracles." (p 142). In the thought of Ankita, faith has done miracles in her life.

Ankita is not like Dr.Faustus, she doesn't leave her destiny to overcome her life. Dr.Faustus also gets a determination in the way of Old Man in his last stage of life. Ankita gets Dr.Madhusudan, the Old Man, but Ankita takes him as her determination in her life. Ankita tries to overcome her destiny each and every day, she improves herself. Ankita starts to cry when she cannot write and study. But she fights again and again, against the destiny. At last, she overcomes the destiny in her life. Life seems to be sailing smoothly for Ankita until she is admitted to a mental hospital. Life suddenly snatches everything that Ankita has in her world, in a cruel twist of destiny.

When people lose their hope, they start to fill their mind with negative thoughts. Ankita Sharma also fills her mind with the negative thought when she loses her hope. The things change badly, Ankita could neither read nor write a single word, her life becomes hell. Ankita thinks her life as,

The world which is surrounded by the worst destiny frightens people easily. Ankita also gets the same feeling; she feels the darkness and emptiness in her life. Here Preeti Shenoy portrays the characteristic of worst destiny. Ankita feels the darkness and void. She doesn't want to live her life anymore. Ankita wants to live her life, but she cannot overcome her destiny. Again and again, destiny wins over the determination of Ankita.

Ankita gets a determination from the worst feeling of death, with the help of Dr.Madhusudan. He makes Ankita get hope as,

After the advice of Dr.Madhusudan, Ankita doesn't succumb to her destiny, she fights back. With the help of Dr.Madhusudan and Dr.Namita love, hope, faith, and determination, she overcomes what destiny threw on her. Powered by these things Ankita overcomes everything including destiny in her life.

Ankita starts to live her life as she wishes. When the destiny plays cruelly in human life, God sends determination through some people, to give hope. Those who find the determination like Ankita Sharma did can overcome destiny, but those who cannot find the determination cannot overcome the destiny. Instead, destiny overcomes them and takes their whole life. Thus, determination wins over destiny at last though destiny has won so many times. A determination is a weapon to battle against destiny.

References:

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