

हंसराज महाविद्यालय

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

महात्मा हंसराज मार्ग,

मलकागंज, दिल्ली - 110007

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HANSRAJ COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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NAAC ACCREDITED 'A++' GRADE COLLEGE

2023-2024

Name of the Event: Book club meet on Samsa in Love

Organised by: The English Society

Date of the Event: 26th November, 2023

Name of Convener: Dr. Maitri Baruah, Dr. Meenakshi Malhotra

Event Description

On 26th November 2023, the Book Club of The English Society, Hansraj College held its first read along session at the Garden of Five Senses for Haruki Murakami's short story collection, 'Men Without Women'. The assortment of stories in the book underlines the peculiar nature of love and longing experienced by men in the absence of women. The majority opted for 'Samsa in love', an unconventional tale that digs out feelings of love amidst a plot of dispute and isolation.

Our discussion meandered to the main point where Murakami defers from any mansplaining but highlights the intimacy felt by men emotionally such that it helps the readers to understand the actual psychological impact of relationships. The lucid descriptions in the tale were brought to light and absurdity of the narrative was agreed upon by the members. Even the context of the war situation and the general sense of disillusionment in the atmosphere of the story was pointed out with much perplexity. The unique experience of love felt by the protagonist, Gregor Samsa, for the hunchbacked girl, both outcasts in the society sets up the core of this unusual story.

The tale is a challenge to already defined social constructs and advocates for the reconstruction of societal norms. With Samsa's experience boiling down to the

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basic instinct of love, the author's attempt at reinventing humanity was appreciated.

The ambiguity associated with the ending left the readers displeased as the tale hardly offers a follow-up of the attraction displayed by Samsa for the hunchbacked girl. Significant development in their relationship is missing which was stressed upon by the audience. Since the meet was a part of a recreational picnic and potluck, we had snacks and frequently discussed ideas that were outside the penumbra of this short story—like existentialism, modernism and even related it to the text of Frankenstein. The session was followed by fun games thoroughly enjoyed by the members and an enlivening walk around the garden.

**Five Geo-tagged
Pictures:**

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Attach Attendance Sheet

List of participants

Sanyam gupta

Anoushka chaudhary

Bilal akhtar

Himangi dayal

Kabyashree

Ginni malia

Khushi lakhotia

Maithili goswami

Arshia mathur

Saignik dhotra

Ragini sharma

Satakshu sinha

Sristhi garg

Tammana semwal