



A Woman's Secret in Maya Angelou's *Phenomenal Woman*

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ABSTRACT

"If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be".

These are the words said by a renowned poet Maya Angelou, one of these amazing women who brought in a change and empowered the women community. Everywhere the women are shining in every field. Nowadays they are voicing out writing the poem and they are sharing their emotions. Maya Angelou's *Phenomenal Woman*, focuses on self respect, self confidence, self love, self acceptance suppression, oppression, creed and racial discrimination but the poet is always concerned about the Inner Mystery.

Keywords :Superficial, Strengthen, Confidence , Racism, Self love, and Self acceptance.

A woman becomes phenomenal and extraordinary when she loves herself, accepts herself and above all respects herself. The structure and shape of a woman's body talks about hips, feet, lips, bright teeth, eyes and the waist which might stand and fall down for beauty and people always surround her like honey bees. Just walk towards the room and always look cool and enthusiastic to the people.

Maya Angelou being an African and dark skinned woman, helped her community, and wrote to uplift and make aware of inner beauty, which is the real secret of a Phenomenal Woman, made invisible by the male chauvinistic society. The poem, *Phenomenal Woman* falls under the Feminist Theory and its all about the Womanhood, that is, self-care, confidence, self-acceptance. The Literary devices are used for the purpose of visual presentation , repetition of each quality of words to remember the lines, deliver the apt emotions, and Hyperbole to explain the situation.

"Pretty women wonder where my secret lies".

(Phenomenal Women, Stanza 1,Line 1)

The challenges and restrictions which the women overcome in the society, the poet always describes the beauty of a woman as self respect. Men are always about to wonder at women because of their smiles. Womanhood is not superficial but it is strong and reflected in everyone's life.

"I'm a woman

Phenomenally

Phenomenal woman,

That's me". (Phenomenal Women, Verse 1, line7)

Many centuries ago women were always looked upon as objects, she was made to feel insecure and self-conscious. This was not an inbound nature of man. The physical appearance, degradation of women are the problems which are difficult to overcome. Racism is always appreciated and respected by society and by the people coloured women are always degraded by men in the society.

The speaker reviews her corporations with different ladies. She makes sense of the fact that "lovely ladies" frequently take a gander at her and can't help thinking about what makes her so appealing and charming. The speaker rushes to bring up that, dissimilar to these traditionally gorgeous

ladies, she isn't "charming" and doesn't have a model's figure. Hence, different ladies are confounded by her allure and need to reveal the key to her strong presence. The speaker endeavors to settle this secret by depicting her novel's actual attributes and peculiarities.

Truly speaking beauty does not lie in the complexion or physical structure of women. Outer appearance doesn't even matter at all and only inner beauty matters. A Woman's secret lies in her confidence. The way she respects herself, feeling happy and blessed to be born as a woman and to have such a wonderful and beautiful body which helps her to present herself confidently. This is a Woman's Secret! The Inner Mystery! Men and women are playing on the same ground? Gender equality matters.

“Men themselves have wondered
 What the flash they see in me
 They try so much
 But they can't touch
 My inner mystery”.(Phenomenal Women, verse 3, line 1)

Men believe that not even a single woman would try to take action and change her status or position in the society. But the phenomenal woman's bold action left men bewildered. This biased situation of women can be included in Marxist and Socialist feminism because in this type of feminism the focus is upon the oppression toward the women and women as being ill-treated Women and looked down in the society.

In any case, she takes her examination to one more level when she recommends, interestingly, that she really has one more sort of magnificence through and through. She has a baffling inward excellence that men can't see or see in any event, when she attempts to show them. They are heedless to what makes a lady lovely from the inside, as they just appointed authority to her — and reasonable different ladies too — in light of her actual looks. Utilizing exotic language, the speaker portrays actual qualities and idiosyncrasies that make up her delightful and cryptic emanation. Toward the finish of the verse, the speaker rehashes the hold back about being a sensational lady.

Black women are segregated and striving for their social rights and equality, the Patriarchal society made women voice less. It aims to examine the ideas and concepts which are to dominate the white people. The poet has used refrain, a literary device to emphasize on her subject matter of the poem Phenomenal Women. “Phenomenal women and that's me” is the refrain. The poem “Phenomenal Woman” is a free verse poem, the meter of the poem is a combination of Trochee and iamb which means stressed and unstressed syllable. The poet has made use of hyperbole, a literary device that helps to exaggerate the situation to understand better.

“I walk into a room
 Just as cool as you please,
 And to a man,
 The fellows stand or
 Fall down on their knees”. (Phenomenal Women, verse2, line 1)

The speaker continues to depict her impact on men. She makes sense of how she radiates a strong erotic nature that draws their consideration at whatever point she strolls into a room. Each time she strolls before them serenely and without hesitation, they either stand up at her appearance or soften from their longing for her. They then, at that point, swarm around her, competing for her focus. As in the main verse, the speaker subleizes her actual characteristics and singularities for making sense of her impact on others.

“Now you understand
 Just why my head's not bowed.
 I don't shout or jump about
 Or have to talk real loud.
 When you see me passing,

It ought to make you proud".(Phenomenal Women, verse4, line 1)

The audience interestingly, summing up her characteristics and making sense of how her past memories ought to assist the audience with figuring out her better. Presently, right now, the audience ought to have the option to grasp the speaker's life and value her characteristics. The speaker makes sense that she doesn't bow her head in disgrace, as she is glad for what her identity is. She additionally doesn't cause to notice herself readily — she is essentially acting naturally, which normally attracts others to her.

She lets the audience know that he/she ought to be pleased with her when she strolls by, as she is a sure and self-regarding lady. The speaker subtleties extra characteristics about herself, portraying her cheerful walk, the regular magnificence of her actual qualities, and the world's requirement for a lady like her. These things have occurred in her life since she is a remarkable lady and is pleased with it, doing her own thing.

The poet expresses that as opposed to adjusting to the norms set by society, ladies ought to reconnect with their own worth and track down approval from the inside. All ladies are fit for being "sensational," the sonnet suggests, assuming they embrace who they are as opposed to attempting to find a place with inconsistent social guidelines. As a matter of fact, the sonnet proposes that tolerant and cherishing yourself is, in itself, a phenomenal demonstration inside a general public that advances uncertainty and self-hatred in ladies. This step towards unqualified confidence makes a lady genuinely marvelous.

The speaker shows superiority over men. The figure of speech, Irony, the poet conveys the contrast between real beauty which is the inner mystery and the fake one which is perceived by the society. It is an assertion of the phenomenal beauty, power, and value of all women. The poet on behalf of all women celebrates the pride in being a woman. By repeating her identity, she makes it clear each individual is beautiful in their own way.

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