

Memory and Fantasy in Anita Desai's *Fire on the Mountain* and *Clear Light of Day*

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Abstract:

*This paper is prepared to explore Anita Desai's art of fictionalization with a particular reference to the most predominating aspects in her novels--- memory and fantasy. For a convenient discourse, two masterpieces **Fire on the Mountain** and **Clear Light of Day** have been selected, where the twin inter-related aspects---memory and fantasy, get full divulged. The terms 'memory' and 'fantasy', which are chiefly related with psychic faculties, get profound discussed from various representations, including cultural, mythical, social and the literary arena. The cultural symbolism and depiction of imagery, its gendered stereotypes are lucidly discussed in the immediate means of representation, and more emphatically analyzed with respect to a larger context of socio-historical relations and identities. On literary perspective, two basic elements like 'time' and 'psychology' are explicated with reference to their changeability in this flux of the world. An attempt to aesthetize the psycho-analytical constructs behind gender and its multilayered characterizations, irrespective time and place, is adopted for a larger concept of the 'truth untold' amidst mankind.*

Keywords/Phrases: Memory, fantasy, literary arena, psycho-analytical constructs, aesthetize, truth untold.

Anita Desai's Acumen in Memory and Fantasy:

Anita Desai, a literary giant in the realm of Indian fiction in English, is noted for her unconventional writing and exquisite portrayal of the inner life of her characters. During Post-Independence era, it was only her writing either in form of short stories or of fictions that seemed to carve an indelible mark in the readers' minds with her innovation of life-centric plot constructions and psychologically moving characterization. Having a mixed parentage – Bengali father and German mother, Anita Desai used to go by her own views and occasionally claimed to think English to be “a suitable link language, a compromise”, as she admitted herself in the