

BOOK REVIEW

Huddle - Session 1

The Department of English, St Aloysius College (Autonomous) organized the first 'HUDDLE' of the semester, a book review, presentation, and documentary screening event on 11 October 2022, between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the Sanidhya Auditorium. The event was coordinated by Ms Anushree Bhat M. and Ms Amritha C., Assistant Professors from the Department of English. The event commenced with a soothing blithe prayer song



by Ms Merlin Abraham from III BA followed by an idiomatic welcome speech delivered by Ms. Anushree Bhat M., Assistant Professor, Department of English and one of the coordinators of the event.

Mr Wilson Fernandes, Assistant Professor, Department of English reviewed the book 'Difficult Daughters', a novel by Manju Kapur, who won the 1999 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for her stellar work.

Kapur is known for her persuasive writings about social and psychological issues in the post-independent era. The novel delves into the fundamental idea of feminism in the modern world.

It portrays the women from three generations, one among them being a conventional orthodox woman, the other one having a rather protagonist mind-set, and the emancipated, excruciated woman. The conundrums faced by women in a patriarchal society, and their obli-



gation towards reconciling the social, racial, and vituperative norms are highlighted in the novel. The themes of dowry, alienation, indefatigable pressure and sanctimonious attitude have been brilliantly depicted through the epilogue and political allegory.

The novel revolves around a dynamic, vivacious character named Ida, who unravels the inextricable past etched on her late protagonist's mother's life. It reveals

the conservative paradigm that has cascaded into a precarious predicament for women in the society. It admonishes us about the condescending attitude of people towards women, who are deemed to be a liability and a sweet burden to their parents. Thus, the novel foregrounds the intricate relationship between mothers and daughters and the confluence of western modernism and erroneous paradigm.

Post this eloquent review of the book, the floor was open for deliberate discussions and congruent reviews. The programme wound up at 5 past 10 with an effusive vote of thanks proposed by Dr Charles V. Furtado, the Head of the English Department.

Huddle Session 2

'No Longer Human', a novel by Osamu Dazai was reviewed by II BA students Ms Swathi Sharma and Ms Alviya at the second session of Huddle held in the Sanidhya Hall at St Aloysius College (Autonomous) at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th November, 2022.

The event was coordinated by Ms Anushree Bhat M. and Ms Amritha C. from the Department of English. The review was conducted in the presence of Dr Charles V. Furtado, the Director of Admin Block and HOD of the English Department, Dr Ratan Tilak Mohunta, Dr Sylvia Rego, Dr Melissa Goveas and other teachers from the department.

The event kicked off with the rendition of a prayer by Ms Aparna V. Elayath followed by the welcome speech presented by Ms Sakshi Kamath. Ms Alviya began the review with an overview of the themes discussed in the book and an introduction to the works of Osamu Dazai. She highlighted that the cover of 'No Longer Human' perfectly represents the detachment from human species that Dazai felt and that which forms the crux of the novel.

The mic was then passed onto Ms Swathi Sharma who led the audience deeper into the book. She described the book as a semi-autobiography as it reflected events and experiences from Dazai's life through the character Yozo. By the end of the very engrossing session, the audience was enabled to get a profound understanding of the book thanks to the reviewers' firm grasp on Dazai's works. The presenters left no question unanswered.

The exciting and successful Huddle concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Don Jacob sprinkled generously with dollops of warmth and humour.

Reported by Ms Amritha C



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