CHAPTER – II

SUFFERINGS AND STRUGGLES

Desai’s first novel, *Cry the Peacock* set the pattern for her other novels. The title of this novel sensitively relates the spiritual agony of Maya, the half child, half woman romantic heroine who identifies herself with the peacock in the agony and escrows of their fatal love experience,

now that I understand their call I wept for them and wept for myself knowing their words to be mine¹.

Gautama, Maya and all other couples around them are victims of the poignant existential problem of maladjustment in marriage.

Maya’s marriage to Gautama has been satiated through her father’s friendship with him. It is more or less a marriage of convenience, a sealing of friendship between two - minded, mature guardian of Maya. But sometimes this peaceful order is caused violently, the shadow batters its head against the iron fists of its owner and manages to leave a few blood stains, a wife revolts, runs away, commits suicide, becomes a murderer, finds a great deal of freedom in blessed widowhood and the message is given and received the ‘Great No’ is said at last. Her marriage with Gautama was a match between two different temperaments with not even