Preface

There is little doubt that in the popular mind (University dons and literary critics included), Ayn Rand is considered an entertainer who gave the world two masterpieces, *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*. Rarely a thought is spared to discuss analytically the subliminal impact of these works, as other works written by Ayn Rand, on the readers who innocently devour these works and sometimes even join some popular Ayn Rand clubs. In the present study I have tried to read Ayn Rand in the context of recent developments in theory. A sound theoretical perspective is needed to understand the mystique of Ayn Rand, as also the influence of Ayn Rand on readers.

My foray into theory convinced me that Marxist feminist perspective will equip one with necessary tools to unearth a very blatant celebration of patriarchy in a very important woman writer of twentieth century. However, Marxist feminist view itself cannot be understood properly without a clear and comprehensive understanding of various feminist strands, hence the need of a short introduction outlining developments in theory, and a fairly comprehensive chapter on different feminist movements with special reference to Marxist feminist view.

Ironical though it may sound, in almost all her works, Ayn Rand presents a woman character for whom man is the normative force, to be adored and worshiped. Apart from patriarchy, capitalism is the other force (in fact patriarchy has an unholy alliance with capitalism) which Ayn Rand wholeheartedly supports in her fictional and especially non-fictional writings. A chapter is devoted to studying capitalism and other related issues in Ayn Rand’s non-fictional works.

Finally it is important to determine the place of Ayn Rand in relation to literary canon. Again some contemporary theories have been found very useful to address this ticklish question.
I have consulted the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (fourth edition), for documentation.

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Akbar Joseph Arjun Syed