

**SOMERSET MOEMNING “NIKOH SHARTNOMASI”
 (“A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE”) NOMLI HIKOYASIDA
 OILAVIY BAXT TASVIRI**

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola oila va nikoh qadriyatlari kabi tushunchalarini o‘rganishga bag‘ishlangan. Mazkur tushunchalarning bugungi kundagi mazmun-mohiyati va dolzarbligi XX asrning taniqli ingliz yozuvchisi Uilyam Somerset Moem qalamiga mansub “Nikoh shartnomasi” (“A Marriage of Convenience”) nomli hikoyasining tahlili orqali ko‘rsatib berilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: omillar, axloq, axloqiy tushunchalar, motiv, oilaviy baxt, nikoh, qadriyat, o‘zaro tushunish, siyosiy nikoh.

**THE DEPICTION OF FAMILY HAPPINESS
 IN THE SHORT STORY “A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE”
 BY SOMERSET MAUGHAM**

Abstract: This article is devoted to the analysis of the basic concepts of ethics such as family and marriage values. The essence of these perceptions is studied by well-known short story writer William Somerset Maugham is his work “A Marriage of Convenience”.

Key words: moral concepts, family happiness, marriage value, mutual understanding, political marriage.

William Somerset Maugham with his remarkable short stories embodies his best work and remains a substantial figure in the early 20th century literary landscape. Maugham excelled as a story writer of the narrated type because he had a gift for storytelling and creating characters. “I have never pretended to be anything but a storyteller. It has amused me to tell stories and I have told a great many”. He states that the purpose of fiction is not to educate but to entertain. It is also important to note that he was a short story writer who could convey the importance of moral values, significant key features of family and the role of marriage in society by his work “A Marriage of Convenience”. The fact that Maugham outsold and outlived contemporaries such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and D.H. Lawrence but in Holden’s view “he could not match them regarding stylistic innovation or thematic complexity in terms of writing short stories” can hardly be denied. Furthermore, his short stories’ meaning is greater and deeper than its form by its ability to provide a complete or satisfying treatment of its characters and subject. It is believed that among all his brilliant short stories “A Marriage of Convenience” is considered to be a work which argues that the most important thing in relationship is not money and not possession of property.

In a 2016 survey Don Adams remarks, “The gist of the criticism of Maugham’s fiction, that it lacks psychological and emotional profundity, is remarkably consistent throughout the decades.” A rising critic of a younger generation, Cyril Connolly, praised Maugham for his lucidity and called him “the last of the great professional writers”, but Connolly’s contemporary Edmund Wilson insisted that Maugham was second-rate and “disappointing”. Even an admirer such as Evelyn Waugh felt that Maugham’s disciplined writing with its “brilliant technical dexterity” was not without disadvantages: “He is never boring or clumsy, he never gives a false impression; he is never shocking; but this very diplomatic polish makes impossible for him any of those sudden transcendent flashes of passion and beauty which less competent novelists occasionally attain”.

Maugham himself, although he never used the terms “second rate” or “mediocre” about his work, was modest about his status. He said that lacking any great powers of imagination he wrote about what he saw, and that although he could see more than most people could, “the greatest writers can see through a brick wall – my vision is not so penetrating”.

The main emphasis in this article is given to the analysis of such notions of ethics as family happiness and marriage value, because from our point of view the title of the creative piece and the moral of the whole short story consolidate these two concepts.

So, what is marriage and what is family? How important is the role of the family in society? Can a marriage based on only love make a person happy for the rest of his life? For finding answers to these questions we have tried to investigate the criteria of family and marriage.

In Cambridge dictionary the word “family” is defined as a group of people who care about each other because they have a close relationship or shared interests.

It is also believed that in order to build a strong family relationship neither appearance nor property plays an integral role. To illustrate, in “A Marriage of Convenience” the main character Monsieur Le Gouveneur was described as “a little man, well below the average height and small made with a very ugly little face, while his wife was a large woman, tall and of a robust build”. The narrator said: “I saw that the little French Governor had been holding the hand of his large wife and told: “Do you know that this is the anniversary of the day on which I first saw my wife?” breaking the silence. It is also the anniversary of the day on which she promised to be my wife”.

Basically, marriage is a special type of relationship between permissible mates involving certain rights and obligations. That is why Lundberg is right when he opines that “Marriage consists of the rules and regulations which define the rights, duties and privileges of husband and wife with respect to each other. Marriage is a broad concept, therefore it includes several types. One of them is marriage of convenience or political marriage. It means that a marriage of convenience is considered any union that is not based on either love or the goal of establishing a loving relationship between the

partners. Marriages of convenience have been occurring since the beginning of time. In ancient times, royalty would arrange marriages to create political alliances with other countries. Once Mignon McLaughlin said: “The marriage of convenience has this to recommend it: we are better judges of convenience than we are of love.” However, this kind of marriages can bring full happiness to people? We can answer to this question by reading the short story “A Marriage of Convenience” written by Somerset Maugham. By reading this short story we come to terms with that mutual understanding is the most important thing and can serve as a foundation of family happiness because passion passes, but mutual understanding sounds quite necessary in family relationship. In this short story Governor said: “You see, ours was a marriage of convenience pure and simple”.

In view of the above ethical criteria, we can conclude that in a marriage of convenience you expect less and so you are less likely to be disappointed. Passion is all very well, but it is not a proper foundation for marriage. For two people to be happy in marriage they must be able to respect one another, and their interests must be alike; then if they are decent people and are willing to give and take, to live and let live, there is no reason why their union should not be happy.

Any literary discussion will certainly not be true without interpretation of the extracts and passages taken from the book where the essence is revealed.

On board a shabby ship out of Bangkok, the narrator surveys an odd collection of people, headed by an American named Wilkins, who for twenty years had been traveling up and down the East from Port Said to Yokohama as the proprietor of a circus. His wife, Mrs. Wilkins, appears as short and as fat as her husband. Both are always eager to discuss their family, telling that their marriage was built on political purposes. Governor said: “*As you see, ours was a marriage of convenience: pure and simple*” and his wife argued: “*But sometimes love comes after marriage and not before and then it is better. It lasts longer.*” These words of hers really influence positively all avid readers around the world. Because comparing to East traditions and rules of

ethics, it is acknowledged that the true love comes after marriage. It is also accepted as a key factor which contributes to the enhancement of family relationship.

Both man and woman in this short story are the people who show a great respect to high moral values and it is not perplexing to notice it. It can be seen in polite attitude of man toward girl and girl’s good behavior that she doesn’t say “Yes” immediately to the offer of a man. At the end of the story they get married and it is considered as a marriage of convenience that is full of happiness and mutual understanding. The last words of the Governor’s wife prove it: *“The fact is that in a marriage of convenience you expect less and so you are less likely to be disappointed. Passion is all very well, but it is not a proper foundation for marriage. For two people to be happy in marriage they must be able to respect one another, and their interests must be alike; then if they are decent people and are willing to give and take, to live and let live, there is no reason why their union should not be as happy as ours.” She paused. ‘But, of course, my husband is a very remarkable man.’*”

All in all, in this story he hold the belief that family is the foundation on which values are built, the most important community in any society is the family; the foundation of the family is marriage. Mutual understanding, respect, caring about each other and true love after marriage are the keys to the happiness of any family.

“When a human being dies, his work comes to end except for three things: ongoing charity, knowledge (people) benefit from, or a pious son who prays for him” (Sahih Muslim) What do you want your family to be like? How do you wish people would describe you? Twenty or thirty years from now, what do you hope your children will say about how they grew up and what they learned from you? A good way to find the answers to these questions is to identify what you truly value, and then prioritize the values you want to focus on as a family. We are born with nothing, and we go with nothing, but one great thing we can achieve in our beautiful life is, a little remembrance in someone’s mind and a small place in someone’s heart, and this is possible only with our ethics, those ethics that are built in our family.

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