

Image of Women in Henry James' *The Portrait of a Lady*

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Abstract

This article is to project the state of women who likes to live independent, but the circumstances made her to be dependent on men. In Henry James' novel **The Portrait of a Lady** the author depicts that the protagonist Isabella Archer is an American Women and she visited her aunt's house in Europe. When she was in her aunt's house, she faces so many problems and she slowly loses her own freedom and identity in European country. It is her own fate to choose a bad suitor and it is almost her fate to live with that man after knowing his illegal affair and everything. And she is also interested to know the culture of the European people. Every human being in things they feel to live in independence, and they wish to have their own liberty and identity, but the circumstances made them to depend on men. Creating our own identity is very important in this world. So, whatever we should first we must think over that for millions of time. And we take a right decision at the right time and right place and not to lose our Independence for anyone.

Keywords: Henry James, *The Portrait of a Lady*, independent-dependent-culture-right decision-searching for identity.

Henry James' **The Portrait of a Lady** first published as a serial in The Atlantic Monthly in 1881. The Portrait of Lady in his one of the most popular and long novels. Actually this novel The Portrait of a Lady, the author depicts the character Isabella searching for her Independence in her own world because she had none.

As a progressive American Women who travels extensively to experience Europe, Isabella embodies the clash between New world evolution and Old world sophistication. Isabella was brought up in her Aunt house in Europe. Her aunt Mrs. Touchett takes care of her. she rejects marriage proposals in Lord Warburton and Caspar Goodward, Why she rejects them? because she only needs to Independence in this world. And she does not want to depend on anyone.

In this period creating our own Independence in a group of people living together that is the society is a very difficult problem, but we should find our own freedom otherwise we will dominated by the people especially women will dominated by male.

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The author Henry James says that this novel *The Portrait of a Lady*, it is all about the suppression of a woman and how she overcame the problem and face the situation boldly. Isabella is free when she is in her hometown but there is no one in between so if her aunt Mrs. Touchett takes care of her. **Gilbert Osmond** is an American expatriate living in Italy who eventually becomes Isabella Archer's husband.

In Europe country she slowly loses her Independence because her fate to choose a bad suitor and it is almost her fate to live with that man after knowing his illegal affairs and everything. Every woman has to deal with her problems bravely. Likewise, women should not always depend on anyone. If men are slaves to women, then we have to deal with them as men and women who go above and beyond the bondage of men and how women face their problems in this society.

Each and Every human being in their life should search their own Independence like Henry James novel character Isabella. Women should not restrict their freedom or courage to anyone under any circumstances. We need to think in advance of what we are going to do and do it at the right time and in the right way. Like Isabella all women should not lose her Independence and courage at any time. Women should stand on their own feet and do anything without being dependent on anyone under any circumstances.

Work Cited

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