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**MAN ASCENDENCY IN *DESIREE'S BABY* BY KATE CHOPIN AND *THE BIRTHMARK* BY
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Feminism is an ideology in which women and their contributions are valued. Feminism is based on social, political and economically equal for women. It is also described as a movement. It is a revolution that includes women and men who wish the world to be equal without boundaries. These boundaries are known as discrimination and narrow mindless against gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status and economic status. Everyone views the world by their own perspectives. Feminists view the world as being unequal. They wish to use the gender gap and the ideas that men are superior to women decreased or abolished.

Feminism is divided into three phases. They are Feminine Phase (1840-1880), The Feminist Phase(1880-1920) and The Female Phase(1920- Present). During the First phase the women writers followed male norms because they were dominated by male. They identified themselves with the male culture as women were not allowed to write. Those female writers accepted the male dominant society and limited their writings.

The Second Phase women writers started raising their voices against male dominated society and values. They started rejecting any text based on stereotyped women. They developed a personal sense of injustice and wrote on the injustice of male. The Third phase avoids both the imitation of the feminine writers and the protest of the feminist writers. They completely develop the idea of female writing and female experience. They differentiate female writing and male writing in terms of language.

Kate Chopin is an American author best known for her short stories about women. She is well known feminist author in American literature. She published selection of short stories in 1890s and it was published in some of America's most prestigious magazines- *Vogue*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's Young people*, the *Youth's Companion* and *the Century*. Many of her short stories appeared in two published collections, *Bayou Folk*(1894) and *A Night in Acadie* (1897), both of which received good reviews from the critics. She also wrote novel *At Fault*. In 1950s, scholars rediscovered her works and praised it for truthful depictions of women's lives.

Nathaniel Hawthorne is an American short story writer and romance novelist who experimented with broad range of styles and genres. He is best known for his novels *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of Seven Gables* and also wrote many short stories. Along with Edger Allen Poe and Herman Melville much of his work belongs to the sub-genre of Dark-Romanticism, talked about human judgement that allows even good men and women towards sin and self-destruction. Hawthorne's famous short stories include *My Kinsman*, *Major Molineaux*, *Young Goodman Brown* and *The Minister's Black Veil*.

Desiree's Baby by Kate Chopin shows how men changed their behavior after their marriage. Desiree is an adopted by Madame Valmonde and Monsieur Valmonde. Her birth is unknown and is full of mystery. Both of them raised her like their own daughter with affection and cared for her. Armand Aubigny is falls in love with Desiree and he approached her parents. He says that he does not care about her origin. In the beginning of their marriage Armand loved her whole heartedly but things started changing after the birth of child. He

started behaving rudely towards her. Their child is dark not white and this made him to be cruel. Kate Chopin shows the racism among the African-American society and the women are treated in their society.

Desiree's husband changing behavior haunts and it break's her beautiful soul. She could not tolerate her husband's behavior. He wants to know about her real parents. He says, "the child is not white which means you are not white." (Chopin) She feels emotionless, like a stone and felt nothing. She became statue. She sent a letter to her mother asking about the truth. Her mother wanted her to come back and she says still she loves her unconditionally. The author shows relationship between the mother and daughter. It is shown that women help other women during difficult situation. Desiree cannot believe her husband's behavior and her dreams are shattered. Along with her boy child she planned to go her mother's house. She informed about her mother's message to her husband and waited for his reply. He replied that she must go from this place and he feels that Almighty was not just towards to him. After leaving the house, she did not go back to her mother's place instead she disappeared in forest.

Few weeks later Desiree's husband decided to burn her belongings while taking her things he found some letters not only her letters but also his mother's letters to her father. It is revealed that her mother has dark and she mentioned "night and day, I thank God for having so arranged our lives that our dear Armand will never know that his mother, who adores him, belongs to the race that is cursed with the brand of slavery." (Chopin) It shows his mother was a slave to the white people and now he feels guilty for his behavior towards his wife.

The Birthmark by Nathaniel Hawthorne is a short story which talks about how husband expects his wife to be perfect. The story of Birthmark starts from Aylmer. He is a scientist and philosopher and he does experiments to invent new things. He marries the beautiful girl Georgiana who is having birthmark on her cheeks. As the days pass by he becomes obsessed with her birthmarks and he wants to remove it from her face. He wants her wife to be perfect. He started thinking it symbolizes morality and sin. He cannot concentrate on other things. He wants to remove from her face. He dreams about the birthmark removes with the knife and he started peeling it. Both are shifted to apartment where Aylmer has his laboratory. He shows experiments to his wife. Aylmer makes her unconscious with the help of his assistant. He slowly decided to remove the birthmark from her face. The author shows outer beauty plays the main role not the inner one. Her husband refused to see her inner beauty and he considers only outer. He wants everything should be perfect.

Aylmer started his experiments to remove her birthmark. After finishing his experiment he gave it to his wife. Her birthmark started vanishing from her face. Georgiana's husband refused to love her or care for her with that face. He wants her to be perfect. She tolerated him for the sake of love towards him but he does not care about her feelings. His only intention is remove the birthmark. When the birthmarks are removed she dies. This story shows how men and society treat their women and how she suffers. They want women to follow their rules and should accept their own decisions.

Their conception of beauty is just skin deep. They fail to realize the inner beauty of the women. In both the stories, the women suffer because of the idea of the men hold of beauty. Desiree suffers because her husband feels that she might have dark past. Georgiana suffers because Aylmer refuses to accept her with her birthmark.

This marginalization of women on the basis of the color or other pigmentation is only a tip of the iceberg of the gender biased men fail to realize that beauty is only skin deep. Below and behind the fragile mask of the face is the strong and Self-carried person who is able to face care of herself.

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