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**GANGUBAI KATHIYAWADI : THE SAGA OF A WOMAN'S FIERY  
HEART AND HER LIVING CORPSE**

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Gangubai Kathiyawadi, this heart touching movie is based upon Hussain Zaidi's book, Mafia Queens of Mumbai, and directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. It is melancholic and thrilling tale of Gungubai's life who had spent her whole life in Kamathipura, [Red Light Area] of Mumbai. System is insensitive & arrogant, the present movie gives a forceful punch on the nose of a system having rough skin of a Rhinoceros. This movie makes us horribly restless.

Teenager Ganga has colorful dreams of her life and she came to Metropolitan city, Mumbai to fulfill her dreams. But unfortunately she was sold by her own lover. He took her to Kamathipura, red light area of Mumbai and imposed prostitution upon her. Ganga was deceived by her own lover to whom she was depending while coming to Mumbai. There after her journey began to be the Queen of that hell. Needy and poor girls from different Indian villages, from Bangladesh and Nepal have been taking to

Mumbai by tempting them for good jobs. These deceived girls by the agents have detained permanently in brothel like Kamathipura. These girls never return to their homes. But they sent money orders to their old parents and siblings to meet their daily livelihood. These girls lied to their parents with heavy hearts that they work in factory, in dockyard or as the house maids.

Ganga has attraction of glamorous Mumbai, so she holds Ramnik's hand and runs away to Mumbai from Kathiawad to be the heroine in cinema . But her lover Ramnik pushed her in to bogland of lust. Ganga continued her waiting for Ramnik but he never returned. In the very beginning of the movie, there is a scene of the ritual or piercing nose of a girl and it is symbolic. It is symbolic for tearing up hymenof a teenager girl after forced wild sex. One can imagine a tear with sharp knife to one's sensitive organs like penis or vagina and these organs bleeding terribly. These girls in brothel have raped and tortured. They have beaten by the

rapist. These psycho rapists are ever ready to scratch the young girls and to satisfy their lust. The rogues, politicians and even patients with venereal diseases visit Kamathipura to satisfy their passions fiercely. Originally these girls in brothel are very sensitive but later on they turn into living corpses and experience their daily deaths. Every day Ganga faced her horrible surrounding & circumstances and learnt lessons to endure deadly pains.

Happy, innocent and spontaneous Ganga rushed to Mumbai with colourful, flying butterflies in her heart. But cheerful Ganga withered into the brothel house of Sheela Mausi. A perverted gangster harassed Ganga, torn her clothes, injured and raped her, it was brutal rape on Ganga. She turned into ashes but there was a burning coal under ashes and it was a prostitute's 'self-esteem'. Ganga met Karim Lala, the main gangster and took revenge of rape upon her. Karim helped her. After the incidence of rape, she realised her strength of resistance and fighting against wicked and destructive powers. Innocent Ganga transformed herself as a Politician Gangubai.

Sheela Mausi's rule in Kamathipura came to an end finally. Gangubai defeated Raziabai in election. Karim Lala, the gangster had his own ethics, he helped Ganga as her brother. Gangubai rescued girls in prostitution who were forced to be

prostitutes against their will. Ganga's friends requested her to take charge of the 'Kothi' and to be their 'Gangubai'.

Gangubai proved herself as a shrewd Politician. She became the president of Kamathipura for wellbeing of the prostitutes. Again she proved and underlined the facts that a prostitute is a human being, she has self-respect, mind and heart. Ganga raised her voice of justice for children of the prostitutes. These children have been facing complicated and serious issues in their lives. The white collared people turned up their noses at Kamathipura. They are hypocrites and ever ready to talk about so called morality and culture. Gangubai took prostitutes' daughters to school for admission. Principal of the school (Father) asked her 'What is father's name?' (Baap ka naam kya likhe?) for this question Gangubai's fiery answer was : 'Mother's name is not enough?' (Ma aka naam kafi nahi hai na..)

Gangubai delivered a speech on Azad Maidan and torn out the masks of hypocrites. This speech fired brains, at the same time it directly touched to hearts of the people. The anchor of the programme was embarrassed while introducing Gangubai. Gangubai addressed the anchor and audience and said, "Oh! Don't mind.

You didn't let me to be a maiden and nobody came forward to accept me as a mistress.”

[Rahene do! Rahene do! Kumari apane choda nahi, Shrimati kisine banaya nahi!]

Gangu pricked conscience of the honorable audience and exclaimed, “If you once disgraced then disgraced permanently. We, every night sell our modesty but, it lasts forever and never finishes.”

[Are apki ijjat ek bar gai to gai! Hum roj raat ko ijjat bechte hai, sali Khatamach nahi hotil]

Gangubai and her journalist friend, Faizi bhai faught for the rights of the prostitutes as the human beings. Gangubai addressed Faizi bhai and said, "Faizi bhai, write it in tomorrow's newspaper, while delivering speech in Azad maidan, Gangubai didn't tilt her eyes but she looked in the eyes of the audience and spoke about rights of the prostitutes.”

[Fazi bhai likh dena kal ke akhaben me! Azad maidan me bhashan dete wakt Gangabai ne ankhe zukakar nahi, ankhe milakar apne hakki ki baat ki hai bhai.]

Gangu's friend Kamali died in delivery. ‘A prostitute dies who cries.’ Kamali's customers were interested in her body. Gangu as a friend shared Kamali's sorrows and pains. She held Kamali's kid into her womb. Other women were busy in preparation of Kamali's funeral. Gangu

desperately says, “Now it is time to take her out, tie her legs tightly. Not sure if someone's mind will Change.”

[Chalo, ise le jane ka waqt aa gaya! Are, koyi iski tange kaske bandho, kya pata kab kiska man badal jaye!]

Gangubai realises strength, intellect and determination in women. She didn't study feminism but her entire life is a lesson of feminism which includes toughness and fighting spirit. After winning the election, Gangubai gave a message to her friends:

“Live life with dignity, don't be scared. When Strength, Wealth, Conscience all of them are women, then what makes men feel pride?”

[Ijjat se jine ka, kisise darne ka nahi.. Are jab Shakti, Sampatti, Saddbuddhi tino hi aurate hai to in mardonko kis baat ka gurur?]

Gangubai had experiences of rogues and gangsters scratching her body and mind. But such an intimate person was rare who may peep into her heart and could realize her pains. A person who will respect her intellect. Gangubai has deep intimate feelings for Afsaan because his love for her is unconditional and genuine. She tries to seek love in Afsaan which she never experienced in her life. Young Ganga was yearning for blooming of her mind and body. She was expecting tender call of love. Gangubai had excessive and

unrestrained thirst of real love. When she met Afsaan, she found love in his heart and respect for her in his emotional eyes. Gangubai squandered herself with Afsaan and showered her emotions and passions freely. Ultimately Ganga found her love in Afsaan. But lastly she forced Afsaan to marry a prostitute's daughter in her Kothi. Afsaan was shocked with her decision.

Actually Afsaan's fiancée was a daughter of a prostitute and she didn't want her daughter would rotten in Kamathipura for long time. So, she accepted Gangubai's proposal of Afsaan's marriage with her daughter. Gangu always loved Afsaan. But she couldn't marry him because she was a prostitute and she didn't want defamation of Afsaan and his family. Her love for Afsaan remained everlasting. Gangubai didn't want any legal or social stamping upon her love. She sacrificed her love.

Kawwal Singer 'Huma Qureshi' calls out our heart:

"You could ruin my life

But astonish me by casting a glance  
No, we are not separated at all."  
[Shehar chahe jeevan ka viran kar do  
Magar dekhkar hamko hairan kardo  
Kisi haal me bhi juda hum nahi hai.]

Gangubai emotionally devastated, she killed her innerself by sacrificing her love. Huma Qureshi expresses Gangu's state of mind and her emotions through the

above Kawwali. Huma's acting and her facial expressions are heart touching. The above Kawwali is penned by A.M.Turaz and sung by Archana Gore. It is meaningful and melodious lyric.

Gangubai Kathiawadi is Sanjay Leela Bhansali's milestone movie. It has powerful dialogues, well planned plot and set. Alia Bhat solely enters into Gangubai's character, her role as Gangubai will be immortal in future. Alia's acting is sensible, rebellious and compassionate. Analysis of her character is a challenge for all intellectuals and feminists.

Here are a few critical reviews on 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' movie: Ashwin S. writes: "A film which gave an emotional attachment for a brothel and I am now left with a huge huge respect for the actual "GANGUBAI."

Allan Hunter writes in Screen Daily: "The film has a brazen forward momentum that is hard to resist."

Alia Bhat has actually lived Gangubai's role, She has ingrained Gangubai into her blood. Alia excellently expressed love, compassion, cheating, anger, her self-squandering, killing of inner-self and shrewdness. Alia nicely acted as a shrewd politician who accepts challenges, gives challenges, leads and rides circumstances. All starcasts have given proper justice to their roles.

Every city has brothel homes bearing dirty drainage of human tendencies. Impulsive males used to come there to purgate their passions. They treat prostitute only as a female with sexual organs and not as a human being.

The journalist like Faizi Bhai in movie is rare who bears love, compassion and rays of positive changes in his heart and never hesitates while being friendly with Gangubai. Brothels homes are hells of diseases, dirt, disorders, defamation and venereal diseases. These prostitutes are just like living corpses who have lost their emotions, senses, feelings and even passions.

Gangubai's whole life is an unlimited ocean of pains and deep sorrows. Her life has another side of struggle, rebellion, challenges and tough resistance against injustice and tortures. Gangubai very courageously fought the

battle for prostitutes' rights and self-esteem. Gangubai respectfully became the 'Queen of Kamathipura.' She will be remembered as the messenger of humanity in Kamathipura.

Gangubai Kathiawadi's life is not a mere saga but it is the great epic.

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