

## UNIT SEVEN: CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

### **Arranging a Marriage in India**

*Serena Nanda, USA (1909-1959)*

The article “Arranging a Marriage in India” is written by an American writer, Serena Nanda. The essay is about the socio-cultural belief of India in terms of marriage. This is an autobiographical writing in which Serene Nanda tries to explore her experience of the cultural belief of India in the case of marriage contrasting with the belief of America.

American society believed on the love marriage so, she found the arrange marriage oppressive because she used to think about the importance of romantic love for a happy marriage. She became curious to know if Indian young people who were at the age of marriage prefer love or arrange. She met a girl, Sita, who was a college graduate with a degree in political science. She asked her which marriage she would prefer. She replied arrange. Nanda thought that how would a person spend a life with a stranger. But Sita her arrange marriage is arranged by family members, parents and relatives so there is less possibility of deception. That convinced her. Nanda found the marriage in India a long lengthy process fulfilling all the cultural norms and values along with the taboos. Later, Serena Nanda was able to arrange a marriage between her friend’s son and a girl though she was unable to participate in the marriage ceremony held in Bombay.

Hence, the article is about the Indian cultural belief in terms of marriage that is based on arranged marriage.

## **Life is Sweet at Kumansenu**

*Abioseh Nicol, Sierra Leone (1924-1994)*

The story “Life is Sweet at Kumansenu” is written by Abioseh Nicol. The story is about the power of love to the children by the mother and to the mother by the children. The story can be interpreted as love, faith, compassion and influence between parents and children. In the story, the supernatural incident is used to show the power of love and relationship between parents and children.

Kumansenu, a small village of Africa, is a beautiful place. All the incident of the story occurred in that village. Bola, a widow, lived with Asi, her granddaughter. Actually, Bola gave birth to seven children but all of them died untimely. Mr. Meji lived for many years and was able to become a government official. Mr. Meji and Mrs. Meji used to live far from the house. Unfortunately, Mr. Meji also died. According to Mrs. Meji, he died while trying to call a messenger. He was about to call the messenger from the window at that time the window pane fell on his neck and it almost cut the neck off. But, the most surprising incident in the story is that, Mr. Meji came on Friday to meet his mother and left the house on Sunday and had brought the things for his daughter. The villagers gathered on the house of Bola and concluded that the claim of Bola is the influence of love to her children. Musa, a magician, told that if Bola had destroyed the bones of her children, he wouldn't have come to visit her. But Bola was happy of getting an opportunity to talk with her child.

Hence, the story is about the power of love between parents and children.