



My Intersectional Interstitial Identity



Poem

—Lavanya Sekar

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Identity!!!!
Myriad markers
Merely contribute
To intensify
The prediscursive
Contradictions
Limitations
And of
Paramount
Intersections

Who are you?
Just a simple question
But what of the answer or
Should I say answers???

A single marker
Cannot define me completely
And this holds true universally

I am an intersection of
Many markers
A combination of
Many roles
Aren't we all??!

We become. . .
Oh Yes!!!
We become!!!!
No qualms about it

Of what we become?
Of what we are told
We are
Or
We are not
That is a point of contestation
In all aspects

Yes I am a girl!
Was not allowed
To compete with boys physically
And sometimes mentally
Now that I have become a woman

No glass ceiling has been broken then

A member of the fair-sex
Always taught to make sure of
The amiability of the opposite sex
Not to make them adversaries

I am a Tamilian
Hence judged
For my skin
For my accent
For my tradition

A Christian by religion
But not in the majority

The qualification of my parents
Were scrutinized heavily
During my school admissions
As we are middle class

Oh how I am cast because of my caste!!!
Oh boy!!!
You have no idea. . .

My papers were triple checked
Before I got declared as
The University Entrance Topper
Because I belong to a lower caste

My boyfriend did a double take
When he came to know the same

My husband had a tough time
Convincing my in-laws
To make them accept
The first lower caste member
Into their family

Expected to fail at my workplace
Because of the stereotypes
Attached to my caste

Am in the Teaching profession
That is now a dangerous vocation

The list goes on and on . . .

I am a woman
I am a Tamilian
I belong to a lower caste
I am married
I am a Christian
I am a Professor
. . . .

Are these enough
To say who I am
To others
Or
To myself???
It should be. . .
Right!!!!

Then why there
Is a lacking
Nagging my
Insides
Calling me out
For my
Interstitiality???

About the Author



Ms. S. Lavanya is an Assistant Professor of English in Sri Sarada College for Women, Salem, Tamil Nadu. She is an avid reader and an active learner with six years of teaching experience. She completed her M.A., M.Phil (English Literature), topped the University examinations, bagged two gold medals for the same. She is an alumnus of Bishop Heber College, Trichy, TN and Bharathidasan University, Trichy, TN. She has cleared NET in her first attempt and got placed in Sarada College, Salem, TN. She is pursuing her Doctoral Research on the works of Octavia Butler. Her areas of interest are speculative fiction, afrofuturism, gender studies, social contemporary issues and literary theories. She has to her credit several research articles published in reputed UGC listed national and international journals. She also dabbles in poetry and has published two books titled *My Musings* (2022) and *Far From The Stars* (2022).