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**FOOD AS A METAPHOR OF FEMINIST DISCOURSE IN GITHA
HARIHARAN'S *THE REMAINS OF THE FEAST*****DR. ARCHANA A GUPTA**

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Member, Board of Studies, English, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University,
Nagpur, Maharashtra, India**ABSTRACT:**

*The short story *The Remains of the Feast* by Githa Hariharan has the protagonist the great-grandmother, Rukmini who is a Brahmin widow of ninety years of age. In Hariharan's story the great grandmother had to go through many trials and tribulations being a woman and on top of it being a widow. She has to suppress her 'self' and has to live many decades of her life on simple food. In her last stages of life she desires to consume all those foods which have been tabooed for her by the society. Through her cravings, the great grandmother has also challenged the canon of caste based norms and has volunteered to have food cooked by a Muslim or a Christian, food having egg or alcohol. And therefore during her last stages she becomes rebellious and food becomes a medium of her rebellion.*

Key Words: Food, Suppression, Rebellion, Feminist Discourse

Githa Hariharan is an Indian writer of many short stories and novels and an editor as well. Her first novel, *The Thousand Faces of Night* won the 1992 Commonwealth Writers Prize. *The Ghosts of Vasu Master* (1994), *When Dreams Travel* (1999), *In Times Siege* (2003), and *Fugitive Histories* (2009) are other novels penned by her. *The Art of Dying and Other Stories* is her collection of short stories. And a collection of essays entitled *Almost Home: Finding a Place in the World from Kashmir to New York* (2014), *From India to Palestine: Essays in Solidarity* (2014); and a wide ranging anthology *Battling for India: A Citizen's Reader* (2019) has also been authored by her. She has edited a volume of stories translated from four major South Indian Languages named *A Southern Harvest* (1993) with Shama Futehally as co-editor and has also edited a collection of stories for children titled, *Sorry, Best Friend!* (1997). Hariharan's work has been translated into French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Greek, Urdu and Malayalam; and her literary masterpieces are frequently included in anthologies. Three of her novels have been nominated for major awards, including the Booker Prize and *In Times Siege* was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

The short story *The Remains of the Feast* has appeared in the collection of short stories *The Art of Dying and Other Stories*. The protagonist of the story is the great-grandmother of Ratna, Rukmini who is a widow of ninety years of age. The other characters are the parents of Ratna who are also the grandson and grand daughter-in-law of Rukmini. Rukmini had only one son and he and his wife both passed away ten years before the setting of the story. Ratna is the narrator of the story and therefore throughout the story Rukmini is referred to as the great-grandmother.

