

Voices of Fire: Feminine Power Through Moral Consciousness and Ethical Choice in *Frozen* and *Kothanodi*

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Abstract

Cinematic retellings of fairy tales and folk narratives have long cast female characters as moral emblems, their virtue or suffering reinforcing fixed ethical codes. Contemporary films, by contrast; reimagine feminine power through moral consciousness and ethical choice, presenting women as ethically reflective subjects rather than passive bearers of moral weight. This paper undertakes a focused reading of *Elsa in Frozen* (2013) and *Tejimola in Kothanodi* (2015) to trace how ethical choice, exercised freely or under severe constraint functions as a transformative narrative force. Treating moral awareness, responsibility, and ethical decision-making as core analytical categories, the study examines how these characters navigate fear, suffering, and justice within culturally distinct frameworks. *Elsa's* arc foregrounds

conscious ethical recalibration through choice and accountability, while *Tejimola's* narrative shows how ethical choice endures even when agency is violently curtailed. The paper contends that contemporary cinema redefines feminine power not through domination or rebellion but through ethically grounded decision-making and moral endurance. Positioned within the sub-theme of Ethics, Spirituality, and Consciousness, the study offers an original perspective on how cinematic storytelling re-conceives female subjectivity as a site of ethical imagination and cultural critique.

Sub-theme: Ethics, Spirituality, and Consciousness

Keywords: Moral consciousness, ethical choice, feminine power, fairy tale cinema, folk narratives, *Frozen*, *Kothanodi*