

# Love, Obsession, and Madness: A Cinematic and Psychological Analysis of Tere Naam (2003)

Mr. Som Pawaiya<sup>1</sup> Mr. Rahul Tiwari<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Student, School of Performing Arts, Sanjeev Agrawal Global Educational University, Bhopal <sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, School of Performing Arts, Sanjeev Agrawal Global Educational University, Bhopal

## Abstract

The movie Tere Naam (2003) Directed by Satish Kaushik is often remembered as a tragic love story, but when we look deeper, it shows something much more intense. It presents how love can slowly turn into obsession and even lead to mental breakdown. This paper looks at the film from both cinematic and psychological perspectives. By focusing on the character of Radhe played by (Salman Khan) and his relationship with Nirjara (Bhumika Chawla) it tries to understand how the film mixes love with control, aggression, and emotional instability. It also raises questions about how such portrayals affect the way people understand love in real life.

## 1. Introduction

In many films, love is shown as something pure and beautiful, but sometimes it is also shown in extreme ways. Tere Naam is one such film where love does not stay simple and easy. It becomes intense, painful, and even destructive. The story revolves around Radhe, a short tempered guy and aggressive young man. When Radhe falls in love with the girl named Nirjara, his feelings quickly become too strong and controlling. The film makes interesting is that it does not clearly separate love from obsession. Because of this, the audience often feels confused should we feel sympathy for Radhe or question his actions?

## 2. Plot Overview

Radhe is shown as a college student who is feared by everyone because of his aggressive and violent nature. He does not follow rules and often uses aggression to get what he wants in his life. His life does not respect her space or choices and keeps forcing his presence into her life. Over time, Nirjara starts developing feelings for him, which makes their relationship even more complicated and more stress full. Things take a tragic turn when Radhe gets seriously injured in brain and suffers from mental instability. He is sent to a mental shelter in Agra and by the time he returns, everything has changed. The story ends with a heartbreaking faze, showing how everything falls.

## 3. Psychological Analysis

Radhe's behavior clearly shows the difference between real love and obsession. Instead of understanding Nirjara's feelings, he tries to control her he become mad. He believes that his strong emotions are enough to justify his actions. Another important aspect of Radhe's character is his anger. He is always ready to fight and dominate others he don't think about what will happen. This reflects a kind of toxic masculinity where being aggressive is seen as powerful. After his accident, Radhe's mental condition becomes worse and he don't remember any one. He loses control over his thoughts and actions. This part of the film shows how fragile the human mind can be.

## 4. Psychological Character Analysis of Radhe Mohan

### 4.1 Obsessive Love Disorder and Emotional Dependency

Radhe's character can be better understood if we look at it from a psychological point of view, especially in terms of obsessive behavior. What he feels for Nirjara may look like love on the surface, but as the story moves forward, it clearly becomes something deeper and more unhealthy. Instead of caring about her choices or comfort, he becomes fixated on the idea of having her in his life, any how no matter what. One important thing to notice is how Radhe reacts to rejection. Normally, we see in a healthy relationship, a person would step back and respect the other person's decision. But Radhe does the opposite. He becomes more aggressive and more determined, almost as if rejection is a challenge that he needs to win. This shows emotional dependency, where his sense of happiness and identity becomes completely attached to Nirjara. It reflects insecurity also. Somewhere deep down, Radhe seems afraid of losing control or being alone, which makes him act in extreme ways. He starts believing that constant presence, pressure, and even force are signs of love. In reality, these are signs of obsession. The film shows how easily a person can confuse intense emotions with genuine care, which is something we also see in real life sometimes.

### 4.2 Aggression and Toxic Masculinity

Another strong aspect of Radhe's personality is his aggression. From the beginning of the film, he is shown as someone who uses anger and violence to deal with situations he don't handle situation easily. Whether it is in college or in personal life, he believes in dominating others rather than understanding them. This behaviour can be linked to the idea of toxic masculinity, where being a "strong man" is often associated with being aggressive, controlling, and emotionally closed it is not good for health also. Radhe rarely expresses his feelings in a calm or mature way. Instead, he uses anger as his main form of communication. The film, in some scenes, almost glorifies this behavior, which can be problematic. What makes it more concerning is how his actions are sometimes justified in the name of love. It creates an impression that if a person's intentions are emotional or romantic, then their aggressive actions can be overlooked. This kind of portrayal can influence viewers, especially young audiences, to believe that controlling or dominating behavior is acceptable in relationships. Radhe's belief that love is something you have to win also comes from this mindset. He treats love like a battle, where persistence and force are more important than mutual understanding. This clearly shows how societal conditioning can shape the way people express emotions, especially men.

### 4.3 Mental Illness and Breakdown

The turning point in Radhe's life comes after his head injury, which leads to a serious decline in his mental condition. This part of the film shows a completely different side of his character we never seen something like this. The same person who once controlled others now struggles to control himself. His behavior becomes unpredictable, and he loses his connection with reality. This shift highlights how fragile mental health can be. A single traumatic event can completely change a person's personality and life. In Radhe's case, it takes away his sense of identity and leaves him in a vulnerable state. However, the film does not go very deep into the clinical side of mental illness. It mainly focuses on the emotional impact rather than explaining the condition properly. His suffering is shown in a way that makes the audience feel sympathy for him, but it does not fully address the seriousness of mental health issues or the importance of proper treatment. Another important point is his isolation. Once Radhe is admitted to the mental asylum, he is almost cut off from the world because asylum have there own world. This reflects how society often treats people with mental illness by distancing them instead of understanding them. His loneliness becomes even more painful when he realizes what he has lost. In the end, Radhe's breakdown is not just physical or

mental, but also emotional. It shows how a combination of obsession, anger, and trauma can completely destroy a person's life if not handled properly.

## 5. Cinematic Representation

One of the reasons Tere Naam became so popular is its emotional presentation how beautifully they use camera angle. The film uses close up shots, wide shots, emotional music, and dramatic scenes to connect with the audience. These techniques make viewers feel sympathy for Radhe, even when his actions are questionable. This is where the film becomes complicated it makes toxic behavior look emotional and sometimes even more romantic.

## 6. Gender Roles and Society

Nirjara's character represents a typical traditional girl. She is quiet, respectful, and patient. Even when Radhe behaves badly, she eventually accepts him because she also get feelings. This reflects a common idea in society where women are expected to adjust and sacrifice in relationships. The film does not give her much independence, which makes her character feel limited but impactful.

## 7. Cultural Impact

The film had a huge impact on audiences, especially young viewers. Radhe's hairstyle, dressing style, and attitude became very popular. Many people copied his look and behavior without fully understanding the deeper issues shown in the film. It also influenced how people see love. Some viewers started believing that extreme actions in love are acceptable, which can be harmful in real life.

## 8. Music and Emotional Connection

The songs of Tere Naam played a big role in its success. The music adds emotional depth and makes the audience feel more connected to the story. Songs like the title track and sad melodies help in showing Radhe's emotional pain and loneliness. Music acts as a bridge between the character's feelings and the audience also.

## 9. Real-Life Relevance

Even today, the themes of this film are relevant. Many people still confuse obsession with love. Situations where one person tries to control the other are common in real life. This shows that the film is not just entertainment but also a reflection of real human behavior and emotional struggles.

## 10. Conclusion

Tere Naam is not just a love story it is a story about emotions going out of control. It shows how love, when mixed with obsession and anger, can become dangerous. While the film is emotionally strong and memorable, it also raises important questions. It makes us think about what love really means and where we should draw the line. Overall, the film can be seen as both a powerful emotional experience and a lesson about the importance of healthy relationships.

### Copyright & License:

© Authors retain the copyright of this article. This work is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), permitting unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.