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THE TEMPEST AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAGI-COMEDY WITH THE STUDY OF SUPERNATURAL ELEMENTS

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ABSTRACT This paper attempts to study the famous play of Williams Shakespeare, The Tempest with the different angles of Psychological study .The use of supernatural and magical powers create an interest and mystery. Williams Shakespeare is known for his power of creation, imagination. Really he has keen knowledge of human relationships and their needs and desires. He is well known for the use of psychological and supernatural presentation. His art work generally depicts the keen understanding of human nature. He has the deep knowledge of human psyche, their characters and behavior. The present study will throw light on his deep dramatic knowledge with of psychological and supernatural elements in the tragic-comedy, The Tempest. This study will help us to understand the keen knowledge of William Shakespeare for his psychological and supernatural presentation in his plays.

Key words: William Shakespeare, Tempest psychological analysis, supernatural study, human behavior, human relations, love, hate and emotion

The Tempest is a psychological study by William Shakespeare exploring the supernatural powers on the earth. In the early of this play, it is depicted that a ship strikes with a rock in the tempest. It causes of the start of drowning the ship. Actually, this tempest and the drowning of the ship are the consequences of super natural power. Shakespeare's writing, particularly in the time after the sonnets, shows a constant preoccupation with the problems of individuation. The problem of how man may be able to renounce the child's longing for parental love and shelter and to live a life of his own without such demands is the constantly recurring theme. "The Tempest" as well deals with this question and represents the final answer which Shakespeare arrived at.

To submit “The Tempest” to a psychological interpretation and analysis is tempting for the reason that it is in all essential parts the product of Shakespeare's own imagination; no “sources” of any importance are known. Thus it promises a direct insight into Shakespeare's creative imagination and the underlying motives and problems. In addition it is a play which challenges our wits by many obscure and irrational passages. We sense meaning in them without being able to grasp it easily. It may be as well to start our analysis with the most glaring of these puzzles.

What strikes one as most puzzling on reading “The Tempest” is that Shakespeare at the height of his mastery as a playwright, suddenly seems to have violated all the basic rules of dramatic art. In a play one ought to see what happens as action on the stage and the unfolding of the action ought to awake the spectator's sympathetic interest. He should be able to fear and rejoice with the persons on the stage and to share their emotions. In “The Tempest” an unusually large part of the story is only recounted, not acted out on the stage. The whole story of how Prospero was deprived of his dukedom by his treacherous brother; how he and his daughter come to the island on which the play is set; and how he managed to live there during the last twelve years, we only hear narrated.

We came to know all this with discussion between Prosper and his daughter, Miranda. She is very horrified and worried about the lives of the captain and other persons in the ship. They have been caught in the tempest and the ship is going to sink in the deep water of the sea. The captain and crew members try to save the sinking ship. They have little chance to escape their lives. Antonio and Boatswains take this catastrophe naturally. However, in real it is not natural but due to Prospero’s magic. Since Prospero wants to take his revenge what has happened to him are responsible the passengers of the ship including Antonio.

However, Miranda the daughter of Prospero feels very sad for the miserable and terrible condition of the passengers or sailors. She requests her father, Prospero to control the storm as he has supernatural power. At this Prospero consoles Miranda saying.

Scene II: The Island before Prospero’s cell.

Enter Prospero and Miranda.

Mira, if by your art, my dearest father, you have

.....

With those that I saw suffer! A brave vessel,

Who had no doubt some noble creature in her?

.....

It should the good ship so have swallow’d and

the freighting souls within her.”¹

After that, Prospero narrates the story of his miseries. He tells his dear daughter how his brother, Antonio, usurped his throne. He tells his daughter that it was the story of twelve year ago when she was a little baby of only three years. At that time, Prospero was deeply interested in the study of magic. Then, he spent most of times in the activities of magical powers. He did not care of his kingdom, but his supernatural powers. His brother, Antonio was very selfish and scheming person who schemed to achieve his throne. He decided to murder him. Later, Antonio left this thought as he could be harmful for him, if the public could know of this misdeed of murder. Antonio primarily aimed to achieve the throne. Antonio cleverly added some other persons in his misdeed to murder the king and prove it as a natural death.

But it was Gonzalo who came to know this conspiracy and helped the king. He failed the conspiracy of Antonio according to which some holes were made in the ship of Prospero and it was made run towards a deserted Island. Gonzalo provided all the necessities to survive on the island. But Prospero and his only, daughter Miranda were landed in the desert Island. It was the reign by a superhuman being Caliban son of Sycorax, the devil. They were exploiting the innocent spirits particularly, Ariel.

Prospero with his magic powers overcame on Caliban and freed the Ariel from his grasp. In return, the Ariel promised Prospero to serve him. Later, with his magic power, Prospero succeeds to achieve the reign of Island. This horrible and sad story gives a deep shock to Miranda for what was happened to them.

In this way, Shakespeare introduces the supernatural agency in the form of Ariel and Spirit. This play is mainly based on these superhuman beings. In the very opening, it is Ariel who fulfills the action of the tempest and due to this ship is caught in and terrible danger that was the purpose of the Prospero. Instantly he gives information and Ariel says to his master, Prospero:

“To every article

I boarded the King’s ship; now on the beak.

.....O’ th’ dreadful thunder-claps, more momentary

And sight-outrunning were not; the fire and cracks

.....Yea, his dread trident shakes.”²

Prospero asks the Ariel it there was in red harmed due to the cause of their magic power in response Ariel replies and says:

“Not a hair perish’d ;

On their sustaining garments not a blemish,

.....In an odd angle of the isle, and sitting,

His arms in this sad knot.”³

Prospero feels relief for this information that there was no harms them to. He wanted to make them repent and felt the misdeed Antonio and other assistants. Then Prospero asked the Ariel to tell him of the king's sick and the crew members who were with the king. Ariel informs him about the movement among the crewmembers in the ship. They are upset and in heavy fatigue due to labour. The Ariel also informs that they have been made to sleep under the power of his spell. Ariel says:

“Safely in harbour
Is the King's ship ; in the deep nook, where once
Thou call'dst me up atMediterranean flote
Bound sadly home for Naples,
Supposing that they saw the King's ship wreck'd,
And his great person perishes.”⁴

In respect Ariel has been depicted as very obedient, true and faithful. He himself accepts it in the play as:

I prithee,
Remember I have done thee worthy service,
Told thee no lies, made thee no mistaking, serv'd
Without or grumblings. Thou didst promise
To bate me a full year.”⁵

The Prospero gives beautiful and realistic description of Sycorax in the following way :

“This blue-ey'd hag was hither brought with child,
Thou, my slave,... A freckl'd whelp; hag-born-not honour'd with
A human shape.”⁶

After this introduction Ariel comes to know the power and generous of his master. In response Ariel is agreed to do every impossible work for the sake of him and he says:

“That's my noble master!
What shall I do? Say what. What shall I do?”⁷

Prospero is now in desire to meet Caliban and for this purpose he visits the cave of Caliban where he lives. Now Ariel appears in the form of water nymph and Prospero addresses to it as:

“Fine apparition! My quaint Ariel,
Hark in thine ear.”⁸

In response Ariel says: My lord, it shall be done. Caliban comes out before Prospero and he ill wishes for Prospero and his daughter, Miranda. He does not like Prospero and desires his ill fate. He wishes for him as:

“As wicked dew as e’er my mother brush’d
 With raven’s feather from unwholesome fen
 Drop on you both! A south-west blow on you
 And blister you all o’er!”⁹

In response Prospero punishes him and he says to him that will have to suffer a lot due to these kind of wishes, he has for them. He says:

“For this, be sure, to-night thou shalt have cramps,
 Sibe-stitches that shall pen thy breath up; urchins
 Shall, for that vast of night that they may work,
 All exercise on thee; thou shalt be pinch’d
 As thick as honeycomb, each pinch mre stinging
 Than bees that made’em.”¹⁰

Caliban tells Prospero that he is going to have his dinner. He complains against Prospero who has snatched his Island he ever reined on it. He tells him that he is responsible for his miserable condition. So he says:

“I must eat my dinner.
 This Island’s mine, by Sycorax my mother,
Which first was mine own king ; and here you sty me
 In this hard rock, whiles you do keep from me
 The rest o’th’Island.”¹¹

During the discussion between Prospero and Caliban. It is clear that Caliban is very dangerous and ill natured person who ever tried to rape Miranda, the daughter of Prospero. It is magician, Prospero who overcomes on the cruelty of Caliban and his mother, Sycorax. He warms Caliban and reminds him, his ill nature, cruelty and sexuality of him as:

“Thou most lying slave,
 Who stripes may move, not kindness! I have us’d thee,
 Filth as thou art, with human care, and lodg’d thee
 In mine own cell, till thou didst seek to violate
 The honor of my child.”¹²

In this way Prospero portrays the ill character of Caliban who tried to snatch the purity of his daughter, Miranda. She also complains against him. But Caliban warns her to be obedient. She teaches that language but in response he says that he has learnt to abuse her. Prospero also warns him to behave in a good way. He orders him to attend his duty; if he does not so then he will have to face the heavy pain in his bones. And then Ariel appears there playing and singing as:

“Come unto these yellow sands,
 And then take hands;
 Curtsied when you have and kiss’d,
 Hark, herk ! I hear.
 The strain of strutting chanticleer
 Cry, Cock-a-diddle-dow.”¹²

After that the Ariel, spirits barked like dog. Then Ariel awakens the spirit to hear the sound of a cock- crow. The hark-hark. Ferdinand also hears the music produced by the spirits. He guesses that it may be in the air or the earth. Then music is stopped and after that it starts again its song again:

“Full fathom five thy father kies;
 Of his bones are coral made;
 Those are pearls that were his eyes;
 Nothing of him that both fade
 But both suffer a sea-change
 Into something rich and strange.
 Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell;
 Burden. Ding-dong.
 Hark! Now I hear them-Ding-dong bell.”¹³

In the play William Shakespeare gives beautiful description of supernatural elements in a vivid manner. It is portrayed in the form of Ariel. It is Ariel who performs his activities of evil for Antonio, Sebastian and Caliban as well as activities good for Prospero and Miranda. It is Ariel who makes Ferdinand to visit towards the cave of Prospero. There he meets with Miranda who is very surprised to see him as she has never seen any living human being except her father, Prospero. She is much impressed by his handsomeness and she is fallen in love with him. Prospero does not feel anger for this love affair between Ferdinand and Miranda. But he at first wants to measure the love between them. He charges Ferdinand a duty of carrying heavy logs. Miranda requests her father not to be so cruel for her lover, Ferdinand. But he does not listen to her and warns her for to be silent and he says:

“Silence! One word more

Shall make me chide thee, if not hate thee. What!
 An advocate for an impostor! Hush!
 Thou think'st there is no more such shapes as he,
 Having seen but him and Caliban. Foolish wench!
 To th' most of men this is a Caliban,
 And they to him are angels.”¹⁴

Alonso is worried of his son, Ferdinand who has been separated from him in the ship wreck. He considers him that he has been died. Gonzalo tries to console him and tries to divert his grief. Ariel enters invisible playing solemn music and its effects on Alonzo and Gonzalo. Antonio talks with Sebastian. Then an evil thought to murder the sleeping King, Alonso comes into the mind of Antonio. He suggests Sebastian to murder the king, Alonso by doing so. He can become the king like him. Sebastian is taken to Antonio and he says to him as:

“Thy case, dear friend,
 Shall be my precedent; as thou got'st Milan,
 I'll come by Naples. Draw thy sword. One stroke
 Shall free from the tribute which thou payest;
 And I the king shall love thee.”¹⁵

Just then Ariel enters there to help Gonzalo and warns to escape their lives. He sings in Gonzalo's ear since if he does not protect them, then his master, Prospero will be frustrated. So Ariel points as:

“My master through his Art foresees the danger
While you here do snoring lie,
 Open-ey'd conspiracy
 Shake off slumber, and beware:
 Awake, Awake!”¹⁶

As result of it Ganzalo is woke-up, just then Sebastian making a plan says to him he is watching as he has heard a deep and distort growl like sound, that if bulls or lions. Gonzalo assures Alonso that in real he has heard a love murmur which awoke him. So he cried and saw the swords drawn on them. Miranda feels so happy that tears come from her eyes. Next they both expose their desire to marry with each other for it. Prospero feels very happy to see this meeting of to loves.

Caliban draws a conspiracy to kill Prospero he suggests Stephen to attack on Prospero while he is sleeping in the afternoon. He also suggests him to be ready for stealing the books. To hear Stephan is agreed to murder Prospero and he says that he will be the king and Miranda will be his queen. Just then Ariel enters and plays the tune on a tabor and pipe. Stephano and Trincalo are wondered to hear this music. Caliban asks them if

they are afraid the mysterious sound. Ariel tells Antonio and Alonso about the storm that has been caused due to magic of Prospero. Ariel proves them the sinners who once ago cheated to Prospero and usurped his kingdom of Milan by conspiracy. Now the horrible situation has been created to the revenge against them.

Ariel makes them to visit before Prospero. Now they are afraid of Prospero as they have tried to murder him. But now it is turn of Prospero against them to take his revenge. All things happen on other hand as Prospero is so generous person that he forgets their cruelty and forgives all them. It brings the feelings of repentance among all cheaters. They repent a lot on their cruelty and conspiracy.

Then Prospero announces the wedding of Miranda and Ferdinand. Ariel calls three spirits Juno, Ceres and Iris for masque in wedding. Ariel goes to only the order of his master than Prospero advises Ferdinand to be faithful for her Miranda as he has promised to her. Then Miranda and Ferdinand get marriage. Ultimately, Antonio and Alonso take Prospero and Miranda with them for reign of Milan. Prospero frees Ariel for forever. He also gives up his Books as well as Magic Powers behind him. All the persons return happily to their kingdom and play takes an end.

Thus *The Tempest* is a psychological play in which Shakespeare depicts the supernatural elements in a beautiful way. In this play Shakespeare shows the both kind of supernatural elements as a symbol of good as well as evil. Actually Shakespeare shows the inner minds of his characters. This play proves a Shakespeare great imaginative and scholar of supernatural world.

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