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THE RAIN BOW: THEMATIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This is one of the complex modern novels by the British Writer, D. H. Lawrence, which deals with many themes. His frank treatment of sexual desire and the part it plays within different relationships as a natural and even spiritual force of life caused to be prosecuted as an obscenity. It is a sequel to Women in Love. It is reflections of the three family's internal relationships and focused the individual's growth and fulfillment within the confining structure of English social life. We live in a world structured by gender, the other sex is forever to some extent a mystery to us, with dimensions of experience that we can imagine but never inwardly know.

KEY WORDS: complex modern novels, British Writer, Rain bow.

INTRODUCTION

The rainbow is a complex modern novel by D.H. Lawrence, which deals with many themes. It has various interpretations. It has wide range of human experiences. It is a 'vision of life' by Lawrence. It traces the changing pattern of relations among three generation. It expresses the impact of modern civilization on human sensibility. It explores the relation between instinct and intellect.

Salvation, the quest for fulfillment, is foremost theme of 'The Rainbow' it is not spiritual salvation; it is a 'wholesome state of being'! Lawrence thinks that every individual consist of two distinct selves; The life of ordinary social experience and the self of essential being. The first self is involved in mysterious transactions with the living universe and aims at unknown goals. So a wholesome state of being refers to the duel fulfillment of these two selves as a single integrated experience of life. How can we achieve this salvation? The opening pages of novel describe two contradictions towards life. One consists of a mindless union with organic creation called 'blood – intimacy'. The other consists of a capacity for a higher form and being for a carrier marked by the individual's moral efforts, intelligent awareness and spiritual power. The first one may be called the value of spontaneous relatedness; the second may be called the value of maximum individual. Both of these values are equal essential but neither of them is sufficient in itself. The wholeness of being exists only when these two values are brought together in a single organized experience of life. In the earlier generation of the Brangwen family, men have enjoyed the contentment of blood-intimacy, when women have been aspired for the higher being. Moreover blood-intimacy is released in the physical relation between married partners, but the value of individualization is fulfilled in separate ways.

D.H. Lawrence takes three successive generations of the Brangwen family to present his scheme of dual fulfillment of salvation. In each generation the main characters realize that their experience of life is inadequate. They receive a call from the unknown goal that they must change. They must workout for

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their transfiguration.

At first generation Tom and Lydia listen and submit to this call. They understand what life is and worked to achieve their revaluation. They love each other, but they respect the 'otherness' of the other partner. After Lydia's pregnancy she feels isolated and insecure, whereas Tom feels rejected, but they saved their marriage. They achieved supreme consumption though each other Lawrence presented their perfectly happy and fulfilled relationship through the image of the completed arch.

In the second generation Will and Anna progressed towards wholeness of being but fall short. At first they struggled for domination. Will keeps loosing inch by inch while Anna dances to celebrate her dominance over him. She seeks complete fulfillment in child bearing whereas William turns to Ursula, for his emotional fulfillment. But neither of them is fulfilled as the first generation, Tom and Lydia. Lawrence invokes the image of broken arch to suggest the failure of William and Anna's married life. In the last generation Ursula Brangwen is exposed to a series of exhausting erotic experience. At first William's oedipal love jerks her into a premature awareness of life and makes her extremely sensitive through heavy stress on her mind, of all the Brangwen. It is Ursula who desires intensely for individual fulfillment of being. But ironically, it is she who receives the most unfulfilling experience, because her means of fulfillment is misdirected. First Anton Screbonsky expects only physical consumption of love, so Ursula often finds him a mare- nothing. Secondly her homosexual love with Winifred Inger is a perverse relationship which cannot offer her fulfillment. Thirdly her decision to marry Anton is untimely. More over the final vision of the rainbow is seen by her as a sign of promise and hope, not of achieved fulfillment. Her meeting with horses suggests that she must continue her quest for the whole-being.

Importance of work is another theme of the rainbow. Lawrence regarded work as a kind of spiritual activity, which is meant for self development or self fulfillment. That is why tom seeks satisfaction in his work on the farm but William's negligence to work spoils his chances of fulfillments. Lawrence discusses the oedipal love and its harm full effects of one's personality in this novel. He presets three relationships of three generations of Brangwen family. In the first generation the protagonist (Tom) is a victim of 'mother-fixation' which resulted in his insufficiency. He feels a sense of guilt. The protagonist of second generation is changed with a great intensity, but only momentarily. William's relationship with Ursula has an impact of Oedipus complex.

D.H. Lawrence strong mother-pull adversely affects his healthy, emotional relations with other opposite sex. He loved his mother like a lover and in every woman he tried to look for the image of his mother. The most striking feature of Lawrence's character is the resemblance they bear to their creator. Middleton Murray has shown "Lawrence was a tortured soul for full forty five years and his life and his novels are an expression of his inner sufferings, frustration and emotional complexes. E.A. Baker puts it as, to him not only was sex the way the woman fulfills. Her being and man, one of his creative functions, but sexual experience was a door to new realm of consciousness. An initiation in to divine mysteries in short Lawrence was in reality, the puppet of primitive in instinct and passions.

CONCLUSION:

It is noted that the novels of D. H. Lawrence reflected the trauma of physical relations with each other. The writer himself was very much attracted to his own mother, he also was in search of a complete satisfaction in his life but unfortunately he was suffered a lot. The characters portrayed by him in his work also resembles with his life. It is the reflection of his life in the protagonists which he had portrayed in his novel. Here we have seen the controversy in the relationships of the characters. They are always in search of fulfillment. The desire of fulfillment remains unfulfilled. It is still continues, the modern sensibility of modern generation and their search of salvation and fulfillment remains as it is, at present also.

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