



REPRESENTATION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN GRAHAM GREENE'S PINKIE

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ABSTRACT :

Juvenile Delinquency has shown a dramatic rise and has generated considerable fear and concern among public. Young persons, usually less than eighteen years of age, who are forced into a harder life style due to their circumstances find temptations to stray from the law and cause the law to correct them. Innocent children become criminals due to unfavorable and hostile social environment. Disproportionate distribution of opportunities and resources to youth as they grow up contribute to the risk of youth getting involved in the juvenile crime.

KEYWORDS : *Juvenile Delinquency , Disproportionate distribution of opportunities and resources , hostile social environment.*

INTRODUCTION

Brighton Rock by Graham Greene is a novel in which nature of evil is thoroughly explored. Greene tells the story of young juvenile gang leader, Pinkie, aged seventeen years, who appears evil throughout the novel, is presented as being a part of modern seediness.

Graham Greene clearly shows that early development factors like abusive and poor parenting, disorganized family along with neighborhood environment are responsible for making Pinkie a juvenile criminal. Studies show, how parents treat their children has an impact on their behavior. Parental conflict, harsh, erratic discipline has been shown to contribute to juvenile crime. Abused children are at high risk of becoming involved in crimes. Households that provide warmth and guidance foster the development of non criminal young people even in neighborhoods at high risk of crime.

Pinkie did not have happy boyhood. In Dickens novels inspite of ill treatment, the orphans survive their good natures but Pinkie is a young man having hatred for the world. He is bitter, solitary and desperate. Pinkie lives with the hatred which he has received from the world along with indifference and lack of consideration which he received from his parents. Children who grow up in neighborhood with high joblessness, poverty and crime may see criminal behavior as an alternative when opportunities are less.

Schools, neighborhood, family, society and sometimes situations are responsible for degradation of a child. Criminals are made not born and society has the power to cure them. The effects of juvenile delinquency are very costly for individual, family and society at large. Greene highlights Pinkie's evil in the novel and gives the reader a negative image and perspective of Pinkie. His background is responsible for his behavior.

According to Rex Warner Greene performs the function of an artist perfectly which is –
to hold the mirror up to nature to show men how they live and what is meant
by their own words and manners, to investigate everything under the sun, to
retain the tradition of the past and to explore the future, to instruct, to criticize,

to delight, to create and to reveal.

Greene explores, in his novel Brighton Rock, nature of evil. He tells the story of young gang leader, Pinkie who appears evil throughout the novel. In Brighton Rock, Graham Greene uses a boy gangster Pinkie aged seventeen years in its central figure. He examines how childhood and parentage usually reveal character and suggest the future of a young boy who becomes a juvenile criminal. The novel is set in an outlying district city which superficially resembles the real Brighton. In Greene's novels the sinner is always within the reach of the appalling strangeness of the mercy of God. Greene deals with social and political unrest of his time, his aim is not social reform but he examines human behavior. Pinkie is presented as being a part of modern seediness.

"When you see [Pinkie's] face he looked older the stately eyes were touched with the annihilating eternity from which he had come and to which he went."

Greene continuously gives the reader a negative image and perspective of Pinkie. Evil he may be, but pure of mundane pleasures. Greene has a fear as well as fascination for the masses. The image of Pinkie has been portrayed in the words "the poison twisted in the boys veins" here blood is compared to poison and dirty and twisted suggest that his body is contaminated with evil.

Greene uses a simile, "like an old man in which human feeling has died." To give another image of Pinkie who has no feelings or emotions. Due to his childhood memories Pinkie has a great dislike for woman even a fear of them. Pinkie Brown, a boy gangster with ambitious plans fights to step into the shoes of his gang's recently murdered chief, Kite. A newspaperman, Fred is responsible for Kite's downfall and murder. Pinkie murders this Fred to claim his rightful place on the top of Kite's pack.

Fred's murder is considered as a natural death by local police, only a teenage café waitress, Rose, has the evidence that reveals the murder. Catholic born Pinkie who considers himself damned seduces Rose to silence her. Although he is completely disgusted with this relationship. This relationship is the beginning of a series of damning evil acts.

Greene highlights Pinkie's evil by Pinkie's relationship which creates a complete contrast of characters. Pinkie makes Rose promise not to say anything about the murder. Greene creates a child like immature image of Rose which is completely opposite to the dominating evil character of Pinkie. The extreme contrast of characters emphasizes the evil of Pinkie. Greene has created clear image of Pinkie and his personality being evil. Evil person has little or no concern for others.

Ida Arnold, the freewheeling heroine at the heart of the story is the embodiment of rightness.

"Right and wrong" Ida said, "I believe in right and wrong" and delving a little deeper with a sigh of happy satiety she said, "It's going to be exciting, it's going to be fun, it's going to be a bit of life."

She devotes her time and energy towards the twin purpose of obtaining justice for Charles "Fred" Hale and rescuing Rose, from the grip of Pinkie, the villain, Ida has very less self interest; she is concerned with the welfare of others.

"... She took care of herself. Her lipstick told you that, the confidence of her big body. She was well covered, but she wasn't careless; she kept her lines for those who care about lines."

The initial description of Ida establishes her as a symbol of life and vitality. This sets up the contrast between Ida & Pinkie that later becomes apparent in the novel. Ida represents life, humanity and womanhood; while Pinkie represents evils such as poverty and violence. Pinkie is the villain. He orchestrates the murder of Fred. He betrays and murders Spicer. He takes advantage of the love of Rose and uses it for selfish purposes.

Ida takes care of her looks, creating the first implication that she seeks to attract men and this in contrast with Pinkie's and Rose's moral values. Ida symbolizes sensuality, joy and life; she represents all those things that Pinkie hates. This contrast has been created by Greene intentionally to illustrate two different perspectives on how life should be lived.

Pinkie marries Rose so that she doesn't give evidence against him in court. His actions are motivated by self-interest. Rose, the most tragic figure in the novel enters the story as a good catholic girl. She attends mass and confession and is hard working. Rose has fierce, selfless love for Pinkie; however, she prevents justice from being done.

Pinkie an adolescent villain, a pathological killer marries mousy sixteen year old Rose to keep her quiet, when he might have easily killed her. England in 1930's is a wasted land full of broken souls, where a stranger can be killed & nobody cares.

The different places and characters in Brighton Rock have allegorical meaning which are beyond the surface of things and people. The seventeen year old gang leader, Pinkie Brown, differs in his outward appearance from other characters along with his view of the world. The protagonist's psychological condition is due to his inner as well as outer conflicts which form the core of the novel.

Pinkie has an expression of contempt for the world so he watches it with disdain. According to Robert Haskins Pinkie's life is, " an act of revenge against the world that has offered him nothing but misery and unhappiness." Pinkie feels that world has denied him the chance to become happy. Pinkie has been conditioned like this due to his environment. Although Graham Greene has sporadically described his background. Wherever Pinkie gets reminded of his past during his conversation with Rose he does not appreciate it.

Fred Hale comes to Brighton on assignment to anonymously distribute cards for a newspaper competition. Hale has betrayed the former leader of the gang. Ida Arnold, a kind hearted and decent woman, is drawn into action by a chance meeting with the terrified Hale whom Pinkie murders in obscure circumstances shortly afterwards. Pinkie attempts to cover his tracks lead to a chain of fresh crimes and to an ill fated marriage to Rose, a waitress who has the power to destroy him. Ida pursues Pinkie to protect Rose from the deeply disturbed boy she has married.

Pinkie realizes that his original view of things is that it is mistaken, and that hell is all around us. He finds himself committing a sin which is more serious than murder by trying to silence Rose. He has been trapped in squalid domestic routines and sexual relations which he sought to escape. He can come out of this trap only after Rose's death. When Pinkie takes his bride back to Frank's place he sees-

The ugly bell chattered, the long wire humming in the hall, and the bare globe burnt above the bed- the girl, the washstand, the sooty window, the blank shape of a chimney, a voice whispered, "I love you, Pinkie."

It is interesting and ironic that Pinkie is a Roman. He nurtures vice, he chooses Hell over Heaven; " Heaven was a word: hell was something he could trust." Pinkie hates the idea of sexual contact, " a prick of sexual act disturbed him like a sickness." This was the result of watching his parents' weekly sexual activities when he was a child.

Pinkie's view of the world can only be described in terms of torments and damnation. For Pinkie there is basically no difference between life and death because for him life is like hell without any alternative. Pinkie believes that Hell is all around him; it is the part of his life. When Pinkie talks about life after death he talks of his present situation. He places himself outside any secular chronology." the stately eyes were touched with the annihilating eternity from which he had come and to which he went."

Ida Arnold's views cannot penetrate this sphere when she tries to convince Rose to leave Pinkie because for them good and evil are supernatural categories. He is responsible for two murders and is compelled to marry Rose to prevent her from giving evidence. Looking around his room, on his wedding night, he realizes that he is no longer alone and celibate.

Pinkie is young, only seventeen, thin and introvert. He becomes a gangster because of his past life. He was a bully at school, always trying to prove he was tougher than other children. He is concerned about how people view him when he believes nobody takes him seriously, he becomes very bitter. The poison

twisted in boys veins. He is insulted again and again. He is driven by a need to feel safe along with proving himself a man. Music is his only weakness which makes him cry so he admits that he walks away from music. He is sadistic to the level that he wants to rip plaster off Spicer's cheek to see the open wound, he hurts Rose by pinching her wrist and threatens her with the acid which he regularly carries since their first date.

Pinkie's lifestyle, religion, personality take him into a downward spiral of multiple murders and ultimately his own death. Rose initially, appears to be opposite of Pinkie, a good catholic saying prayers, attending masses and hoping for heaven. She reminds Pinkie of his background as they are from the same part of town. Rose asks him about his belief-

' But you believe, don't you.' Rose implored him, ' You think it's true?'
 'Of course it's true,' the Boy said, ' What else could there be ?[...] why it's the only thing that fits. These atheists, they don't know nothing of course there's Hell. Flames & damnation ...', ' And Heaven too,' Rose said and ...
 ' oh may be,' the boy said, 'May be.'

Pinkie realizes although reluctantly that he needs Rose. He was aware that she belongs to his life. Pinkie and Rose have Roman Catholicism in common but they establish chief polarities of good and evil. Rose knows that, " what was most evil in him needed her; it couldn't get along without goodness." (p.126). Their marriage so similar to the marriage of hell and heaven. She was good, he'd discovered that, and he was evil they were made for each other." (p.126)

Ida Arnold represents the middle ground of the chief polarities of good & evil. She represents human nature and she can distinguish right and wrong. As per the natural justice Pinkie and his evil must be destroyed and Ida representing humanity must bring about his destruction. In the end Rose goes to church and confesses that she is unable to repent her failure to damn herself alongside Pinkie. The priest speaks to her of the " appalling.....strangeness... of the mercy of God." (p.246)

Ida sees the good in Rose and wants to save her from Pinkie and Rose has convinced herself that Pinkie loves her and wouldn't do her any harm. She has lost some of her goodness being loyal to a murderer. Rose gets so much absorbed in Pinkie's life that she commits the ultimate sin suicide so that they both get hell together.

Pinkie achieves his ultimate goal and dies in the fires of hell. Greene uses his seventeen year old criminal hero's incongruous catholic faith to win a measure of sympathy for him. The plot revolves around Pinkie Brown. As Pinkie becomes iconic. His background is real enough - the race course gangs of 1930's. He is archetypal of the nastiness of English criminality and also predicts future manifestations of home grown youth cultures. Pinkie prefigures American icon of juvenile delinquency.