

A NEST OF ENCHANTERS: A SCRUTINIZED EXAMINATION ON MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT IN J K ROWLING'S *HARRY POTTER AND DEATHLY HALLOWS*

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ABSTRACT

Enchantments intended to gain mastery over the universe, the magic, spell and sorcery are part of traditional beliefs that guide us to discern the universe, life, death and range of human possibilities. Those former beliefs and customs were replaced by false notions and mind-sets. Modern age treats magic as a medium to earn personal benefit than a welfare universe. In the novel Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows, Voldemort the antihero of the novel tried to master over the three deathly hallows which symbolize the modern man seeking unnatural powers or magical objects to attain a superior status over a hierarchy. Sorcery is the extreme end of any magical powers that lead a greed man to neglect the path of nobility. He uses all his nerves to fulfil his thirst for money and power. Even the current news about the murder of two women as a part of sorcery points out the fact how this greed for money and power makes the man inhumane or a monster. The entire novel series of Harry Potter portray a wizarding world of good and evils and their conflicts for magical objects that are crucial for their existence.

Key Words: Resurrection stone, Elder wand, Animagi Transformation, Metamorphmagi and Parseltongue.

INTRODUCTION

The terms witchcraft and sorcery are different in their meaning and practice. Though we feel similarity in their concepts, both are entirely different from that of another. Sorcery is attributed to the goodness of whole universe, on the other hand witchcraft is attributed to the black arts for selfish needs. Atharvaveda, the sacred text of Hinduism illustrates mantras of both black and white magic. White magic is an art of defense and black magic is an offensive one. From premature ages witchcraft and sorcery were familiar. Its practices were common on those days. But when its practices and belief crossed the boundaries of government authorities, they banned these customs and rituals. The goal of an enchantment is the spiritual maturation. An anomalous force is safeguarding the whole universe from the fist of fearsome beast.

The novel portrays the merits and demerits of a wizard world pointing out all the factors that influences spiritual and material world of human. Though this is an imaginary story up on an imaginary world, this is also a hidden satire up on modern society which lacks moral values in mind. A spiritual and material conflict rises among the minds of modern man where they give more significance to their material prospects. Men who give too much importance

to material prospects degrade moral values to extract more power and money. Magicians themselves cannot create money out of thin air but they can increase the chance of attracting wealth out of various magical practices.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyse whether the novel explores a magical world capable of performing mind blowing acts in every perspective through the wings of imagination.
- To find out whether it differentiates sorcery and witchcraft inferring all its advantages and disadvantages and it hints a satire up on the motives of modern man to acquire a higher prospect by any means.

METHODOLOGY

Magic in fiction is a device, which helps the writer to extend the plot of fantasy in progressive manner. It provides a space to enhance the fiction through techniques of exceptional supremacies. Various limitations are forced on every magician to create conflicts and further progress in a fiction.

Analysis

The novel analyses a wizard world which encompasses positive as well as negative aspects of human mind. People sacrifices their innate humanity for selfish desires. “We are all human, aren’t we? Every human life is worth the same, and worth saving.” (Kingsley Shacklebolt). Every man is worth to this world. Black arts take the life of innocent for selfish purpose.

Deathly Hallows

Deathly Hallows are the three mystical devices that was supposed to be manufactured by death himself and was given to the Peverell brothers. The person who owns all the three

deathly hallows can sovereign the death, is the belief. Elder wand, Resurrection stone, and Cloak of Invisibility constitutes the Deathly Hallows. Elder Wand is the death stick which possesses immense power than all other magical wands. A person who has the potential to accept death can sole the mastery over Elder Wand.

Resurrection stone is a magical object that enable its master to bring back the life of a dead person. One cannot bring back the life of a dead one with its full vigor and vitality. He can only bring back the mere image of the dead one. The practice on Resurrection stone does not bring happiness and rhythm in the life of its practitioner but it constantly reminds him of the bitter and sour reality of the mortal world. Cloak of Invisibility makes its wearers get invisible from the eyes of his fellow beings. This mere magical object is a perfect example that reflects the degraded morality of a society that it facilitates its wearers to break out norms and regulations set by the authorities. The story of Peverell family paints a dramatic picture of human beings aspiring to befit a superior rank. The list of magical abilities possessed by the characters in *Harry Potter* are Animagi transformation, Metamorphmagi, Parsel tongue, Legilimency Occlumency, Apparition, and Disapparition.

Animagi Transformation

The novel portrays the distinctive ability of magicians to transform in to an animal form which is purely acquired and not hereditary. It is a rare skill of magicians to acquire such transformations. An animagus can remain as an animal until he wishes for a transfiguration. An animagus who acquired the skill of transformation can change his human form in to an animal suitable to his personality. This means that an animagus does not have a choice of his

own, he automatically take the shape of an animal that reflects his inner self. An animagus has complete authority over his psyche, consciousness and cognizance, though he is in the shape of an animal.

Metamorphmagi

A Metamorphmagus has the ability to convert his physical form fully or partially to any form that he wishes. This skill is partially hereditary and acquired. Their powers get easily affected by the inner emotions, thoughts and conflicts in their minds and are reflected in their appearances

Parseltongue

Parseltongue is purely a skill of hereditary. It is the language of snakes. It helps its practitioner to secretly communicate with other parseltongues or enable him to control the mind of a snake.

Legilimency and Occlumency

Legilimency is a form of talent that enable its practitioner to travel through the mind of a person and explore his inner self. It is a sort of mind reading. Experts make use of telepathy as a means of communication. It helps him to read the emotions, secrets in one's mind. Occlumence defend the power of legilimence. They control their mind in such a way that legilimence could not trace their inner self. Experts in occlumence plant duplicate self in him to prevent the tracing of exact emotions.

Apparition and Dis-apparition

It is a form of teleportation of the person from one place to another but is restricted to a short distance. For a long distant journey, he must find out other means of transport like broom stick. There are certain norms in wizard world. The person needs a license to practice apparition and dis-apparition, as it is an intrusion up on other

people's privacy. Most of the houses in the wizard world are protected with anti-apparition spells that help them protect from other intruders who spoils privacy. Majority of the magic, norms and systems portrayed in the novel are her own imagination and helps the reader fly in thin air through the wings of imagination.

Horcruxes

Horcruxes an important term highlighted in the novel attributed the attitudes of a savage man towards his fellow being. In a wizard world, the purpose of creation of horcruxes is to expand the lifespan of a soul, by distorting one's soul in to several parts. Though horcruxes increases the life of a soul, the physical appearance of its practitioner will degrade to such an extent, that one could not recognize him as a human any more, as manufacturing of horcruxes is terrible as well as burdensome procedure

CONCLUSION

Like all other fantasy fiction, *the Deathly Hallows* also pictures a mysterious world which demands certain magical objects crucial for the existence of a wizard or witch. The novel makes the reader fly over a mysterious fantasy world through the wings of his imagination. The Elder Wand, Resurrection stone and Cloak of invisibility are the three deathly hallows created by the god of death. The mystery about the deathly hallows gives us a hint about the deep evil notion behind the creation of it. Actually, this was given as a gift as well as a trap to Peverell brothers, by the god of death; for being miraculous, they get away from the hands of death, impersonated as a deadly dangerous river. A person who masters all the three hallows master the death himself. The possession of these hallows invites Peverell family to invite their

own death. The villain Voldemort in Harry Potter resembles the dark cruel and animal nature of a modern man in twenty first century. They perform dark arts to attain a higher status in a social and economic hierarchy. The present perspective or attitudes of modern man is worse than ever. Their humanity is degraded in to such a low to sacrifice a human for their personal benefits.

Money is the most important factor to climb a higher status. Rowling presents before her reader, the control and power exercised by the wizard world through her fantasy novel. She draws a painting of social evils, inequalities, injustices of the pre-dominant. The cases of murder in the name of sorcery are getting known day by day.

The theme witchcraft is prevalent in the present century as it is done secretly by its practitioners. They sacrifice the lives of innocent human beings for their selfish needs. This is a kind of psychological disorder that seems to require a proper treatment. Assumptions regarding witchcraft or sorcery vary from person to person, like a coin that has two sides. It is up to the mind of a person, his perspectives, his beliefs, environment and moreover his social background that moulds the personality of a

human being. Ideas about mischievous human sacrifices and notions comes to the mindset of men from the earlier ages were these customs and rituals practiced in common. Every man is mortal; immortality is a distant dream to men. Men do everything good and wrong to lead a life of prosperity, the aim of each sorcery is to accumulate wealth.

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