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TRAITS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY

Dr. Kivne Sandipan Tukaram

William Shakespeare was a renowned English poet, playright and actor born in 1564 Stratford-upon-Avon. Shakespearean tragedy is the disignation given to most tragedies written by playwright William Shakespeare. Many of his history plays share the qualifiers of a Shakespearean tragedy but because they are based on real figures throughout the history of England. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. He is often called England's national poet. Shakespeare tragic plays are the beautiful combination of Aristotelian tradition and plays. There is a touch of poetic emotions and sublime experience. In the word of critics, his tragedies are nothing but a tale of a sympathy. In his tragedy the hero suffers a lot. Besides there are some common features observed almost in his tragedies such as the role of fate, conflict, weakness of the hero, comic relief, supernatural elements, use of irony, catharsis of emotions. Shakespearean tragedy revolves around the tragic life and action of the hero. According to A. C. Bradley, Shakespearean tragedy is divided in to three part i.e. exposition, conflict and catastrophe. Though Shakespeare followed Aristotelian tradition, he has own touch in creating magnificent tragedy. There is a common feature of his tragedies that hero dies with a tragic death. His tragic suffering lies in his emotional and spiritual agony.

During the Elizabethan Age, the romantic drama and tragedy reached its climax. William Shakespeare has won an immoral place. His foremost tragedies "Hamlet", "Othello", "King Lear" and "Macbeth" are greatest gifts of humanity. Because of his universal appeal, he is considered is an uncrowned king of English Literature. Shakespeare possessed a creative mind. He is the man of genius. He is the wonder of Elizabethan stage. He is master in showing the struggle between good and evil. In his mind, a story never remains mere table of suffering. A. C. Bradley Says "Shakespearean tragedy is a story of human action producing exceptional calamity in the death of a man in high estate. "Othello", "King Lear", "Hamlet", and "Macbeth", these are great tragedies of William Shakespeare: There are influences of many writers yet Shakespeare became a successful writer. He has his own techniques. Let us discuss traits of his tragedies in the life of hero, death comes to him more as a relief than a punishment. As we come across to Shakespearean literary chronology. He wrote his greatest tragedies during the third period of his literary life. We can consider his first literary period when he contributed twenty six sonnets and seven plays during 1585 to 1954. There are influences of many writers yet Shakespeare became a successful. All of Shakespeare tragedies contain at least one more of these elements likes as A tragic waste, the hero's tragic flaw, issues of fate, Greed, faul revenge, supernatural elements these are contain in William Shakespeare tragedies. Shakespeare tragedy plays a combination of these elements . Shakespeare was an extraordinary person. He possessed qualities, such as openmindedness, being hardworking, optimistic, and passionate. He was open minded because he was creative with his ideas and could take something so small and with little detail and make it into something big and amazing.

Shakespeare a metrical pattern consisting of lines of unrhymed imbic pantameter, called black verse. His most plays were composed using blank verse. Although there are passages in all the plays that deviate from the norm and are composed of other forms of poetry. The basic theme of

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Shakespeare plays are appearance and reality, change, order and disorder, and conflict. Basically the shakespeare tragedy is the story of hero. It is only in love tragedies Romeo and Juliet and Antony ragedies are the stories of great man. Shakespearean tragic heroes are generally of high estate. Macbeth is the general in the army. Hamlet is the prince of Denmark. Othello is the great warrior of have list of great emperor King and commander. The critics says.... Shakespeare tragedy always concerned with the person of high degree. The Shakespearean tragedies are full of sorrow and suffering.

Supernatural element is also element of William Shakespeare tragedies. It contain concerned character or could be objective which is visible to all. This supernatural provokes the hero to take action. These various forms of supernatural help to build up the true atmosphere of darkness, gloom mystery and fatality. The supernatural except comedy hasten the downfall of the hero. In Shakespeare "Hamlet there appears perhaps the most notable of the supernatural forms, the ghost. It is objective along with Hamlet others. "Macbeth" not only does a ghost appear but a floating dragger, witches and spirits make appearances. We see that Banquos ghost is subjective and it is see by Macbeth only. Thus, ghost, witches, omes and superstition play very important role. They push the hero on to the path of evil and bloodshed. In tragedy, generally comic relief is out of question. However to lighten the tragic side of character the dramatist uses this technique of comic relief. Many critics consider the device of comic relief as an irrelevant part of the tragedy. Shakespeare uses humorous scenes in his tragedies in Macbeth, we observed porter scene.

Shakespearean tragedy hero possess some flaw or defect. This tragic flaw attains in him a terrible force. A. C. Bradley refers this trait as tragic 'flaw' while Aristotle calls it 'Hamartia' for example, Hamlet posses notable inaction. Othello is 'Credulous'. Macbeth is ambitious Brutus possesses to much love for nation. Antony has too much attraction for Cleopatra beauty, King Lear has hasty Judgement. In fact a Shakespearean tragedy is not just the tragedy of destiny or the tragedy of character but is a mixture of both. Gripping catastrophe of William Shakespearean tragedy is unique with this feature of gripping catastrophe. In "Othello" we can see that Othello despair when he comes to know from Emilia that he has been duped is touching. Even King Lear we have touching J'ords as spoken by Lear on the death or Cordelia. Othello play bigin with comedy and end with tragedy. Suspicious is the basic theme of the play.

Aristotle defines tragedy according to seven characteristics these are it is mimetic, It is serious, It tells full story of an appropriate length, it contains rhythm and harmony, rhythm and harmony occur in different combinations in different part of the tragedy. It is performed rather than narrated. A Shakespearean tragedy traditionally follows the freytag paramid of dramatic structure which consists five parts. Freytag analysis is derived from Aristotle poetics that had a three part view of a plot structure Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action and Denouement etc.

The Shakespearean tragedy mainly arouse two types of feeling in the audience i. e. Pity and fear. Shakespeare has made very effective use of soliloquy in his plays especially in his tragedies. Traged as conceived by Shakespeare his a subject to struggle of good and evil in the world. We can consider his tragedy as an epitome of great art. We totally agree with Carlyle when he says... Shakespeare lasts forever with us we can not give up our Shakespeare tragedy is the story of calamity, which leads to the death of hero of high status. Shakespeare popularity lies on his characteristics of tragic writing in the words of Dowden.

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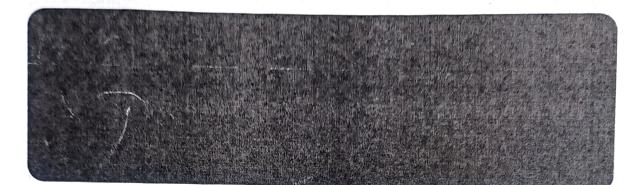
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MAH/NAN/10936/2015 ISSN : 2454-7905 SJIF 2022 - Impact Factor: 7.479



Year - 8, Vol.I, Issue-LXV, July 2022

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