

Looking through the Mirror of Eugene O'Neill: Men and Women's Interactional Different Driving Force in Joining Each Other

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Abstract: The present article tries to consider Eugene O'Neill's *Beyond the Horizon* and find answers to the questions about men's tendency towards women and vice versa. Men and women are different in joining to each other. Sexual pleasure causes men to be on the way women go. On the contrary women's emotional demand draw them towards men. O'Neill poses the story about the qualities of life and love affairs and the interactions between two brothers in one hand and a girl on the other hand. This play tries to reflect a realistic view of different desires of men and women. He uses the characters Robert to show that man's urgent need for sexual pleasure causes him to use romantic and emotional words to trap a woman. On the other hand, he uses the character Ruth to show that woman's desire for emotional pleasure causes her not to see the fire under the dash.

Keywords: Sexuality, Pleasure, Emotion, Physical, Desire, Love, Security, Wellbeing, Urgent need.

INTRODUCTION

Eugene O'Neill, one of the most admired American playwrights of the 20th century, wrote his famed play named *Beyond the Horizon* in 1920. His bitter experiences of life challenges caused him to write this poignant and piercing drama. All of his characters have a historical and universal significance with general passions and principles. This drama deals with the frustration of a couple's ambitions that made them have a bitter life. One of the causes of frustration is temporary temptation which originates from weak and wavering mind. Human beings suffer from this problem through the whole history. It keeps the mind away from fulfilling a determined plan. In other words, it causes the mind to fail to decide its goal of life. It also brings about ignoring real self, losing wisdom, making folly and wrong decision. O'Neill tries to pierce the depth of his universal characters to unravel the true driving forces of men and women for joining each other. He believes that human beings are dynamic and they can change their destinies through their decisions. Human beings' driving force cause them to be tempted for fulfilling their sense of wellbeing. If people don't pay attention to their real self, inner conscience and rational mind, they invite trouble for themselves.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Since the first date of world up to the present time, one of the big problems of people is their weakness in making decision. Through a psychoanalytical look on this issue, one can find that human beings are in danger of temporary temptation by instinct. In *Beyond the Horizon* we become familiar with the outcomes of wavering mind. We wonder how a man and a woman get married while there is no harmony in their life. We are curious to know why an honorable man has an aberrant behavior. Human beings always tend to know that how they can avoid the dangers of temporary temptation. The characters of this play unwillingly do something and then regret. Robert and Ruth got married in spite of their contradictory ambitions. Their misfits lead this incompatible couple to tragedy and burned them emotionally. Ruth's need for emotional support caused her

to be trapped by Robert's need for sexual pleasure. Both Robert and Ruth's temptation destroyed the peace of their families. In fact they made a hell for themselves and their relatives. Their opposite dreams were destroyed by their dynamic driving force. Everybody on the earth has their own talent of something. If Robert and Ruth decided based on their conscious minds, they would not have ruined their life and others. This article tries to consider momentary enjoyment and long last misery of temporary temptation. In fact it is the tragic flow of one who may be trapped in it.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Are men and women different in their desires?
- May one be tempted just for having a sense of wellbeing?
- May one be tempted due to others' expectation or pressure?
- Can someone guarantee their successfulness through controlling their driving forces?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance of this play lies in human controversial issues from the first history of human life up to now. It tries to show the reasons of human faults in spite of having god-like reason. This article tries to unravel the cause of temptation whereby a man joins to a woman and vice versa. Men and women have their own different drives for temptation. Women are usually tempted by emotional stimuli while men are usually tempted by sexual stimuli which become slimy for them and they get stuck in it. Both men and women have the above mentioned drives in their unconscious and subconscious. They should be careful about the voice of their subconscious mind. In *Beyond the Horizon*, the character Ruth Atkins who loves Andrew Mayo, is tempted to love Andrew's brother, Robert, instead of him. On the other hand, Robert who loves journey and discovering what goes beyond the horizon, is tempted to love Ruth instead of everything. It is significant to see people like Robert and Ruth who ruined their contradictory plans and the calmness of their families. Therefore, through the means of universal psychoanalytic remarks, we can understand that men and women belong to different planets. They can live together if they understand the characteristics of their masculinity and femininity. This article presents solutions for men and women to guard against the danger of being defeated by their opposite sex.

METHODOLOGY

The writers of this article try to consider O'Neill's *Beyond the Horizon* by the means of psychoanalytic discussion. They use the characters of this play to unravel some of human psychic problems. They have used the psychological and social views of some great people such as Esther Perel, Dr. Willard F. Harley, S. Michael Houdmann, and Roy Baumeister. These experts believe that men's desire for joining to women, is having sex rather than mere emotional relation. On the contrary, women's desire for joining to men, is having emotional and social relation. Houdmann believes that men have more sexual temptation than women. Men also commit heart adultery if they don't find woman. So sexual temptation is man's first male problem. That's why they try to find woman to satisfy themselves sexually. Through the lens of physiology, he sees men have much stronger sex drive than women. They have more sex desire in their minds. He continues that men watch more pornography rather than women (Houdmann, 2013). Esther Perel states, "Women's desire is more contextual, more subjective, more layered on a lattice of emotion" (Carter, 2015). Dr. Baumeister states, "Men seek sex more avidly. Men want sex more often than women, at the start of a relationship, in the middle of it, and after many years of it" (Riccitelli, 2012). As a result of the psychological method, all human beings are tempted to have a sense of wellbeing. They can control their temptation if they control their minds. The more one deals with his/her tempting driving force, the more they are tempted to put it in practice.

SUMMARY OF O'NEILL'S BEYOND THE HORIZON

This story is about two families named Mayo and Atkins who lived on a New England farm. They were neighbors. Mr. James Mayo had two sons named Andrew and Robert. The elder brother, 27-year-old Andrew loved farming, but 23-year-old Robert loved reading, literature, nature and discovering what beyond the horizon. He decided to voyage with his uncle captain Dick Scott. There were a girl named Ruth Atkins who lived with her widowed mother, Sarah Atkins in their neighborhood. Their neighborhood caused them to be with each other most of the time. Ruth and Andrew's similar interests- farming and living on the farm- caused them to love each other. Once upon a time Robert found Ruth alone. He was tempted to talk to her emotionally. His romantic words about love attracted Ruth towards himself. The spell of his romantic and emotional words seduced Ruth and caused her to forget her love affair with Andrew. It seemed that God created two boy and girl came for each other. Under the spell of Robert's romantic and emotional words, Ruth said to him that she already loved her. Ruth decided to marry Robert. She wanted Robert to voyage. So he was persuaded to lay aside what he had in his mind as his main interest of life. Andrew got angry when become aware of this event. He could stand to see his brother with his own beloved girl. In spite of his interest, he left his family, farm, and village to go farther in a foreign country. His father and mother's insistence couldn't prevent him. He left without any attention to anybody. He stayed in foreign countries for five years. During these years he sent telegram to his sister-in-law, Ruth. He couldn't put out the flame of his inner love to Ruth. On the other hand, Robert couldn't run the farm. He always dealt with his interest-reading, literature. Ruth didn't love started to hate him because of his reading, lack of skill in farming and his interest in journey. After a short while the flame of love between Ruth and Robert decreased. Their hate replaced their love. They just bear each other while they had a little girl. After two years of birth, their little Marry died. Her death and Ruth's hate caused him to be sick mentally and physically. Ruth consoled herself with the return of Andrew while she lived with his sick husband and paralyzed mother. Andrew came back to his village after five years. Ruth dreamed to see his husband die and to marry Andrew. Robert died. Andrew didn't marry Ruth because of her sin in destroying Mayo's family. He believed it was Ruth that killed Andrew.

DISCUSSION AND RESULT

Through *Beyond the Horizon*, O'Neill aims to warn the audience and readers about the cause of men's joining to a women and vice versa. Their driving force urges them to have a sense of wellbeing. They come together and join together with contradictory needs.

- A New York City psychotherapist, Esther Perel states; "I hear women say in my office that desire originates much more between the ears than between the legs", (www.WebMD, accessed March 3, 2015). Ruth's artistic inclination makes Ruth to love him in spite of having affairs with Andrew. So women love romantic and emotional relation with men while men love sexual relation. Ruth is pleased when she listens to Robert. That's why she says to Robert: "Oh, Rob,... You tell things so beautifully!" (Act one, Scene one). After that Robert goes closer and puts his arm around her and simply says to her: " I love you. ... I have loved you all these years....had loved you as long as I could remember", (Act one, Scene one). He closes Ruth and kisses her passionately while he talks about love, " Our love is sweeter than any distant dream. It is the meaning of all life, the whole world. The kingdom of heaven is within-us!", (Act one, Scene one)
- Men are in fight to get a pretty woman. The draw of sex and the jealousy of these two brothers caused Robert to marry Ruth before Andrew. So he says to Ruth: " I saw Andy's love for you- I knew you must love him" (Act one, Scene one). On the other hand, Andrew can't stand to see his supposed sexual partner having affair with Robert, "you can't expect me to stay around here and watch you two together, day after day- and me alone. You couldn't expect that! I couldn't stand it. Thinking she cared for me." (Act one, Scene two)
- Men can win a women by the spell of their emotional words whereas they love other men. Robert's romantic words caused Ruth to deny her love affair with Andrew when she says to Robert, " I don't! I don't love Andy! I don't!", (Act one, Scene one)

- Women joins to men for their security whereby they use men as a shelter for themselves. At the beginning of love affair between Ruth and Robert, Ruth suddenly throws her arms around his neck and hides her head on his shoulder and says, “Oh, Rob! Don’t go away! Please! You mustn’t, now! You can’t! I won’t let you! It’d break my- my heart! “(Act one, Scene one).
- One of the most important things that every woman expects from her marriage is a sense of security. Dr. Harley as a psychologist states, “A sense of security is the bright golden thread woven through all of a woman’s five basic needs(affection, conversation, honesty, financial support, family commitment). If a husband does not keep up honest and open communication with his wife, he undermines her trust and eventually destroys her security” (Hagee,2006). After a month of marriage, Ruth blames herself for marrying Robert. She also criticizes her husband for lack of job and financial problems, “living with a man like you- having to suffer all the times because you’ve never been man enough to work and do things like other people..... I hate the sight of you! If I could have seen how you were in your true self- like you are now- I’d have killed myself before I’d have married you! I was sorry for it before we’d been together a month.” (Act two, Scene one). In Act Three, Scene one she confesses that she has made a mistake in choosing Robert as a husband, “ I’d found out I’d made a mistake about Rob soon after we were married....We’ve lived in the same house- not as a man and wife”.

CONCLUSION

O’Neill wrote *Beyond the Horizon* to show the human beings suffer from their uncontrolled driving force in joining to the opposite sex. Women go towards men to have long-last social and financial security, safety, connection, communication, and emotional support. While men need women for short term enjoyment. In order to satisfy their sexual need, men use romantic and emotional language to draw women. Experts believe that men score higher in libido, while women are fluid in sex drive. Women’s sexual desire is harder to pin down. They appear to be influenced by cultural and social factors. Men want women for sex while women want men for help and protection. So if a woman knows men’s dominant driving force, she may not be trapped in man’s dangerous plan for mere sex.

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