

CONFLICT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL AS A MOTIF IN DISCWORLD NOVELS BY PRACHETT TERRY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WITCHES SERIES

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Abstract: Literature is mirror of society and in society there is existence of good as well as bad things. So Literature consists of conflict of good and evil things. Fantasy literature is mirror of it. Fantasy is as old as utopia. Most of fantasy works are mixed with science fiction. Animal Fantasy, Historical Fantasy, High or Heroic Fantasy, Religious/ Christian fantasy and Dark or Gothic fantasy are types of fantasy. Fantasy series is series of fantasy novels or novellas having link like as character, setting, plot or motif. Present paper deals with conflict between good and evil in three novels *Wyrd Sisters*, *Witches Abroad* and *Lords and Ladies* respectively. Conflict between good and evil as motif is major concern of the paper. Three witches are major characters in selected novels. Plot of novels are connected through characters, setting and motif. These novels belong to Witches series. Though traditionally witches are assigned negative role, Pratchett Terry has assigned fair role for witches in his works.

Keywords: Conflict between good and evil, fantasy, fantasy series, motif.

Introduction: World consists of good as well as bad things. Literature is an amalgamation of good and bad things. Advance Learners dictionary offers meaning of word good as 'morally right; behaving in a way that is morally right' and evil as 'having a harmful effect on people'. Novels by Pratchett Terry belong to fantasy genre. Fantasy is defined by Advance Learners Dictionary as, 'the word fantasy as a pleasant situation that you imagine but that is unlikely to happen'. Fantasy is mingled with science fiction. It is as old as the fictional utopia as ideal countries are portrayed in it. For example Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726). As the most of versions of voyages are overlapped with standard religious fantasy or dream stories. There is use of magic or supernatural element as main plot or theme. For many works of the genre take place in imaginary world where magic and magical creatures are common. Well celebrated chivalric romance *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* has element of fantasy. In popular literature the fantasy literature has its unique place. In broader sense, fantasy comprises works by many writers, artists from ancient myths and legends too many recent and popular works belong to this category. Even some of Shakespeare's plays rely on the strong influence and fascination fantasy exerts. By introducing exotic features, worlds or entire universes, fantasy creates an area safely distanced from the current disturbing reality. It is in this fantastic realm that space is allowed for a detached discussion of actual issues. Today there is rising cult of film adaptation of well accepted or celebrated novels or fantasy book to what we call novellas.

Verities of fantasy: Far from being fantasy from different subgenres, covering a wide spectrum for almost any taste. One can divide fantasy into following types.

Animal Fantasy is traditionally a favorite form of children's fantasy. Its roots can be traced back at least to Aesop's fables from the fifth century B.C. Very likely they reach down to oral traditions of even more ancient times, such as folktales or myths. An animal fantasy features a community of animals as its main characters that form structured societies comparable to humans. Grahame's *Badger, Mole, Rat and Toad* resemble humans very strongly. Same feature can be found in the works of Tolkien or Pratchett.

Historical Fantasy centers on the historical dimension of the plot. This type of fantasy takes a certain period in the history of mankind and develops a fantasy tale on this very basis. Example of such is Crossley-Holland's Arthur trilogy and Sutcliffe's Roman novels.

High or Heroic Fantasy constitute a large part in modern children's fantasy novels. Conventionally, the story is set in a secondary fantasy world. The latter is presented as real, logical and coherent; thus totally credible in its own right. Today, most people associate Tolkien's work with High Fantasy.

Religious/ Christian fantasy tells heroic stories, mostly of parallel or other secondary realms, against a background of religious implications. The authors interpret and transfer the Christian history of salvation onto the story being told. Classic examples of this subgenre are *The Chronicles of Narnia* and partially *The Lord of the Rings*.

Dark or Gothic fantasy is a derivative of the Gothic novel, which had its heyday in Britain approximately between 1764 and 1820. This subgenre of fantasy is strongly influenced by the Gothic traditions and makes use of its main characteristics. *Castle of Otranto* is nice example of it.

After brief introduction of types of fantasy we will turn to fantasy series.

Fantasy series is new development in the genre of fantasy as most of dominant fantasy writers tend to write sequel of well celebrated and warmly accepted books in market. We have series of fantasy books by same authors' about same theme or setting or plot. If you will have overlook of market i.e. of books then you will come to know that almost every time fantasy book remains at the top. Fantasy series is nothing but series of book which maintains the unity in theme, plot, and characters or overall texture. Overall texture in a sense archetype as plot in archetypal criticism has very important value. According to Northrop Frye there are four radical mythoi. These are nothing but plot form or organizing structural principal and are correspondent to the four season in the cycle of natural world are incorporated in the four major genres. These genres are Comedy, Romance, Tragedy and Satire. *Lords of Rings* by seems to be one of the finest examples of fantasy series. This fantasy series by English author J.R.R.Tolkins. It began as a sequel to Tolkien's 1937 fantasy novel *The Hobbit* but eventually developed into a much larger work. Written in stages between 1937 and 1949, it is one of the bestselling novels ever written, with over 150 million copies sold. End of many fantasies is good as at the end virtue is rewarded and readers feel happy. Motif of this fantasy is clash of good and evil. J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* is one of well celebrated and finest example of fantasy series as there is link in major characters.

Sir Pratchett Terry is considered as contemporary author of fantasy novels in English. He was born on 28th April 1948 in Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire, England. He is best known for his collection of works Discworld series of fantasy novels. His first novel *Colour of Magic* was published in 1983. He was appointed the Order of British Empire in 1998 and was knighted for his service for literature in 2009. In his early life he read books by H.G.Wells and Arthur Conan Doyle. After *Colour of Magic* he goes on writing series of fantasy novellas. Till his death in March 2015 he was credited 35 Discworld novels.

Now we will discuss fantasy series by Sir Pratchett Terry entitled Discworld. There are some sub series based different patterns that underlies in Discworld novel. In some of novels Rinciwind is main character that series is called as Rinciwind series. This series begins with *Colour of Magic*. Some of novels has witches as main characters that series is called as Witches series, novels selected for present paper belongs to Witches series. Novels having Death as main character the series is called as Death series. The

series having Time as influential factor in some of novels called as or treated as Watch series.

Present paper deals with three novels from Witches series from Discworld novels by Pratchett Terry. i.e., *Wyrd Sisters*, *Witches Abroad* and *Lords and Ladies* respectively. Lancre is setting in *Wyrd Sisters*, Genua is setting in *Witches Abroad* and again Lancre is setting in *Lords and Ladies*. This setting i.e. places are parts of Discworld. The disc is carried by giant elephants. Plot of novel *Wyrd Sisters* is nothing but conflict for crown. It appears like as *Hamlet* but there is no love triangle or Oedipus complex. This novel consists of parody of mouse trap that occurs in *Hamlet*. Three witches are main characters in this novel. Their names are Granny Weatherwax, Nanny Ogg and Magrat Garlick. King Verence I of Lancre was murdered by his cousin, Duke Felmont. The child of king was saved secretly by servants and handovered to witches. Tamjon, the son of king used to live in the group of actors. Witches understand that Tamjon will come to the city and will save people from harassment by Duke. Meanwhile, Duke decided to have a play in which Duke will be shown favorably and witches will show negative. Same Actor's Company was recruited by Ankh Morpork, the fool of Duke Felmont in which Tamjon was working. Witches spelled over while performance and Duke in the play shown as it is. Audience comes to know that king is guilty. Duke becomes furious and get defeated finally. Tamjon did not accept crown as he prefer life of actor. Witches found another alternative to Tamjon is Ankh Morpork. He was son of the late king from another woman. Straight forwardly it appears as conflict between good and evil. Mythical concept of witch a woman who is believed to have magic powers, especially to do evil things. In stories, she usually wears a black pointed hat and flies on a broomstick but here Witches appears as champions of weaker side subject. People shows respect towards witches as they use their magic power for wellbeing they don't have attraction of crown as none of witch accept crown. In *Witches Abroad* again there is conflict between good and evil. It seems like love triangle for power as Lily the evil witch loves power to exploit people so she has love for power. Emberella do not have love for power but she do not have disdain of it. There is fight between evil witches and Emberella's supporter witches. After brawl Emberella is informed that she is the daughter of the late Baron Saturday and she is the ruler of Genua. As a ruler Emberella's first order was

to stop ball and attend mardi parade. It denotes that there is change or deviation from so called aristocratic practices like as ball dance and self-centered nature. The story from witches abroad is continued in *Lords and Ladies*. All witches left Genua for home in Lancre. On the way to Lancre, Magrat meets king Verence II of Lancre for whom she has affection. Here once again conflict between good and evil is seen. There two girls were practicing witchcraft. Granny Weatherwax and Magrat try to stop them. Diamonda, one of the girls practicing witchcraft ran into the land of Elves followed by Granny Weatherwax. It denotes that witches themselves hates practice of witchcraft. Instead of life as witch they seems to prefer civilized life that's why witches try to help or try to save civilization from possible threats. In present novel there is conflict between good and evil at every stage. In *Wyrd Sisters* Duke Felmont killed king and it seems that he may novels ends in well.

defeat witches as he started creating climate in subject. He took utmost care it. At the end witches manage to handle the situation by using magic spell. It is analogues to use of evil things for ethical purpose. Similar kind of situation appears in *Witches Abroad* at the time of ball situation was critical but Granny uses her power and controls the evil and it ended in well.

Conclusion: Great poet and critic P.B. Shelley consider poets or author are law givers of civilized society. After careful observation of plot of above three novel belongs to witches series by it can be concluded that by offering fair role to traditionally unfair characters like as witches as being champion or savior of civilization author seems to offer message about eternity of civilization. Rather we can conclude as authors optimism about poetic justice i.e. virtue should be rewarded as all selected

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