Love V/S Abandonment in Tagore’s “Home Coming”

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Abstract:
The story “Home Coming” by Rabindranath Tagore deals with how a child should be treated to grow wise and healthy. The theme of love V/S abandonment is treated very cleverly in the story. The Protagonist of the story Phatik Chakravarthy meets his tragic end due to abandonment.

Keywords: Love, abandonment, rural, urban.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rabindranath Tagore was born in 1861. He was a great Bengali writer. He was a great poet, short story writer, playwright, music composer, painter, freedom fighter, and also a great patriot. He wrote poems, novels, short stories, dramas, travelogues songs, paintings, drawings and so on. He got Noble Prize for his work “Gitanjali” – a collection of his poems. Ghare-Baire, Gora, Jana Gana Mana, Rabindra Sangeeth, Amar Shonar Bangla are his other great notable works.

Tagore has written almost 100 short stories. He was the first Bengali writer who tried to reflect the difference of life in rural and urban Bengal. He wrote the stories almost in 1890. Many of his stories have been translated into many languages of the world. His stories convey rare circumstances and critical moments in the lives of common people of Bengal if they are rich or poor, men or women and living or dead. We can witness his interest in domestic life in his stories.

Even we can see moral in his stories. They are highly educative and informative. Every story has its own message to the readers as well as to the society. “Home coming” is a great story by Rabindranath Tagore. It happens in rural Bengal as well as in urban Bengal. This story depicts how much parental love and care is required for every child in its childhood days. It also depicts that if we abandon a child, definitely tragedy will take place. The story runs like this.

The story is narrated in the third person by an unnamed narrator. It begins in a village. Phatik Chakravarthy is the protagonist of the story. He has a younger brother called Makhan and his mother. Phatik is a kind of mischievous boy in the village. His mother always takes the side of Makhan. She loves and cares Makhan and always scolds Phatik.

Once Phatik hits Makhan when he tells him to get down of the log. This enrages his mother and she abuses at Makhan. At that time his uncle Bishamber comes. He wishes to take away Phatik to Calcutta to join him to the school there. Phatik readily agrees to go there as he is waiting to get away from his mother and moreover he wants to enjoy city life.

When he goes to Calcutta he is again ill treated by his aunt. At school he loses his lesson book. His cousins and classmates begin to mock at him. His teacher also thrashes him. He becomes very poor in his studies.

He wants to go back to his native village. But his uncle tells him to wait for holidays. One day he leaves his uncle’s house and is caught in the rain. He begins to suffer from fever. The police find him and brings him to his uncle’s house. Phatik asks his uncle when holidays will come. At last when his mother comes to see him he says “Mother, the holidays have come” and later he dies.

The story depicts how much love is essential for a child to grow wise and healthy. The story clearly justifies the theme of love Vs abandonment. At first in the village, Phatik’s mother abandons him and always scolds him.

Then his aunt does the same in the city. At the school his friends and his cousins abandon him. They mock and insult him in the school. His teacher also does the same. He does not understand him. His uncle Bishamber keeps silence always. Hence all the characters make Phatik to feel loneliness. This attitude of all discourages him to do anything. Instead of becoming creative he becomes lazy.

Phatik is actually a nature lover. He wants to go back to his native to regain his old days. But his dream of going back to his village never happens.

To conclude, instead of showing abandonment he would have treated with love and care, he will be survived.

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