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Feministic analysis of Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Nabeela Gul

Attiya Fay

Huma Khan

Lecturer in Qurtuba University of Science and Information Technology Peshawar Hayatabad

Email Gulnabila353@gmail.com

M.Phil English Literature Qurtuba University of Science and information Technology Email

Saamir235@gmail.com

M.Phil English Literature Qurtuba University of science and Information Technology

Email Huma37569@gmail.com

Abstract

Thomas Hardy, an English author of critical realism, wrote a feminist novel called Tess of the D'Urbervilles. Tess of the d'Urbervilles will be examined in this essay using the characteristics of the characters, their social context, and their ancient, traditional religion. In the article, the causes of Tess's suppression and fate are introduced. These factors include the key characters' contradictory morals, unfair laws, and the downturn of capitalism. Tess is just one of the people that are grieving. Tess demonstrates the low position of women while also encouraging us to cultivate a rebellious spirit and a habit of financial independence.

Keywords: personalities, hypocritical moral, unjust law, depression of capitalism

Introduction

Many consider Hardy's Tess of D'Urbervilles to be his melancholy masterpiece. It tells the tale of a peasant girl who, although initially seen as naive, develops into a tragic heroine. Hardy believes that Tess is not accountable for her actions. She suffers from a string of unfortunate events that gradually erode her personality. The book is divided into seven chapters, each of which depicts a stage in Tess's development as she matures. Despite her life being a succession of disasters, Tess fights to overcome her circumstances and live a victimless existence. In the tragic tale Tess of D'Urbervilles, Tess is a young country girl who faces numerous hardships before being "violated

by one." Tess's parents send her to her new cousins in the hopes of marrying a nobleman because they are quite poor. Tess is unfortunate as the new "relatives" adopted the name since it sounded nice. She meets Alec there, the man who assaults and seduces her. When Tess goes back to her parents' house, she gives birth to a boy who passes away shortly after. Once more leaving her family, Tess goes to work as a milkmaid on a farm, where she meets Angel Clare and the two fall in love. Fearful of losing him, Tess keeps her past from him.

On their wedding night, though, Tess opens up to her husband about her past when Angel admits to having an affair. Angel departs from Tess for Brazil because he is unable to bear the idea that she is not as pure as he thinks. Despite her troubles with poverty, Tess ultimately decides to accept Alec's assistance. When Angel eventually comes back, Tess is living with Alec. Since Tess still has feelings for Angel, she kills Alec and flees with him. The police track them down at Stonehenge, where Tess is hanged.

Tess of the D'Urbervilles is a representation of life's oppression as well as love. The process of conflict between the characters and the societal setting is what defines a tragedy. Either the character acting as the primary factor, the environment acting as the primary guide, or the outcome of the interaction between the two is what leads to the tragedy. Even though Hardy sees the heroine's misfortune as a comedy of fate, Tess's misery is a result of her class, social class, and political milieu.

Given her upbringing in a rural household and her advanced age, Tess is inevitably impacted by a number of antiquated moral and fatalistic beliefs. The book is one of Hardy's "Character and Environment" works. Tess is shown as a contemporary agricultural worker who is under the same moral persecution as her predecessors. As a figure, Tess played a typical role in exposing and denouncing the entire system at that particular period. Because of her upbringing in a rural household and some outdated moral and fatalistic beliefs, Tess had a weak spot when it came to her opposition to conventional morality. She believed herself to be guilty when she was victimized by social pressure and conventional morality. Her lover's virginity complex and the deeply ingrained feudal view of society led to the later disaster. She believed that she was the embodiment of sin and that people were constantly taking notice of her predicament around the globe. More than anybody else, she was unable to let go of her humiliation. Tess wrapped herself up with the net of her own morals. Her self-binding consciousness actually has a deep historical foundation and is the tangible manifestation of the collective social consciousness. Tess, The paper introduces

the causes of Tess's suppression which is influenced by personalities of main characters, hypocritical moral, unjust law, depression of capitalism.

Social Restrictions

Britain was the world's leading economic power during the extremely complicated nineteenth century, which has been referred to as the Second English Renaissance. But it's also the start of the Modern Era, according to Miller. The "Victorian age," so termed in honor of Queen Victoria, spanned the years 1837–1901. Industrialization and colonialism were the two historical factors that impacted nineteenth-century English society. Britain became the dominant economic force of its era as a result of both of these significant increases in wealth. It was an era of considerable political reform, imperial expansion, and wealth. During that period, the system of people working in tiny workshops or in their homes was gradually superseded by the industrial system.

Features of the Characters

According to a quote by Hardy, tragedy "expresses a man's condition." The sad conclusion is the result of his instinct and desire. The characters of Alec, Claire, and Tess are introduced in this section. Step by step, Alec's harshness, Claire's selfishness, Tess's compromise, and her inadequacy all drive Tess toward death.

Tess's

Tess was an innocent, lovely, and hardworking country girl who aspired for the genuine compassion of life but was constantly under attack from evil and falsehoods. Tess was a fresh face in the tough model of women. She possesses two personalities. She dared to challenge both false religion and conventional morality, but she was unable to free herself from the constraints of conventional morality. Specifically, the latter is intimately connected to her untimely demise.

Efforts towards compromise

Even though Tess was unafraid to challenge conventional morals and fearlessly pursue her pleasure, her resistance was unwavering. Tess did not, however, totally free herself from the constraints of conventional morality. She was aware that she had been the victim of violence, but she also felt "guilty" because of the villagers' accusations against her. It caused her agony and condemnation as a result. Her parents urged her to ascend to a noble family after their horse passed away. She refused to attend because of her simple hunch, but she also felt deeply responsible and terrible. This was something she had to do. The text stated, "Her pallid face, devoid of expression, seems to think that her own murder." It's the pivotal moment in her life.

Ignoring Self

First, Tess's attitude toward love mirrored her lack of self-awareness. She was drawn to Claire's gorgeous expression and expertise when she first met him. Though Tess was presented by Hardy as the ideal woman, her persona clearly had certain flaws. She would constantly straddle Alec and Claire. Despite her affection for Claire, she allowed Alec to seduce her due to ignorance. She frequently thought about the needs of other people while ignoring her own. She had to give up everything for her family. Her lack of original thought plunged her into a pit of agony and ultimately brought to her life's tragedy.

Innocent

Tess was sweet but uncomplicated, gorgeous but humble. She felt more pained than she actually was. who had fervently decided that she would never be persuaded to marry a guy, divert Claire's attention from other women, and who would never cynically let any man to marry her now. She felt complicated when she wanted to tell Claire the entire tale because it happened to her. She wanted, on the one hand, to be free. However, she believed that this was her own fault. She feared Claire would not overlook her and would not forgive her. But her inferiority vanished when Claire revealed anything negative about her. This, in her opinion, was equally between them. She was therefore resolved to speak the truth. This represents Hardy's ideal of purity in his heart. Tess is a classic figure who is so exceptional and well-known. However, due to the feeling of accountability. Despite starting to understand Alec's scheme, she was still too innocent. "You have the same forgiveness from me!" That is to say, she dies because of her simple thinking.

Alec's Characters

Alec, a prosperous businessman's son, flaunted his father's resources and connections in the countryside. His dissolute face was blatantly obscene the moment he noticed Tess. What a humorous thing! What a crumby girl, too! He dismantled Tess's illusion of a lifetime of happiness by setting up a trap to contaminate her. Even though he subsequently turned to a preacher for assistance in his repentance and planned to preach in Africa, his abuse persisted. Regeneration of evil materialized when he saw Tess again, but Tess turned him down. Alec constantly ensnared her instead of destroying him as a result. Tess was ultimately compelled to serve his mistress. In Alec's hedonistic existence, Tess ended up being the largest casualty.

Claire's Characters

Open-minded and ready to dedicate himself to farming, Claire was a man. Being a great farmer was his dream. He thus anticipated a straightforward, uncluttered, and natural rural life. Claire had no desire to wed wealthy women. His heart skipped a beat as he observed Tess's tireless work ethic. But his love was more idealistic and fantastical than the intense depth of her feelings for him. He had the capacity for intense love, but it was more of an ethereal and visionary kind. So Claire's idol would crumble when Tess genuinely admitted to him her own prior insults. Claire was so insensitive that he even said he "can't tolerate Tess."

Deep Stratification

Tess's tragedy was caused by several factors outside the personalities of the major protagonists. The profound shifts in politics, morals, social economics, and customs brought about by capitalism's arrival in British rural towns were mirrored in Hardy's writing. The duplicity of laws, religion, and bourgeois morality was exposed in this situation. This section will cover Tess's upbringing and the milieu in which she was raised.

Greedy Parents

Her parents were materialistic and conceited. Tess's sentiments were unconsiderable to her mother. Tess's mother solely considered herself from the start to the finish. She wished Tess would wed a wealthy man and lead a pleasant life. When it comes down to it, Tess's tragedy was actually made possible by her mother's conceit.

Capitalist Society

Following the industrial revolution, rural areas were gradually included into the capitalist economic model. Individual farmers become bankrupt due to the extensive use of modern farming techniques. The hired laborers were represented by Tess and her coworkers. They had to labor for a living everywhere. They waited till the fall to depart. They endured suffering while performing the same tasks as men. Tess was deprived of her life by societal injustice and was one of the victims of this really brutal portrayal.

Hypocritical Moral

Males in the Victorian era valued women as personal property, particularly because of their purity. In this community, a lady who has lost her virginity is considered impure. She ought to be put to death if she lost her virginity. Claire served as the archetypal figure in this book. He wanted

Tess's pardon because he had overreached himself. But innocent Tess was beyond his forgiveness. He was an open-minded man, but traditional morals bound him.

Unjust Laws

The ruling elite upheld all national laws in the late nineteenth century. Naturally, the legal system was also not an exception. Tess was not given the protection of the law or society while Alec had her. She dealt with the rumor on her own, but Alec was not spared punishment. But after Tess killed Alec out of rage, the law upheld justice and Tess was hanged.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the causes of Tess's tragedy include societal convention, hypocritical laws, her parents' conceit, Alec's evilness, Tess's surrender, ignorance, and inadequacy. Although Tess was a lovely and charming girl, she was docile and squishy. She had no repulsive nature. Her tragic fate is sealed by all these characteristics. Thus, Tess's misfortune is not coincidental.

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