

CHAPTER - 1

I. EVIL IN THE CHARACTERS

Being a moralist Hellman is very conscious about her characters and roughly they can be classified in two groups, viz. the evil, and the good. In real life we see both the instincts, there are greedy, avaracious, cunning and shrewd persons and at the same time there are simple and straightforward persons. Evil is an unavoidable reality of the society. Through every play, Hellman puts forth the same evil force entangled with the good. Many a time the good characters tend to be weak and such characters are dominated by the so-called strong characters. Hellman has tried to show the dark side of the society, from the moralistic point of view, which has remained hidden.

These evil characters are opportunistic. They are in search of an opportunity when they can dominate others. In The Children's Hour, Mary is an imitator. She is a child, and she symbolises evil. Her evil power is just unimaginable. She threatens others, she has only one concern and that is to dominate others and to remain unaffected. She does not want to be proved a liar, and, therefore, she undertakes many tricks which makes her an evil character. She pretends to be innocent but she is a disguised innocent. Whenever the evil in the character is exposed, it results into total destruction for others. Mary's character becomes very effective because the dramatic focus is centered upon her. Lillian Hellman says about Mary that, she is a bad character but never outside life. Mary's

character is compared with Shakespeare's Iago by some critics. Mary takes revenge upon other characters because she is hurt emotionally and she is afraid of ignominy. The disastrous character takes away life of a woman who does nothing. To gain some private ends, such evil characters behave licentiously bothering least about repercussions. They fail to understand evil in them and good in other. Their only concern is their gain. Mary does not bother about the results, she goes to such an extent that she loses her wits, whether her deeds are right or wrong that is not examined by her. These evil characters harm other characters and pass by as if nothing has happened, so, they are happy with the results and what they get. They are determined and they know what they want. Mary's harshness is the same with Rosalie. The only difference is that she plots against ~~Martha~~ ^{Marta} whereas she bullies Rosalie, openly. Mary is the symbol of vice. Mary's behaviour is abnormal when Mary is called the vicious character, at the same time, Mrs. Tilford behaves in such a manner that unknowingly she becomes an evil character. Of course, she loves her grand child but the love is so blind that she is not ready to judge whether the information given by Mary is true or false. She realises her guilt and confesses it but it is too late.

The Little Foxes consists of money-oriented people. The strength of the play is its sensitive creation of characters with whom audiences the world over can identify or sympathise. As the title suggests, these are greedy people whose main concern is profit.

Regina is the dominating figure of the play who is compared with Lady Macbeth. The evil characters are self centered. Oscar, Ben,

and Leo are greedy persons, but they are more concerned with their family profits. Regina represents extremity of greed and devilish nature. She is so cold - blooded that without giving help to her husband she remains there passively. Her behaviour proves that she is the killer of her husband, and it also proves that, these evil characters do not like to be attached with other persons. We see one more thing in them and that is, they are so close with their dreams that they do not bother about the needs of other persons. Hellman says that she never was angry with Regina and she was amused with her. Hellman called her a funny character.

She is not the same jolly person as she appears. Actually, there is threat disguised in fun. She is a very cruel and cunning woman. For her benefits she is ready to accept Leo's proposal for Alexandra, without asking Alexandra whether she likes it or not. The remaining three evil characters are not purely evil because they only plot against some one. If compared with Regina's character we see that, these characters are less harmful. Hellman introduces evil gradually, they look like normal people but within the course of play, they change. Through such characters she wants to attack the immoral people of the society she attacks capitalism. These characters are real and lively because of their universality.

Through the characters of Days to come, Hellman portrays satirical sketches of the so-called rich people who are not attached with each other. They do not have deep love for each other. They are connected with each other by a chain of relation but they do not mingle with each other, they remain separate from each other.

The play consists of good as well as bad characters. Hellman wants to show evil in man through her characters. Julie stands for adultery and Cora stands for greed and selfishness. They do not get involved emotionally in other characters. Cora the sister of Andrew Rodman, refuses to help Andrew even though she knows that Andrew is in great need and she is able to help him. Julie, the wife of Andrew Rodman, loves another person. She has no purpose to be frustrated and without any reason she is restless. Ellicott is ~~the~~ ex-lover of Julie. He owns reserve stock for the loan which he has given to Andrew.

The play consists of two major evil characters. They are not so villainous but we can call them selfish persons. These characters are called well - intentioned and self deluded persons. While creating them, Hellman becomes very conscious. When they are characterised they are not pitiable. On the other hand, we tend to hate them. Innocence is not the way to escape. Hellman says that innocence is a sort of guilt.

Julie is loved by Andrew, she has status and position, still she yields for something new. And this search has no meaning. Her quest is a foolish one. Without any purpose she changes her partner. Cora, another character is not more than an idle and selfish woman, Julie, the adultress and neurotic creates problem. These characters have no capacity to judge others' feelings. They just do not bother about results. Cora knows everything but she is not ready to participate her brother's fate. These characters do not respect

relations, in that sense they are very passive and tough-minded.

Watch on the Rhine is well known for its characterization. There is constant struggle between the forces of good and evil. In other plays, Hellman shows that evil as a powerful instinct and weak or good is dominated by such characters. In this play, there is a selfish person, refugee, Roumanian Count; Teck De Brancovis. He is a decadent aristocrat who lives on his wits. When he comes to know that Sara's husband, Kurt Muller, is carrying \$ 23,000 he plots against him. He realises that Kurt is not identified by Germans'. So, he blackmails him to give money and he threatens him that he will reveal his identity to Germans. This evil character in the play, is not like other evil characters. In the beginning, he feels that he will dominate Kurt. But Kurt is very determined and devoted person. When he sees that Teck's behaviour is harmful he straightway kills him. In this play for the first time, we see the protagonist and, for the first time, evil is abolished from the drama. But these characters are real because they represent good and evil in man. Heroism in Kurt is appealing. For the first time, she brings changes in the characterization, that is, the evil is not strong and weak is not dominated. This heroic quality satisfies the demand of the traditional audience.

The evil character in the play is again greedy and selfish, he is very cunning. These characters are waiting for such a moment when they would expose their real nature. Teck finds the same moment and wants to utilise it but somehow his efforts are in vain and his evil purposes are shattered.

The Searching Wind does not consist of evil character as such but there are immoral characters Cas Bowman Alex Hazen have clandestine illegal relations from many years. In the play there is niether a true villian nor a true protagonist. In the end the affair is closed and there is a definite way for each character. Before this, Emily knows about their relations but she could not speak openly. In the end she is so persuasive that she makes Cas speak and the guilt is revealed.

Another part of the Forest is remarkable for the characters. In the play there are many evil characters. These evil characters are foxes in the true sense. They are greedy, cruel and cunning persons like fox. The ~~cha~~characterization in the play is like that of The Little Foxes. There are some more characters. Lavinia; mother of Regina, Oscar, and Ben, is weak character. Throughout the play, she is dominated by other characters and she remains a weak character but other characters are very influencial. These evil characters are self-centered and money minded. Marcus Hubbard is so much after money that he has no time to speak with his wife and his wife is waiting for him for a year to have a talk with him. Such people do not know the meaning of relations. Just they are together not because they love each other but, perhaps, social bounds keep them together. Oscar is the same selfish man, but he is not so harsh in his behaviour. He loves a girl and he has prepared to go with her, but can not go because of his brother, Ben. His behaviour is not abnormal one. But Ben behaves in such a manner that it is hard for others to accept such type of revival

in a family. He throws away the superiority of his father and he himself takes the position of his father. The idea of the son defeating the father is somewhat difficult to accept. Regina loves John Bagtry but later on she is disappointed by Ben. Ben is jealous of Regina because Marcus loved her very much hence Ben is not so happy with her and he plots against her. Ben bullies everyone when he knows the secret of his father's past. He does not give him a chance to dominate him. Immediately he throws him away. He does not allow his mother to go away until he knows about his father's past, as if, she buys her freedom at the expense of the secret. There is a crowd of shrewd people but Ben dominates all of them. These evil characters have some extraordinary courage. They do not want anybody's domination.. Just they want to live freely. Ben wants superiority, money, and fame. Therefore, he shatters his sister's & brother's dreams. Not only that, he humiliates his father, and blackmails him. We find this evil nature neither so harsh nor so devilish in other characters. Others live in their own world. These characters later on become evil, in The Little Foxes Regina's behaviour with her mother is not so fair hence she becomes a hateful character. Marcus Hubbard is the evil person in a true sense, because his past is filled with his ill-deeds. His wealthiness is founded on disloyalty, greed and avariciousness. He becomes evil because of these things. But he cannot dominate weak Lavinia. In the beginning, he becomes so cruel that he declares Lavinia as an insane and he always threatens her that he will admit her in an assylum. He has no time to spare with her and for many days, she is waiting for an opportunity but unfortunately she is not considered

by Marcus. These Hubbards are vicious and passionate people, having only one concern that of money. They play financial tricks on each other. It seems very strange that son does not love his father, his brother or his sister but he loves money. In the play, evil in man is the main theme. Through evil characters Hellman attacks the so-called modern people, Hubbards are so uncivilised that for a while, we think about their brutish behaviour, as in the brutes, it is a rule that stronger is the superior, the same thing happens here, if a person knows something about other character and if he has that much courage then he can dominate other character. We cannot call them men but they are mere brutes. Apparently they are very decent but they are jealous about each other.

Ben is successful in his motives but Marcus is quite defeated. His superiority is taken away by Ben and though he is powerful, in the beginning, later on he has to face his defeat. Always he treats Lavinia as a useless fellow. He never respects her or her feelings. Unlike other plays here evil does not dominate good entirely. The end of the play brings victory to Lavinia, and Marcus' superiority is overthrown. He remains lonely in the end. In her previous play, weak characters are dominated by strong or evil persons but now her approach is somewhat changed and, she chooses traditional approach, i.e., virtue rewarded. A very innocent and simple woman is escaped from the clutches of the greedy foxes and she begins her life which she has dreamt for years and for which she had to beg Marcus. In a very different manner she is rescued from these persons. The play is remarkable for its

characterization. Hellaman wants to show difference between two influences in the society and she is quite successful in her motive.

The Autumn Garden is remarkable for its cast. In the play, there is a vicious character, Nick Dennerly who is one of the guests. His main job is to trouble others. He is happy while troubling others. He is a satanic figure. He is always called as a serpent in the garden. He goes from one group to another and disturbs the easy going life of other people. Almost all characters are victims of his tricks but only Sophie escapes and conquers him. Nick is meddling in everyone's life. He tells Carrie that Fred is involved with a known homo-sexual. Carrie's reaction causes Fred to learn that Payson has cared nothing for him. He tells Constance that Crossman loves her which causes Crossman to face his self-deception. He advises Mrs. Griggs to see a heart specialist and she knows herself better. In this way, he tortures everyone but he can not harm Sophie and Mrs. Ellis. He is self-centered and he likes to misguide others. This evil character is strong enough. He wants to dominate everyone but he cannot do that. He is totally defeated by Sophie in the end. According to some critics Sophie is evil character because she blackmails Nina, but actually her motive is not so cruel. She wants to overcome the situation and hence she demands money, which is the only way of returning to her home. For Sophie the word blackmail means something else. She has not any evil intention. So we cannot call her villain of the play. She has never planned to trouble others. She is living as ordinarily as she ought to be. While discussing Nick as a villain, we must know about his intentions. He is an amateur and likes to enjoy other's

trouble. Therefore, he advises Rose and flirts with her. He behaves decently with Constance and declares that she is loved by Crossman throughout the years. Without any purpose he changes her attitude and provides her subject to involve in. And the result is humiliating. He is not so villainous as Regina or Ben. Sophie is compared with Teck in Watch on the Rhine. But Teck who is traitor has some other intentions. Here, Hellman treats Sophie somewhat softly. Good and evil is always there in her plays and the same we find in the play. But here, unlike other plays, good is not exploited by evil. On the contrary, evil becomes pale character. Evil is conquered by the other force, in the play.

Carrie plays villainous role in Toys in the Attic. Outwardly, she pretends that she cares and loves Julian but actually she hates him. When she seeks opportunity, she tells Lily about his ex-lover and she also tells that the woman is Henry's niece, who is a negro and whom Lily hates. She makes Lily ring up Cyrus Warkins, husband of Mrs. Warkins, whom Julian loved and had partnership in business. Carrie's behaviour is hurting. She is disguised villain. She pretends that she likes Julian. Lily, a very innocent girl, changes immediately when Carrie tells her what she has overheard. The same Lily plays villainous role against her husband, Julian.

Charles Walcott puts it as:

"Her evil looks out of the frivolous void strong, conscious, capable evil that plans and acts, with shocking efficiency. By her frightful action, Carrie defines and declares herself. She becomes responsible because she knows what she wants and plans how to

get it, willing to hurt other people as much as is necessary to gain her end. Clearly the plot provides Carrie's opportunity and until it came, she could not have known what she would do. No amount of description or play of intellect could, I think, have made such wickedness even potentially real, it had to find itself in the act. It comes into real being in the act."¹.

Very different treatment has given to Carrie by Hellman. Unlike other evil characters she satisfies her intention indirectly. She makes Lily her weapon. Not only she becomes evil herself, but she drags Lily also in it. These characters know better the weakness in other characters and they use it as the tools to serve their purpose. Carrie also knows Lily's weakness that she cannot live without Julian. The very idea of Julian's independence makes her restless. Carrie observes it and she utilises it to fulfil her desire. She makes two victims of her desire; one is Lily and the other is Julian.

Hellman's evil characters represent black side of the society as well as of human mind. Generally, man does not love evil. Hellman knows it very well and chooses the same to describe in her plays. Her evil characters are the outcome of the upheaval in the society. They are money-oriented, selfish, opportunistic, nasty, narrow minded, blackmailers, and sometimes they are killers. She wants to show tussle between good and evil. It is seen that the weak is exploited and humiliated. And thus the evil dominates the good. But sometimes, in her plays, good is successful and victorious. These evil characters are obstacles in the easy - going way of other

persons. They do not let others proceed. They always enjoy themselves. They never become unhappy. Whatever they do, they feel that is right and, therefore, they do not feel it necessary to take into consideration others' opinion and feelings. They treat themselves as extraordinary persons with powers. We must admire them for their intelligence in plotting. They are always prepared to dominate others. They go on plotting and do not take into consideration its consequences. They never feel that their behaviour will be harmful to others. They are not puppets in the hands of other characters on the other hands, they make other characters move around them. They play with them and enjoy with the play. Or we can say, they destine the future of the other persons. Other character's future is depended upon their acts and so we can say that these characters are licentious. They are free who do not bother about anything.

They are amoral characters and they are behaving against the norms of the society. They are representing racial superiority in the society. Man is made of good and bad. The same thing we see in these evil characters they represent man's vicious instinct. These evil minded people take pleasure in other people's pain.

These vicious characters are civilized urban people, they know manners and etiquates of decent society. They are urban people, they have good origin and family background but they behave very wrongly. Their main concern of living is to seek pleasure by hook or crook. They live in family but do not understand the meaning and importance of relationship, they are cut off from other

characters. Sometimes, they may pretend that they are loving others but actually they love themselves ~~only~~. They may be called narcissists who love themselves.

Hellman rightly knows that there is evil in every stage of life and she puts forth the evil without any reservations. Hellman's characters are stereotyped. But they are not alike. Mary's evil nature is different from Regina's or, Carrie's viciousness differs from Teck's. There is one common thing and that is their vicious nature but their motives are different from each other. The evil characters of various stage represent their class. Being a moral writer Hellman is conscious about the evils in the society. Industrialisation, urbanization and modernity have changed man's nature. Hellman wants to show this, and with her moralistic point of view she describes it freely. Yet she does not hate them. She remains aloof from them and gives them freedom of behaviour she never interrupts them. And the result is that the evil characters are developed fully and we find real approach in them.

II. **DOMINATING & DOMINATED CHARACTERS**

As a moral writer, she wants to show differences between moral and immoral characters. The same pattern of good and evil she uses in her eight original plays. There are two categories of her characters viz., evil and good. Many a time evil is strong and good is very weak. These weak characters, sometimes, do not react. We see that these characters are grouped as active characters and passive characters. These good characters are moral and they are

are living peacefully without interfering in anyone's life but evil characters are always disturbing others by their behaviour at the same time they are innocent about the consequences. They do not judge themselves. Good characters are always dragged with evil characters' wish. And so they suffer the most. While discussing dominated characters or weak characters, we will realise that the same pattern is not repeated. Miss Hellman experiments over this aspect of characterisation and in conclusion, we get more improved characters. So, it would be useful to study the development in weak characters. As there is change in evil characters, like-wise, here weak characters are changed, they are not the same whom we meet in the first few plays.

The Children's Hour is a play about good and evil. Mary is a powerful character in the play. She is a destructive scandal-monger and a big liar. She is spoilt by her grandmother. She tells that her two teachers have lesbian relations. Mary's evil is encouraged by other's response & behaviour. Some of them are prideful, weak, and gullible. No one tells that she is behaving wrong on the other hand, they encourage her indirectly, and she becomes more and more powerful. Mrs. Mortar and Mary's grandmother Mrs. Tilford encourage her indirectly. Mary is a cunning girl and when she comes to know about Martha-Karen relation, spoken by Mrs. Mortar, she becomes aware and tries to use the information for her selfish purposes, and she is quite successful in it. Martha becomes weak because somewhere in her mind she, perhaps, felt the same emotion for Karen, which Mary has told to Tilford. Her weakness is the cause of her doom. The circumstances are totally contrasting and

Martha, being unable to protect herself from ~~the~~ situation, commits suicide, in the end. The comparison between these two characters shows how influential Mary is ! She has potential of evil but that is not enough, at the same time, the so-called good people like Mrs. Mortor, Mrs. Tifford, and Joe Cardin, also believe in Mary's lie, after some time. One cannot blame Marry only. At the same time these persons are also responsible for Martha's death. What Martha realises in her is very horrible she cannot bear the truth and ends her life.

This weak character in the play has new realization and becomes aware of its position. It judges its' mind, examines it and the result is disastrous. On the other hand the evil character remains unaffected. Mary creates the problem and disappears from the play and lets things happen. And Martha is in the clutches of the circumstances. She wants to show force of morality but she ~~has~~ not made Martha purely moral character. Eventhough, in the beginning, she is pretending to be innocent, in the end, she confesses her guilt and the impression created previously does not last longer. Sympathy of readers towards her is now somewhat changed. Real destroyer remains away from the scene, very catalistically.

In the play, we see that weak is so submissive that it cannot fight against the evil things and ~~it~~ treats the lie as real and dies in the end.

According to Falk Dorris :

"The war between the forces of good and evil, with evil the victor, in The Children's Hour, had made for a tightly constructed

series of conflicts, crises and resolutions. But Hellman said that Days to Come was about evil" in the hands of those who don't understand it", and in Hellman's scheme, ignorance is no excuse - sad, regrettable, but weak, and ultimately destructive... The forces of good have no direction except muddle and neglect, and the only reward of such failure is a dim self insight, when it is too late to reform"².

Those who are not powerful characters are suffering in the end. These characters are unable to understand each other. There is ignorance, dishonesty and cowardice. There is not communication in these characters and so there is fallacy in understanding and result is, their shattering of faith and love.

The Little Foxes, as its name suggests, is dominated by villainous persons. Good characters are weak and they are unable to protest the evil. Birdie is a pathetic woman and she can not resist Oscar's hate. All the time he is behaving with her as if she is a puppet in his hands. Her every act is decided by Oscar. His looks are so terrible that Birdie cannot speak against his wish. All the time she is frightened and remembers her past. She is totally neglected, as if her existence is as good as nothing. For example, Birdie : I want you to stop shooting. I mean, so much, I do not like to see animals and birds killed just for the killing. You only throw them away --

Ben (to Regina). It will take a great deal of money to live as you are planning, Regina.



Regina : Certainly. But there will be plenty of money.

You have estimated the profits very high.

Ben. I have -

Birdie: (Oscar is looking at her furiously) and you never let anybody else shoot, and the niggers need it so much to keep from starving. It's wicked to shoot food just because you like to shoot, when poor people need it so --

Ben(laughs) I have estimated the profits very high for myself³.

In this manner, she is always neglected and she is treated as a woman of no importance. This weak Birdie pretends as if she suffers from frequent headaches but actually she drinks so much to hide her sorrow and burries herself in her room. She wants something which would give her courage to live. She can not speak openly in front of these vicious people. But when she is with Horace and Alexandra she becomes normal. Otherwise, she is always confused and hence she likes Alexandra and Horace very much. But all these characters are helpless. When she is slapped by Oscar, she pretends that she only twisted her ankle. She can not speak truth with other characters. According to some critics, Birdie is a foolish woman. But, in reality, she is weak and therefore always she is frightened. She behaves in such a manner that she appears to be foolish. She remains the same as she is. That way she is innocent.

Horace is physically weak but he is a shrewd businessman, according to Ben. When these vicious people come to know about his inability, they are ready to plan against him. And later on they

dominate him. He is unable to resist and in the end he has to face his tragic end. Regina becomes so hard-hearted that she does not move when she sees that Horace is dying. She lets him die. Here weak persons are dominated by strong character, for their selfish motives. In this world of the strong, to be an idle or a fool is a sort of guilt, for which they are punished. These weak characters have their own dreams and they expect something from others but actually they get nothing except frustration. Birdie dreams about the days in Lionet. When Regina sends Alexandra to take Marcus from the hospital, Marcus is happy because he is coming back but in a few seconds his expectations turn into sheer frustration because of the treatment given by his wife. What he receives is very disastrous. One can not bear it easily. In this way, all the time these characters dream but their dreams are not happy ones, the dreams change into nightmares when they come into reality.

Birdie had to suffer and Horace, because he is not cared, has to face his tragic end. These weak characters represent suppressed people.

Perhaps, Hellman wants to tell that immoral is strong and moral characters are destined to suffer a lot. Hellman says that ~~to be~~ an innocent is a sort of guilt. One should not be so innocent or weak that others would dominate them or others would get profits out of it. In The Children's Hour Martha's suicide proves her weakness. She has no courage to face the reality and so she takes that lie as the truth and she ends her life. In Days to Come, Julie confesses her guilt and in The Little Foxes, we see very different character from these two. Birdie consoles herself by having drinks

and she admits herself to her fate. She accepts whatever comes to her, without any protest.

Very different picture we get in Watch On The Rhine. As it is described, it is a play about evil, here fascism stands for evil. If we take this point of view in consideration then we clearly see that Fascism dominates the lives of innocents. Because of this, the whole family is shattered and there is no hope of bright future. It is seen that Kurt Muller is going to face his death and because of that everyone is worried and unhappy. Another thing is that, there is Teck, Count. He is a vicious person. He has some bad intention. The 'evil-powerful' thing we do not see here in the case of Teck. Hellman treats the good character very differently. In the previous plays evil is triumphant and it is successful in its motive. But in Watch On The Rhine good is not weak. It has courage, and patience. Kurt Muller shows patience and courage and finally when he sees that things are going out of his hands, he kills Teck. But the murder cannot be called immoral. He kills him because he has some intentions about others' lives. He is not common, family-loving person. He loves his nation and his aim. For the first time Hellman treats good as triumphant and courageous. Here, evil wants to suppress good by blackmailing but in the end good becomes courageous and there is the end of evil, and good is admirable.

In the play, there are two evil forces; one is universal and the other is personal. Personal evil is abolished by good but the same good is unable to resist external or universal evil. He accepts

the universal evil, which is here Fascism. Because there is no other way ~~to~~ him so, we may say, good becomes here dominant as well as dominated.

Sometimes, we feel that Lavinia is portrayed like Birdie. She is dominated by her husband, who always neglects ~~and~~ humiliates her. Another Part of the Forest gives us interesting discrimination in good and evil. In the beginning Marcus is the chief who dominates everyone and then comes Ben as the superior. When he finds an opportunity, he overwhelms the authority of his father and becomes the chief person. And the strong character becomes a pale one. Marcus has lost everything. His wife goes away from him. All the time Lavinia is frightened and wants to say something to Marcus but she is unable to speak because he does not give her time to speak. She is not insane, as she is called by Marcus. She is not saintly also. She is just a weak character. She has her ~~own~~ dream. She wants to live in coloured people and wants to run a school for them. But her wish is not fulfilled by her husband. In the end she has to buy it ~~at~~ the expense of the information of Marcus' past. Ben allows her ~~to~~ leave when she gives necessary information which he wants. These weak characters are mere toys in the hands of strong persons. Strong are, as if, chessmen and they move these characters according to their wish. Weak persons are not freeⁱⁿ their deeds. They want to be free but they are unable to do so. There are psychological reasons also for this. One is, these characters are not used to cruelty. That way, they are very innocent, and, there-

fore, they don't tend to be rash. Birdie, & Lavinia are from noble families, and they are away from social evils. Therefore, they are submissive and accept whatever comes to them, because they can not fight against the evil. Hellman treats her weak characters very differently. If we compare Lavinia's character with that of Birdie then we realise that Birdie is that way passive. She doesn't get chance to change. But Lavinia, by Ben's favour, becomes liberal. There is another reason also, Lavinia has some economic support, on the other hand, Birdie is a lost character because previously she has given everything to Hubbard family. Lavinia has moral courage because of her faith in the holy Bible, but Birdie is not courageous. Lavinia sees her happiness in the Bible but Birdie gets addicted to wine. And, therefore, Hellman stresses the weak character in order to prove that though it is weak it has some morality. Birdie is not moral and represents southern women, who are away from the social changes. They live in their own world. And because they can not get what they want they are frustrated. Gradually, Hellman develops her weak characters. The change in them is clear enough.

Upto now she wants to show external evil and struggle between evil and good. In The Searching Wind, there is not evil outside but the liberal and so-called good persons are having some evil in their minds. They are well aware of it and when the time comes they confess what they feel. Here Cas and Alex have immoral relations. In the end, self - realization makes them frustrated, and they are shattered. In the play, Hellman does not want to place good instead of evil but there is self-realization and because of

that they become sincere. Very different treatment she gives to the characters. There are neither heroes nor villians.. They are passive and they do not change suddenly. For a long time they remain as they are. They bear their guilt with them. They are not confused and things happen very slowly. For many years the same course continues and in the end of the play they realize their faults. Weakness ~~is~~ in their minds. always they are aware of it and therefore they are unable to speak. As if they are hiding their guilt. In the beginning they are dominated by their weakness. But later on, they change a bit. Same occurs them for their passiveness.

The Autumn Garden consists both evil and good. Nick becomes a strong character and he dominates everyone. He misguides everyone and he tends to be strong but Sophie, who is not so active in the beginning, becomes a strong character and dominates Nick. Mrs. Griggs, Constance and Carrie Ellis are his victims. He just wants to enjoy himself and without thinking of its consequences he goes on troubling others. Because of his behaviour everyone, who comes into his clutches, becomes frustrated. He is so rude and hard-hearted that he hurts everyone. Constance loves him throughout her life she thinks of Nick Denery and the same Nick tells her that Crossman loved her throughout the years. Immediately she has new realization and her thinking is diverted. When Crossman and Constance are together, they realize that the information given by Nick is wrong and their lives are sorrow ladden because it is too late for their marriage.

Crossman faces his self-deception. Another character, Mr. Griggs, is weak character and always she asks Nick's advice and sometimes, she feels happy, flirting with him. Nick advises her to see a doctor and she comes to know what she does not know. Carrie becomes frustrated by Nick's information about her son, that he has immoral relations with Payson.

Sometimes these weak characters are not aware of the truth. Their weak ~~is~~ in their innocence. They are innocent, therefore, they have to depend upon someone. Nick, the influential character, becomes pale afterwards, because Sophie becomes aware of the situation and decides to take advantage of the situation. She is not cunning or shrewd but she sees that the strong character is in the clutches of circumstances and immediately she dominates Nick. She takes advantage of the situation. There is a difference in these characters and that is, weak characters are passive and strong characters are active. These strong characters are opportunistic. The play does not ~~give~~ deal with the struggle between good and evil but it shows that evil is abolished by evil instinct.

There is no such protagonist in Toys in the Attic Carrie and Lily stand for evil and they dominate Julian. From the beginning itself Carrie hates Julian and when she overhears about his love affair, immediately she tells it to Lily. Lily changes and becomes villain. She reminds us Birdie. She is treated like a child. Only difference in them is Birdie behaves childishly and Lily is treated like a child. Birdie is neglected but Lily is, at least, taken care

by Julian. Julian loves her but in that love there is much selfishness. He talks with her as if, he is talking with a child. Sometimes she behaves like a whimsical person. She lives in the world of fantasy and such Lily becomes dominant character afterwards. She does not want to harm Julian. But she thinks that Julian will leave her and so she phones Mr. Warkins. Other characters are passive rather than weak. Anna Bernier~~s~~ accepts to be their mother and elder sister. She is passive rather than weak. Without giving any sign of regret she accepts everything as it comes. All the time Julian takes advantage of her nature. He knows well that whenever he would be in need ~~he's~~ sister would help him, so he has depended on her throughout his life. Anna's weakness is in her nature. On the other hand, all the Berniers are dominated by their poverty and there is no escape from it.

These weak characters are not alike. There is difference in their behaviour and in their nature also. When we say that Hellman creates stereotypes and uses them often, then we see that there is transformation in her weak characters. It is true that there is evil and good in her plays but the good is not always weak. Sometimes it changes rapidly and becomes strong character. But at the same time, it does not become evil. In this way, she experiments on her characters. Some times, weak is unable to struggle for existence sometimes it makes adjustment with the situation and sometimes we see them seeking happiness in some ideas or they are totally passive and remain without any change. Sometimes they change & become the strong one. In this way, Hellman gives different life figures.

There is gradual development in these weak characters. In the beginning these characters are unable to resist, they bear their guilt in them and all the time they are aware of the guilt and some times they have to adjust with the situation. In the first phase of their development they are just passive. And in the next phase they are somewhat strong. In the third stage there is total change and weak remains no more weak. It becomes strong and universal character. Hellman experiments with weak characters and gives them a new approach. They represent man's guilt as well as weakness in man, caused by stir in society as well as suppression made by other characters, around them.