

Chapter - VI

CONCLUSION

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James Joyce's Dubliners is a collection of fifteen short stories. These stories are The Sisters, An Encounter, Araby, Eveline, After The Face, Two Gallants, The Boarding House, A Little Cloud, Counterparts, Clay, A Painful Case, Ivy Day In The Committee Room, A Mother, Grace and The Dead.

James Joyce was the master of Stream of Consciousness Technique. In portraying his characters either in the novels or in the short stories he has made use of this technique. His novels or stories are important not only because of this but they have their inherent elements that give them importance. The stories in Dubliners remind themselves of their past. And at the end sudden realization (epiphany) makes them aware of the reality. These stories may be divided into four groups. The Sisters, An Encounter and Araby which are the stories of Joyce's childhood : The Boarding House, After the Race, and Eveline which are stories of his adolescence : Clay, Counterparts and A Painful Case which are stories of his matured life : Ivy Day in the Committee Room, A Mother and Grace which are stories of his public life in Dublin.

Araby has its own meaning. Joyce wants to illumine the meaning in the context of the story and events that form a story. The story deals with the lost horizon of the boy. He intends to flee into the world of imagination but the lonely bazar reminds him of the reality. James Joyce has used the first person narrative technique in the story. The nameless boy is very significant in the story. Whatever he has conceived, he has dreamt of is altogether lost. The dark reality warns him of meaning of life. He wants to surprise the girl, with whom he loves, by offering her something from the but he is aback to see the closed bazar. With the use of characters, Joyce has achieved his intended effect in his stories. The nameless boy and Mangan's sister are two characters. Joyce wants the nameless boy to keep silent of him. Infact his silence becomes more articulate. This is the great characteristics // of Joyce as a short story writer.

This is not a mere story of a boy and a girl but it has a spiritual dimension too. The boy's desire of escaping into the world of dream is shattered by the emptiness, as darkned bazar. He is morally paralysed and corrupt. His corruption becomes the part of the darkness that pervades in the bazar.

Joyce uses different kinds of technique to achieve his effect. He does not speak more but suggests through symbols.

Eveline is a story of a girl who wants freedom. And in order to achieve this she wants to run away with Frank. She loves him deeply but at the very instant she thinks of her mother and all her energy, vigour, desire, intention dissolves in inactivity. That very thought of her mother makes her lose her desire for freedom. She has promised her mother that she will look after the house and she will discharge her duties towards house faithfully, sincerely. In fact she is in love with Frank, a sailor. She is torn between her love for Frank and her duty towards her house, her desire of escape and her attachment to the house. She becomes helpless and in that condition chooses to be with her house than to run away with Frank.

The story is narrated in the third person narration. The device of making the girl aware of her promise to her dead mother shapes the story. Eveline has physical, spiritual freedom lost her passive, silent nature of mind keeps her again in the dirty life of Dublin. For Eveline,

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Frank, the sailor becomes symbol of freedom. And her epiphany comes out in an ironic manner because she loves her duty more than her sailor boyfriend. Her epiphany is negative to her previous thoughts. She becomes the victim of spiritual paralysis. This story is narrated in the third person narration. Joyce uses the technique of stream of consciousness very skillfully. In order to project Eveline properly, he uses epiphany.

Clay is a story of an ugly-looking old spinster. She works at a laundry. She is described as the peace maker because she reconciles the workers when they quarrel themselves. So everyone is fond of her. She goes to Joe's house for a holiday party. She participates in the party and touches the saucer of Clay which symbolises death. The clay seems to be formless and lifeless. And in reality she experiences a living death. Perhaps she symbolises the old woman of Ireland. She is knowingly or unknowingly keeps quiet about the second part of the song which deals with marriage. Clay in this story is a fitting image of Maria's existence and her death in life. Her tragedy reveals her maternal and domestic virtues. She endures, without resistance, a living death. And Maria's epiphany reveals

her fundamental identity with the clay. The word 'clay' has multiple meanings. Throughout the story Maria is depicted as a symbol of living death. Clay is narrated in the third person.

A Mother deals with Mrs. Kearney. It depicts a portrait of her avarice nature. She is a mother of Miss Kathleen. Miss Kathleen is a talented pianist. She participates in musical circles. And Mrs. Kearney arranges things and plans for the concerts. Instead of her highly educated class she is described as money minded woman. She tries to exploit her daughter as well as the organisers of the programme. She behaves as an uneducated woman at the time of concert. The story is narrated in the third person. And the title of the story is used in negative manner. Mrs. Kearney's portrait suggests her sterile, provincial quality of Dublin's cultural life. Instead of self-sacrificing nature Mrs. Kearney is depicted as mean woman as well as a mean mother. Her schemes do not succeed. She is sterile and avarice woman. So Joyce gives a portrait of Mrs. Kearney in the Dubliners gallery of persons Joyce concludes the story to the pretentious Mr. Burke's judgement on Mrs. Kearney's conduct.

His Dubliners depicts a common theme of escape from reality into the world of dreams, imagination. His characters attempt to do so but ultimately they are made aware of reality from which they can not run away. This sudden realization - an epiphany - is a new device which Joyce has masterly used in his stories. Sometimes it seems that Joyce portrays Dublin as his heroine. Though not a religious writer in a strictest sense, Joyce writes a chapter on moral history of his Dublin through the characters.

Joyce uses realism, naturalism and symbolism in Dubliners. At the end of each story the reader experiences epiphany. The reader's epiphany comes through the feeling of the central character in the story. Joyce uses the psychological techniques to portray his characters. Through his characters Joyce gives absolute picture of Dublin city. Joyce focuses Dublin as the centre of paralysis.

Joyce's use of the stream of consciousness technique, his style, his use of sentences, his portrayal of characters, ultimately helps readers to understand each story from a different perspective.

Joyce uses epiphanies to convert his narratives into short story. Joyce depicts his personal unhappiness in the stories, so the stories in Dubliners represent Dublin through the point of view of James Joyce. Each story becomes a sort of epiphany, a realization, a vision. Joyce tries to attempt to enter the world of each story with in its content rather than from outside. It seems that Joyce wanted to describe Dublin as a city of poverty and inaction.
