

P R E F A C E

Arthur Miller is one of the foremost Modern American Dramatists of America. He is one of the prominent living dramatists of America. I was fascinated by the most remarkable feature of his plays, the theme of conflict.

In the "Introduction" I have tried to collect the similarities and apparent differences between the Greco-Elizabethan and Modern tragedy. The whole consideration is based on the fact that Miller's plays are tragedies, more correctly social tragedies. So it becomes obvious that while studying the theme of conflict in his plays other important aspects and their relation to the conflict must be considered. Santosh Bhatia in his Arthur Miller : Social Drama as Tragedy has drawn out five constants common to the Old tragedy and Modern tragedy. They are : Conflict, Suffering, Tragic Irony, Awakening and a Metaphysical dimension. I have studied the theme of conflict in Miller's plays on the grounds of the five constants. I have paid special attention to the "wrong choice" made by the protagonists, "how the wrong choice gives rise to the conflict in them", and finally what is the generalization about the human life, that is, "the cosmic dimension of the plays."

I do not presume to study all the plays of Miller. Only those which are significant from the view point of tragedy, viz. All My Sons, Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, A View From the Bridge, After The Fall and The Price, are considered. One-acters such as A Memory of Two Mondays and Incident at Vichy have been left out because the former is more lyrical and the latter is more a thesis play in which there is not much of action.