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**THE 'TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES' BY
THOMAS HARDY'S VIEW OF WOMEN ON "TESS"**

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Abstract:

This paper is critical analysis of Thomas Hardy novel "Tess of The D'urbervilles" and focus on one of his characters, namely Tess. Hardy sets the novel in Victorian England, a time when the country was very prosperous. Moreover, society was male dominated by a rigid social hierarchy. Victorian women were treated as second class citizen and marginalized. their identities that roles in the family, such as wife, mother, daughters and widow, Hardy character examined in this regard to how the functions according to these roles. The women view according to Hardy's novels can be placed in three groups. The first groups should include are full length Tess, Sue, Eustacia, Bathsheba, and Elizabeth. Second group may cover Elfried, Ethelbert, Grace, Vivette, and Anne. Third group is also a mixed one this group Paula, Marty, Arabella, Tamsie, Lucetta, Picotte Tabitha, Matilda, Fanny Robin, Charlotte, Mrs, Yeobright, Mrs. Swancourt Mrs. Melbury. Susan Henchard and few others.

Key words: *Pure and chastity Women 'Tess', Patriarchy, Pastoral life, Exploitation, Oppression, Empowerment, Victorian society.*

Tess is a perfect picture of ideal womanhood. She is an embodiment of the whole nature of women. She belongs to the class of Shakespeare tragic heroines like Desdemona and Cardelia. She is a child of nature. She is daughter of mother earth. She comes before us as a simple country girl. She behaves like a living figure. She is round character, for she grows from a simple young girl of sixteen into a complex in four of five years only. This is because of her creator. This tragic figure is a lady and his feeling and nature. This is because of her firsthand experience of the world and its people. Indeed, she is a master piece of her creator. This tragic figure, she crosses the stage in all the pomp of exquisite and distress and with sorrows full of dignity. She is a woman more sinned against than sinning.

Thomas Hardy is great painter of female character. This point is quite clear from the Wessex novels in general and Tess of the d'urbervilles in particular. Hardy is a genius in the characterization of women. His women are superior to his men in many ways. The present paper illustrates these point very well. This novel shows to us how Hardy excels in the portrayal of passionate, emotional types, chiefly women who predominate in Wessex novels in general and the present one in particular. The character of Tess bears an ample testimony to this thing. Tess comes before us as a vessel of emotion rather than of reason. Her creator reveals her soul to us. She is an innocent maiden. She suffers at the hands of cruel society. Fate works against her chance of happiness. Alec brings about her physical ruin similarly Clare cause her spiritual tragedy. Heredity and environment also play their parts in effecting this tragedy.

Tess is a breathing image of beauty. She is a lovely woman. With her bewitching and bright eyes, she can fill a man heart with delight. She is aware of her beautiful looks. She has inherited her mother, prettiness. Alec D'Urberville is almost maddened with the luxuriance of her aspect. He is bewitched by her large, expressive, fascinating eyes. This dairymaid is fresh daughter of nature. She is a poetic figure embodying the visionary essence of natural women. Alec gives up preaching when he sees her again.

Angel Clare runs to her takes her into his arms passionately. Many casual lovers pay compliments to her beautiful looks in the way. One of them takes her on the cart some distance.

Tess is an obedient daughter and wife. She is a loving sister and mother. She is a selfless girl. She suffers and dies for the sake of her parents, brother and sisters. She tries to solve the economic problem of her family. That is why she goes to Tantridge and loses her physical purity and chastity. She has to surrender her body to Alec again save her family, when the family horse dies, she realizes her duty. She works very hard at Flintcom Ash to save her family. She is a loving mother to sorrow, the undesired, she is very anxious for baptizing him before giving him a Christian burial. She visits the grave of her dead son when she comes back to Marlott. She is ready to die for the sake of Clare love or happiness.

Hardy's creation of the Tess character is kind and compassionate girl. She is modest and humble by nature. It's out of her modesty that she puts all blame upon herself for the death of prince after her moral trouble and reluctant affairs with Alec Durbervilles, she feels that she is figure polluting the surrounding in which she moves. She looks upon herself as figure of guilt intruding into the haunts of innocents. It is her sense of humility that makes her write to Angel Clare that he is just in giving her punishment. She says that she deserves the punishments he has given her. She says so even when he does her injustice. She is so kind that she has never hurt a fly or a worm also. The sight of bird in the cage makes her cry. When she sees the pheasants writhing in pain or agony after being wounded by the hunters for sport, she takes compassion them. She breaks their necks to relieve them of this pain with easy death, she calls them poor darlings.

Tess is a vessel of emotion rather than reason. She has a heart which overflows with milk of true love. She is passionate and faithful lover. She is faithful in love throughout a long period of the sufferings and privation. She resists against the temptation which Alec holds out to her. She is willing to die for the happiness of her husband. Izz tells Angel Clare that she can lay down her life for his sake. She possesses in her character something of the faithful love which the Indian wife has for her man. Nothing can separate her from Angel Clare. But fate works against her. She is forced to sell her soulless body to the villain. She stabs Alec to death when she is realizing that he has dishonored her husband with his bitter taunts. She loves Angel Clare with her soul. It's due to her emotional nature that she stabs Alec to death Clare with her soul. It is due to her emotional nature that she Alec to death all of a sudden. She has in her something of the emotional nature of poet. The letters which she writes to Angel Clare show her highly passionate and emotional nature.

Though it cannot be said of him that he had no heroes, only heroines, Hardy is almost a specialist in women, the general run of portrait but like a transcendental phrenologist. Almost all his character belongs to Wessex and to the low strata of society. Hardy's range includes not great ladies or great men. Only focused on oppressed women. He is in an unchallenged master; he has created immortal characters. And however great the play of an external fate, the life or motive which is at the center of each plot is essentially psychological. Every novel is answer to the question given certain character in certain circumstances, what will happen what will become of women's life, he is mind reader women world.

Tess is a philosophic and thinking girl. The long sufferings and experiences of the world have turned her into a brooding philosopher. That is why she likes herself to the poor queen of Bathsheba. She wonders why the sun shines on the just and the unjust like. She sees all the tomorrows in a line. The first of them seems to be the biggest and clearest of all. The others get smaller as they stand farther away. Every one of them is fierce and cruel, so it seems to say to her. I am coming beware of me. At times she thinks of life beyond death also. She tells Abraham that he lives on one of the blighted stars. Like a good thinker she believes not in the dogma, but in the spirit of sermon on the mount. She is into her something of his own poetic quality. This country girl talks in a philosophic vein and deals with the serious problems of life. She speaks of the general bitterness and tragedy of life to Angel Clare. She complains to Joan Durbeyfield of the wicked ways of the cunning immoral people of the world. She laments the lack of opportunities to real

love stories. Tess has a poetic mind. Her body breaths poetry. She is a kind of celestial person owing her being to poetry. Like the good poet she has taste of music also. She is the true daughter of her ballad singing mother. She feels what the paper – poets express in words. At times she feels that soul leaves the body and wanders up to the stars. She does so only because of her imaginative mind.

Tess has got the remarkable powers of suffering and endurance. She suffers so much even then she does lose her moral fiber. She puts up with the shame heroically. She does painful. Hard work at Flintcomb-Ash. She behaves like a great heroine when she is deserted by Angel Clare. She suffers bravely at the hands of the cruelty of lust and of the fragility of love. She is a dignified figure in her bearing. She is full of pride. She is too proud to accept any help from Alec D'urbervilles. She stands against his cruel persuasion for many long months. She does not so because of her pride. She does not write to Mr. And Mrs. Clare for her help. She is proud of her beauty. Due to this pride she is not jealous of the three chambers maids who love Angel Clare. She believes that she can hook any man with her beautiful looks, personal charms and bewitchingly innocent eyes.

Hardy Tess is to be pure women even when she has had a reluctant affair with Alec D Urberville. Thomas hardy himself calls her a pure woman. According to him Tess of the D urbervilles is the story of pure woman. There are people who judge her with their conventionally morality. They say that without her physical purity she cannot and should not be called a pure woman. They call her sinner of the sinning for they say that she admits a few advances of Alec D'Urberville. The point out that Tess is impure also because she goes to live with him as a mistress at sandBourne. She is a married woman. She should not have done so. If we excised our reason. It so clear to us that her first affair with Alec is done reluctantly when she is not herself due to sleep and fatigue. During the later period of her dissipation with Alec she is again not herself. Her mind is drugged and dead with weariness, pain despair. She is crushed under the dead weight of poverty. She is forced by fate and circumstances to become a mistress. She is a pure woman in heart or soul. She is so if we consider the aim and tendency of her whole life. She is honest and true, sincere with faithful in her love for Angel Clare. This purity of heart together with the nobility of her nature make as call her really great woman.

As a critic say her story is a plea for charity, for larger tolerance. For a repudiation of social hypocrisy. Its intense moving power something soft and yielding about her nature. She suffers for the tractability or docility of her nature also. Her personal charms and devotion to the family are also responsible for her suffering and death. She is not initiated into the ways of and emotional nature is also one of the cause of her tragedy. She has a weakness for sleep. It is this weakness which causes the death of prince. It is this sleep which destroys her physical purity. She is arrested while she is found sleeping at Stonehenge. All these things combine together to bring about her tragic end.

Conclusion

Tess Durbeyfield is to linger in our memory as a great woman. we are to cherish her memory along with that of sweet Desdemona and gentle Cordelia. We admire her for her devotion to the family. For her faithfulness in love. for her endurance and fortitude. The adverse circumstances of her life break her into pieces. They drive her to her doom. But she gives a good battle to all powerful fate and its forces. She impresses us with the courage which she shows in the face of her fate. She suffers like Prometheus for having brought fire of light to the people of the world. she teaches us to judge woman from a new sympathetic viewpoint.

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