



Good deeds yield good fruits proved – In Regard with William Blake’s ‘A Poison Tree’

N. Abitha

MA English Literature, Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore.

ABSTRACT:

In early 19th century there was a healthy start to write about Human emotions, Nature, Art, Music and literature. People of this age mostly concentrated on relationship with God, Nature and Human. During this period the writers also found similar topic to use it into the work of art. It also focuses on people who are always industrial mind and instructs them to have some time for self. This is the period when most of the writers wrote for ordinary men without using high Diction called as the ‘Romantic period’. The prominent writers of this age are William Wordsworth, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Alfred Lord Tennyson. One such prominent writer is William Blake. The researcher studies about the comparison between ‘A Poison Tree’ with that of Forbidden tree, in which Blake has introduced the religion theme and relationship with God, which are the prominent topics of Romantic period.

Keywords: Wrath, vengeance, Eden garden, Sin, Forbidden tree, bread and wine.

Introduction:

William Blake’s themes mostly focused on Religion, Corruption, refocusing the Modern worship. He adds more Ingredients to his poetry like Emotions, Senses, Imagination and nature. He used different style of poetry that is ‘Visionary poetry’. His famous work *Songs of experience* 1794 is a collection of poems which also includes ‘A Poison tree’ which is the example of the same Genre. In which Blake advises the readers to not grow wrath on someone, he also instructs the readers that displeasure may lead to a wrong way in killing someone. Blake also dealt with purpose of being created, because it was the vision he had seen and explained the same.

Poison Tree and the Book of Genesis:

Blake’s works were written in simple and understandable language. Blake starts his poem with two people, one is the friend and other one is the foe. Foe was angry with friend, he kept that wrath inside, watered it with fears, till it bore a hatred apple. Here Man has become an object ruled by anger. Blake also introduces people who have hatred inside and repress it till it becomes a tree and gives a fruit of venom. The friend did not know that the fruit was not grown by good heart, unknowingly consumes it and died. Blake says, this much is the extent anger can go through.

Poison tree indirectly has religious context in it, were it is the same like Forbidden tree in Bible which says about the fall of Man. An angel from Heaven fully occupied with pride and jealousy, God has pushed him down to hell, this hatred was growing inside as a tree. The angel now becomes Satan, who is waiting for the correct opportunity to show his vengeance. This fallen angel could not reach God, so he wanted to show his anger on God’s creation which is the first Man and Woman. He tempted eve to consume that forbidden fruit unknowingly, this leads them to heavenly death. Satan made them fall like him, disobeying God.

“I was angry with my friend, I told my wrath, my wrath did grow”. The foe was angry with the friend, friend could not express it but

suppress it. It is better to show angry before it grows as a tree, but men allow it from being a seed to growing it as a tree. If it is expressed, even before it starts; the wrath cannot go till killing a Person. In the same way even if the Devil asked for an apology to God, He would have definitely forgive him. Because of not expressing the wrath it kept growing till he made his plan success with Eve.

“And I watered it in fears and I sunned it with smiles”. The rage was growing continuously because of the hatred it was watered with vengeance, even though one has hatred on the other they smile at them and hide their anger inside. Same way even this fallen angel is going to betray Eve but he portrayed himself as a person sent from above, he tempted eve with his honey coated words and made her fall.

“And it grew both day and night till it bore an apple bright”. Every day and night God is watering with all the blessings human need, providing with all essentials needed. He does all these and awaits that Man would bear a Good fruit but instead it bore a “Apple Bright” the fruit made of poison .He only expects humans to provide him a Good Fruit that is Good deeds were Man could become a Blessing to someone.

“My Foe Outstretched Beneath the tree”. This line in the poem says about the one who had consumed the fruit made of anger, watered by vengeance. Similarly in Bible it says about Jesus who stretched his arms in Cross. Sin came into the world because of Tree. Same way to wash the sin away from World Creator used Cross made of Tree. The Forbidden Tree was at the center of Eden Garden same way the Creator was hanged in between the other two sinners. Sin first entered through that Forbidden Fruit made of flesh and juice; same way God himself gave his Flesh as Bread; his Blood as Wine, He came to this world not for growing wrath on each other. But to Love all, as he Loved. The wrath which grows will not only affect the one who bears it but also to the one who consumes and to his people around. Similarly Satan made a plan to tempt Eve; this not only affected Eve but the entire Mankind.

Conclusion:

“A Good tree cannot produce Bad fruit, and a Bad tree cannot produce Good fruit, every Tree that does not produce Good Fruit is cut down and thrown into fire”(Mathew 7.17,18). Here bad tree is the poisonous tree which is taken as a vision by William Blake. Anger a five letter word which is one letter away from D, Danger. Anger destroys both the bearer and the consumer, he also advices to yield good fruits and to not have bad deeds that grows till it bear a Fruit.

Reference:

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1. *Holy Bible: Easy to Read Version (ERV)*, International Edition, Bible League International, 2016.
 2. William Blake. “The poison Tree”. *Songs of experience*. Musaicum books, 1794.