



A Critical Appreciation of Robert Frost’s “The Death of the Hired Man”

Mr. Devidas Basappa Koli Miss¹, Mr. Waman Satyashila Bhagwan², Mr. Priyanka Rajendra Rathod³

¹ Asst. Professor

² Asst. Professor

³ Asst. Professor

Basic Science & Humanities Department

Vidya Vikas Pratishthn's Institutes of Engineering & Technology Solapur, Maharashtra, India.

ABSTRACT:

"The Death of The Hired Man" is a narrative poem. It is written in the form of a dialogue, dramatic dialogues. It has only three characters Mr. Warren The farmer, Mary, his wife and Silas, the old incompetent hired man. Silas, the hired man, does not appear in the poem but he is the main character, the central character and "his death" is the center of the main action. Essentially the poem is about the death of Silas. The poem also reveals the practical approach of Warren towards the life, while Mary's approach is quite different from him. This is made clear with reference to "Home: Heaven is the Home. In the fact of Silas', death we see the basis of his character and life, the higher idealism which did not allow him to throw himself on the charity of relative but led him to seek on Warren's farm in order that he might at least maintain a show of his independence. Thus, the title fully reveals the individuality, personality of Silas. It is indeed, a very suggestive, appropriate title-most significant title.

Keywords Mr. Warren The farmer, Mary- his wife and Silas-the old incompetent hired man.

Introduction:

"The Death of the Hired Man" is, indeed, a very beautiful poem. Frost's poems have simple, unforced lyric charm. His poems seem to have been written as naturally and effortlessly as our breathing. As a result, his poems are very simple, natural and quite pleasing. His themes are from Nature and the countryside. The rhythms of country life attract Frost much and more. The poem finds in the rhythms of Nature / country the struggle and the tragedy that result from Man's efforts to run contrary to Nature. 'The Death of the Hired Man', shows Robert Frost's skill in building a complete plot within a short poem. Silas, the hired man does not appear in the poem yet he is the main, the most important character in the poem. His death is the core of the poem, the main action and the poet reveals the meaning of this event through the successive impression of Warren and Mary, the married couple.

Mary and Warren, the married couple speak on different lines about Silas, the old hired man. This old man has returned to die to their house. The dramatic struggle consists in Mary's efforts to persuade her husband that they must accept the responsibility to help him in his broken health and in his utter old age. Warren, the most practicable man, looks at Silas from the practical point of view. He objects the old man in now of no use on the farm. In fact Warren does not understand properly Silas characters, Silas true self is seen and understood when Mary tries to make her husband understand the fundamental self-respect between Mary's sympathy and Warren's practical objections. As Mary wins her husband over to a more charitable view, the hired man is revealed in clear terms and clear outlines. The final truth about the personality of Silas is his death, his imminent death. The last lines in the poem speak more of Silas:

Warren returned-too soon, it seemed to her, slipped to her side, caught up her hand and waited. "Warren?" she questioned. "Dead", was all he answered.

"The Death of The Hired Man", is an excellent example of a narrative poem. It is written in the form of a dialogue. It is also considered to be the best One-Act play. It has three characters, though most fully revealed, does not appear in the poem. Essentially Silas is the most important and the central character and his death is the core action in the poem.

The poem is very attractive and pleasing to the readers. The following are some of the eloquent lines, which speak more of the poem or the characters.

1. Home is the place where, when you have to go there. They have to take you in,
2. (Mary says about 'Home') I should have called it Something you somehow haven't to deserve.
3. Part of a moon was falling down the west.

This poem was highly appreciated by Cleanth Brooks. He remarked it as "dramatic decorum". Yes, it has dramatic situation, dramatic action, eloquent conversational beauty, eloquent descriptions, and only three characters. Again, the poem describes one of the most touching human episodes and it does so in a most quiet manner. In fact, it seems that the story is being told in undertones or in whispers.

The terms of the poem has symbolic meaning too. This is about "Home". Mrs. Mary says to her husband that Silas has come home to die makes Mary and Warren to discuss what "Home" means. To Warren it is a place where one has a right to be received. Mary says that one's Home is where one is received without being worthy. This suggests that only the grace of God can open the gates of Heaven to us who do not deserve it. For Heaven is our Home.

Conclusion:

"The Death of The Hired Man" is the most perfectly shaped of Frost's poems. It can be regarded as 'dramatic dialogues'. It presents very simply a single and complete action. The poem has also philosophical approach towards 'self-respect' 'Home-true home is Heaven' Like the other dramatic poems such as "Home Burial" "The Mountain", "Blueberries" "The Death of the Hired Man" also occupies the top position in "North of Boston."

Acknowledgement:

During this research I am very grateful to the VVP INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, SOLAPUR for offering facilities and resources.

REFERENCE:

1. Need to forgive and accept people for who they are analysis of the 'The Death of the hired Man' by Robert Frost- shamila Amir, fellow of Ph.D (linguistics) Hamdard University, Karachi, Pakistan.
2. Man and nature in the poetry of Robert Frost by Mishra, Pradyumna Kumar, Chhatrapati shahuji Maharaj University, Kanpur.