

HUM 103 SEC 27

Worksheet 1

Spring 2023

Antigone (Scene v- viii)

Submitted By : Tasnim Rahman Moumita

ID : 22301689

Date of Submission : 18.02.2023

4. Who is Eurydike? How does she react to her son's death? What does her silence symbolize in the play?

Answer:

In the play Antigone, Eurydike is the wife of Creone and the queen of Thebes. She is the mother of Haemon as well.

Haemon commits suicide after acknowledging the fact of Antigone's self-willing death. When Eurydike hears the news of her son's death, she did not even react in front of anyone. She goes back to her palace, remaining silent. She fainted, became weak. She also commits suicide. And while dying, Eurydike cursed her husband Creone and made him responsible for all this happening and the loss of her son, Haemon.

Eurydike's silence is an indicator of the discrimination of women in the then Greece. Despite being the queen of Thebes, she was not permitted to cry, to show her emotion in front of everybody. In fact, women were not considered as even someone to talk to, to put their opinion in any matter. Only the man could say, make rules, do anything as their wished then. Therefore, Eurydike was also confined. She went back to her palace and then broke down for losing her son in an unexpected situation. As the play progresses,

Creon and the Chorus are informed by a second messenger that Eurydice has committed suicide. She cursed her spouse Creon as she took her last breath.

Her silence in Creon's conference actually is the indicator of the 'power crisis' of women. To be precise, Eurydice proves the power of fate to destroy personality itself, and transform a gentle, quiet woman into a figure of fury and despair.

6. Is it only the women who suffer in patriarchy, or are men victims as well? Please elaborate in connection with Creon and Haemon?

Answer:

Yes, women are the only sufferer of patriarchy.

Male supremacy in both the public and private arenas is referred to as patriarchy. It snatches away the basic independence of expressing the opinions of women. Patriarchy also helps to consider women as a product, to use them, not listen to their thoughts, not letting them enter into any sort of administrative work or any bigger work, discussion; it could be anything.

This patriarchy mostly prioritizes men and their opinion in every single aspect. Women are ignored in terms of patriarchy.

The Play called "Antigone" is a perfect example of patriarchy. It also shows how women suffer for attempting to break state law. Moreover, the queen Eurydice's situation is also the result of patriarchy. Also, Ismene states that they cannot be equal to men in the society as per the rules. Which means they were bound to believe and abide by this patriarchal system.

Women were not considered as citizens. They were not even allowed to do anything related to the society, the judgment, the rules and regulations, they were just the material of amusement and household keeper. Moreover, they were not permitted to receive education, to participate in sports as well.

On the other hand, there was nothing difficult for men. Creone was a strict ruler. When his own son Haemon mocks and raises questions about his verdict on Antigone, he does nothing to Haemon. But when so does Antigone, she gets barbaric punishment. Creone always believes that men are born to rule and women are born to be submissive and obedient towards them always, in everything.

Finally, it can be shown from the above mentioned facts that there is a clear line of discrimination and level of exploitation on women just because of the patriarchal system.
