10/12/2018 ADDITIONAL ENGLISH [CIA – 1] 1740256 - Jeevan Koshy

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The story that I have chosen for this assignment is the play – Romeo, and Juliet, written by William Shakespeare. This story is one of the most famous love stories written in the English tradition. There is a strong theme of romantic love that stands throughout the play. A love which is violent and overpowering and that which exceeds values and emotions. This love is depicted throughout the play and we fail to capture it as a whole in entirety and too powerful to be contained or understood. The lovers are punished not because of their actions and their behavior but because of the fate which is ahead of them. Emphasizing that fate has control over their destinies, the Prologue tells us that their relationship is death marked.

There is generally no statement that talks about the relationship between the love present and the society rather portrays the confusion of being in love leading to the story’s tragic conclusion. The augur of Romeo and Juliet coming together is seen but then we notice a different scene altogether – only because of the impact that love has had on the characters. The love that is seen in the story is so powerful that it can overwhelm a person, just as the power of hate can. It has become so cynical that Romeo and Juliet are not worried at all about the consequences but interested only in their love becoming successful.

The theme of love can be seen as a cause of violence because love seems to push the lovers towards love and violence and not farther from it. There is violence only due to the fact that both Romeo and Juliet are plagued with the thoughts of suicide and they are willing to experience it for their love. Double suicide is the inevitable conclusion that occurs at the end of the play – this tragic choice is the highest most potent expression of love that Romeo and Juliet can make. It is through death that they preserve their love and this love is so profound and meaningful to them that they are willing to end their lives as a defense.

The idea of value and doubleness is another theme in the play. The Friar tries his best to help out Romeo and Juliet but at the end we see his actions lead to their struggle. The lovers’ struggle against public and social institutions that implicitly or explicitly opposes the existence of their love and these institutions come in conflict with each other. The honor between the couple results in brawls and disturbs the public peace. The message that Shakespeare brings out is that nothing is pure good and evil but contains elements of both. It is an ambiguity that rules instead. Romeo and Juliet shared an unbreakable love and an unbreakable bond.

Gender is another theme that we can consider because this is a play that offers many versions of masculinity only because Romeo’s masculinity is questioned only because of his love life and his social life which is properly masculine. What is it that should be the proper role for a man? Violence is not the answer – the Prince is the best model of masculinity to follow: impartial and fair, he opposes civil violence.

We can also see subtle themes of revenge when the fight happens between the men and they think that violence is the only solution. Another few themes can be love, hatred – all depicted to the reader in a way unthinkable. This play covers so many themes and meanings and it is through that the play is at it’s best. The meaning of love is the crux of the play and how that is carried out is shown so beautifully. Few of the major concerns of the themes that are analyzed in the play are clear and makes the reader understand the context.

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