

KALĀ

The Journal of Indian Art History Congress

Certificate of Publication

Certificate of publication for the article titled:

THE REPRESENTATION OF IDENTITY IN CHARLES DICKENS "A TALE OF TWO CITIES"

Authored by

Dr.V.Sri Rama Murthy

Asst. Professor of English, PRR&VS Government College, Vidavalur,
m

A.P,

Volume No. **27** No.1(XII) : **2021**

in

KALA : Journal of Indian Art History Congress

Impact Factor = 6.125



Editor:

Kala Journal



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

UGC

University Grants Commission

Approved Journal

THE REPRESENTATION OF IDENTITY IN CHARLES DICKENS “A TALE OF TWO CITIES”

A.Varalakshmi, ResearchScholar;JNTUAUniversity,Ananthapuram,A.P,varam.shobita@gmail.com

Dr.V.Sri Rama Murthy Asst. Professor of English, PRR&VS Government College, Vidavalur,
A.P,

Dr.V.B.Chithra, Professor of English and Head, Dept of Humanities, JNTUA College of
Engineering, Anantapur, A.P,

ABSTRACT: Charles Dickens (1812 to 1870) is a foremost representative novelist of the Victorian Era, a great story teller and a social reformer. Dickens was not only the first great urban novelist in England, but also one of the most important social commentators who used fiction effectively to criticize economic, social, and moral abuses in the Victorian era. Dickens showed compassion and empathy towards the vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of English society, and contributed to several important social reforms. A Tale of Two Cities is set in London and Paris before and after French Revolution. The novel depicts the plight of the French Peasantry demoralized by the French aristocracy in the year leading up to the revolution. It has always been one of his best loved novels. The novel is about the Identity and reunion of father Doctor Manatee and a daughter Lucie Manatee after 18 years. The novel consists of two heroes Charles Draney and Sydney Carton having the same identical features and both of them love one girl Lucie. In the novel there exhibits an admirable honesty to reveal Doctor Manatee his true identity as a member of the infamous evermonde family

Key words: Charles Dickens, Identity and A Tale of Two cities

INTRODUCTION: Charles Dickens is remembered today as one of the greatest and most popular writers of the novel ever to have lived in Victorian period. All the important people of the day read at least one of his novels. Queen Victoria was a great fan of him. Dickens captured the spirit of his age in both a profound and entering way. He wrote with wit and humour, he also wrote about every day tragedies he saw around him. He put all this in the context of Victorian society.

Representation of Identity: A Tale of Two Cities

The novel opens with the opening lines “It was the Best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness”. This novel takes place during French Revolution. Mr. Jarvis Lorry working in Telson bank in London is a good friend of Mr. Alexander Manatee. Lorry came to know about his friend Manatee living in Paris was alive and safe with his old servant Monsieur Defarge in Paris who was a vendor of wine, as Manatee was imprisoned by evermonde family for a small mistake for 16 years.

Mr. Lorry along with Lucie Manatee and Pros reaches Paris and met Alexander Manatee and decides to take Manatee along with them to England. At the same time Charles Draney, who belongs to Evermonde family of nobles, one of the hero in the novel, advises all the nobles to stop slavery on people, otherwise there would be a revolution from people. Mr. Charles Draney decides to leave France and move to England to make his own living by his own labour. While leaving to England Draney promises to his old servant that he would help him in any trouble.

Mr. Charles Draney leaves all his properties and move to England. All the people from Paris Mr. Lorry, Mr. Manatee, Miss Lucie and Mr. Draney travels in the same ship to reach England. In the travel for the first time Mr. Draney and Miss Lucie met one another. Mr. Draney also helps Manatee in the travel. But, few months later Mr. Draney was imprisoned in a case as a spy. Mr. Manatee and Lucie were called as the witness for Draney case. Draney was declared as a spy moving from England to France, but the witness of Lucie and Manatee was not accepted as there was strong witness named Mr. Barsad who was the real spy, but he accepts Draney as the spy.

“Barsad, was a hired Spy and traitor, an unblushing trafficker in blood, and one of the greatest scoundrels upon the earth since accursed Judas- Which he certainly did look rather like”(TTC.P.62)

For the first time two identical figures were seen in the court. Mr. Sydney Cartoon, another hero of the novel, enters the court with another witness and proves Charles Darney was innocent in the case. As he resembles same to Darney, he save Darney by presenting himself in the court. All the three people fell in love. Charles Darney loves Lucie, Sydney Cartoon loves Lucie but Lucie loves Charles Darney. But all the three never expressed their love to one another.

“Charles Darney loved Lucie Manatee from the hour of his danger. He had never heard a sound as sweet and dear as the sound of her compassionate voice; with his own on the edge of the grave that had been dug for him. But he had not yet spoken to her on the subject; the assassination at the deserted chateaufar away beyond the heaving water and the long, long, dusty roads the solid stone chateau which had itself become the mere mist of a dream had been done a year, and he had never yet, by so much as a single spoken word, disclosed to her the state of his heart”(TTC.P.104)

Lucie father accepts the love of Darney and decides to marry them. At that time Darney reveals him the truth that he belongs to Evermonde family and his actual name was Charles Evermonde Darney. Lucie father without knowing that darney belongs to Evermonde family accepted their love and marriage. At the same time Sydney Cartoon enters the house of Lucie to propose his love for her. But the engagement is announced for Lucie and Darney by Manatee.

Sydney never revealed his love for Lucie. Lucie was married to Darney and they had a baby girl. On one occasion Darney reveals the secret to Lucie that Sydney also loved her so deeply. After 5 years of period, Sydney meets Lucie family and spends his time happily with them. At that occasion Lucie requests Sydney to marry another girl and lead a happy life. But Sydney refuses to marry, and on the same situation Sydney promises Lucie that He would do any sacrifice to her in this world and indeed, he would give his life for her sake

“No man ever really loved a woman, lost her, and knew her with a blameless though an unchanged mind, when she was a wife and a mother, but her children had a strange sympathy with him an instinctive delicacy of pity for him”(TTC.P.164)

A few days later, revolution started in France for republic of the people against Evermondes. People were against the slavery. All the Nobles of Evermonde family were imprisoned and decided to cut down their heads on the republic day. Sydney receives a letter from his old servant and came to know about the revolution in France and the help needed to him from Darney, as he already promised.

“Cannon, muskets, fire and smoke; but, still the deep ditch, the single drawbridge, the massive stone walls and the eight great towers. Slight displacements of the raging sea, made by the falling wounded. Flashing weapons, blazing torches, smoking wagonloads of wet straw, hard work at neighbouring barricades in all directions, shrieks, volleys, execrations, bravery without stint, boom smash and rattle and the furious sounding of the living sea”(TTC.P.167)

Charles move to France to help the servant and release him as he promised without informing his family. Charles was imprisoned in France as he belongs to Evermonde family, his uncle Mr. Manatee was helpless and was not able to help Darney though, he is a citizen of France. Sydney Cartoon come to know France and learns about the incident happened. Sydney decided to help Darney and save his life, as he promised to Lucie that he would sacrifice his life for her sake.

Darney and Sydney had same identical features. Sydney took the help of Barsad a spy in France and entered into the prison of Darney and escaped Darney from the prison by making him unconscious with a medicine and replaced his place as Charles Darney by exchanging his dress, as they have identical features no one guessed of it or came to know about this incident. The day came for his sacrifice. Charles and his family were sent safely to England with the help of Mr. Lorrie and Miss. Pros.

The last words spelled by Sydney Cartoon were:

“It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known”(TTC.P288)

Mr. Sydney Carton was made to cut down his head in the place of Darney. Lucie came to know about the real fact happened and remembered about the promise given by Sydney to her.

References :

1. Dickens, Charles : A Tale of Two Cities, Papilio publication, C Kolkatta, 2015.
2. Dickens, Charles : A Tale of Two Cities, Penguin Classics, Penguin books ltd, 2003.
3. Champion, Neil : Charles Dickens-(creative lives), Professional publishing Ltd, 2001.
4. Chesterton G.K : Appreciations and Criticism of the works of Charles Dickens, USA, 2000.