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Emily Dickinson's I Died for Beauty: Revealing the Relation of Truth and Beauty

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Abstract

Emily Dickinson was one of the pioneers of twentieth-century modernist poetress. The American poetress belonged an extraordinary skill for revealing the event or emotion through her writing. Her poetry is rich in subject matter. She is compared with a brainiac. A large number of poems were written by Emily Dickinson. The main purpose of this study is to incite the core of the resounding poems, 'I Died for Beauty.' This paper attempts to prove the superiority of the poem, Dickinson, in revealing the aesthetic idealism using few terminologies. The study commence with an introduction about the poet. Then through critical analysis and rhetorical description of the three stanza poem, by exploring its style, themes, symbols, and the study ends with a short conclusion.

Keywords: Truth and Beauty, Mortality and Death, English poetry, Metaphor, and Aesthetic idealism.

1. Introduction

The poet

Emily Dickinson is widely regarded as one of the greatest American poets who were born in 1830, in Amherst, Massachusetts, to a young barrister, Edward, and Emily Norcross. Emily had an elder brother and a younger sister named William and Lavinia. Her father, Edward Dickinson was a successful politician who was known for being active in his community. However, various researchers agree that she retained a love of learning, particularly in the sciences, for most of her life.

Dickinson was an eager and inventive student. She attended Amherst Academy from 1840-1847. Emily Dickinson accompanied by Emerson, Milton and Thoreau involved the writings of Henry Wadsworth Long fellow, Charles Darwin, Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot, Matthew Arnold. Dickinson worked with some editors such as Josiah

Holland and Samuel Bowles, with literary figures like Minister Charles Wadsworth, and Thomas W. Higginson in which the latter- "acted as a literary mentor to Emily Dickinson" (Gray, 2012; Hossain and Akter, 2020). Dickinson engaged deeply in her literary work among her contemporary writers.

Dickinson had a plausible prudence as a cerebral young lady though she was considered as hopeless by college specialists. As Dickinson grew up in a devout Puritan family that greatly influenced her religious beliefs, she did not agree with autonomous religious interpretations. Therefore, she left the college after just a year of learning to leave unanswered questions. Whatever the purpose, she went back to her parents' house to start her relaxed withdrawal from society. - "Dickinson stayed at home (and mainly in her room) in Amherst, Massachusetts, and found the material of her poems both without and within" (Miller, 2005). These

experiences greatly influenced her writing. Her poems reflect a paradoxical understanding of the nature of life, which she never fully reconciles.

Emily Dickinson wrote a large number of poems, more than 1,100 poems in almost ten years, that is between the years the 1850s and 1865. But only 10 of her poems were published during her lifetime. She faced difficulties with her eyesight to reach shocking losses during the last fifteen years to pass away in 1886. Before her death, Dickinson was suffering from kidney diseases. - "Dickinson published some of poems of Emily Dickinson in her life and left almost two thousand poems- in various groupings" (Ferguson, Mary & Jon, 2005). She published about ten poems in her period; she asked Lavinia to burn her writings. Lavinia, according to Emily's wish, smashed the private letters but preserved the poems. Lavinia pursued posthumous publishing for Dickinson's poetic collections.

According to Benoit Raymond (Benoit, 2006), "Emily Dickinson's famous poem 'I Died for Beauty' was first published by Thomas Wentworth Higginson in the Christian Union on 25 September 1890 with the title he gave of 'Two Kinsman'" (Johnson, 1960). In 1890, the first collection of poetry of Dickinson was published. "It was in 1862, a year in which she wrote a poem every day" (Lehman, 2006). It seemed that the famous poem 'I Died for Beauty' wrote in that year. Remarkably, it was printed in eleven editions in only two years. In editing early volumes, some critics aggressively edited the unusual style that was in the Dickinson's poem to make the poem more accessible. However, later the publications proposed an initial style with the genuine punctuation.

According to Shira Wolosky, --"One of the most striking- if not also distracting---features of Dickinson's verse is its lack of punctuation. She omits commas, semicolons, periods. In their stead, she introduces dashes" (Wolosky, 2001). Emily Dickinson is one of the best talented American poets, contributed each scholastic sectors. The literary scholars tried to explore the writing of hers. Dickinson left volumes of poetry, erudite books, biographies and collections of letters. "She made no mention of her own letters, or her figurative letters to the world, which it was, the luck or fate of Lavinia to discover" (Gray, 2012). Along with great

American poets like Walt Whitman and Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson made a room in literature. according to some critics, the main female voice of American poetry is Dickinson who elegantly define a poem saying- "If I read a book [and] it makes my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me I know that is poetry" (Lehman, 2006). Besides, "Emily Dickinson is reported to have said, in the spirit of the Earl of Worcester: 'If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry'" (Kendall, 2007).

The poem

Emily Dickinson's poem 'I Died for Beauty' is an allegorical work set in a tomb, where a person who passed away for beauty interacts concisely with someone who died for truth. The poem is a metaphorical work in which the characters and actions reveals larger ideas or themes. Frequently in an allegory, abstract concepts are given physical form, as they are in the poem of Dickinson. The poem equates the two as just as noble sufferers whose names are eventually covered with moss, as if designate that at the end, what one dies for its insignificant. Although the composing time is not sure, it is representative of Dickinson's verse in its length, style, and content. It is obviously simple and straightforward poem that shows deeper meaning with investigation. The length of the poem is three stanzas of four lines each, the themes of death, beauty, and truth are frequent in work of Emily Dickinson.

Emily Dickinson did not have the intention to build up his career as a poet, unlike most great poets. She preserved her work privately. Emily Dickinson - "felt intensely, thought deeply, read widely, and managed to become our other central poet: a brilliant counterpoint to Whitman" (Lehman, 2006).

Most of Dickinson work was preserved in her life time; that is why the date of her composing time is approximate of their written time. After her death, her poetries were published by the help of her sister who worked to make a list of the faithful editor to make the poem in publishable form. As a result, the written and composing dates of 'I Died for Beauty' enormously vary. It was probably written in 1862 but published year is 1890 done by the editor, Thomas Wentworth Higginson

'I Died for Beauty' was published several times which make the poem popular and widely. This poem is collected in almost every volume of Dickinson's poems along with other collections of American poetry. Particularly, the poem become visible in comprehensive issue of the work of Dickinson and Back Bay Book published in 1976 under the title 'The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson'.

The first stanza

I died for Beauty-but was scarce
Adjusted in the Tomb
When One who died for Truth, was lain
In an adjoining Room-

In the first stanza of 'I Died for Beauty' is narrated by writer indicating a person who newly died "for Beauty". Like other two stanzas, the first stanza contains only four lines. In the very starting point of the first stanza, the speaker says about own self and goes to the perspective theme. It is understandable that the poem begins with conception of beauty being looked after by loved ones. As she is not kept by herself, she is placed in the grave. She feels someone who is respected and valued with suitable funeral. But, when she is kept alone, she gets a company. The speaker shows that she was placed in the same tomb when another person recently passed away is brought into 'an adjoining room,' having left the world for truth.

The second stanza

He questioned softly "Why I failed"?
"For Beauty", I replied-
"And I-for Truth-Themselves are One-
We Brethren, are", He said-

After confirming her attendance, he contacts with her smoothly. This condition advises that he is frightened, nervous or intuition to what would be a excruciating topic for her. Assumed that he passed away for purpose of truth, he is relaxed for her reply, but might be fear disappointing her. He was also carried in and has been gone; therefore, he is likely brings some easiness in the recognition that he does not feel lone. He interrogates the reasons from the narrator how she came here and she replies politely, 'For Beauty'. He responds by informing her that he breath last for the reason of truth and these things help them to be brethren. The buried person take part like close kinship and collaborative UniversePG | www.universepg.com

understanding. Both of them sacrificed lives to establish the principle. Therefore, they show humble one another. As she performed her job in the conclusion of the beginning stanza, Emily come the conclusion this verse with a hyphen.

The third stanza

And so, as Kinsmen, met a Night-
We talked between the Rooms-
Until the Moss had reached our lips-
And covered up-our names-

In the third stanza, the speaker indicates the two graved dwellers as 'kinsmen' and presents their conversation between them in their room. Their physical leaving for noble causes makes them spiritually akin, which enable their communication. The narrator communicates the friendship with a thing the reader/ listener may have practiced a kinship at night. One entombed member left the life for Truth and the second sacrificed life for Truth but their conversation does not continue forever as they are covered by moss. The image is well-known; new attachments have excitement and strength, and two latest persons do not continue to dispute or grasp about one another.

This is what deceased and entombed people make experience, and the analogy of the setting of welcoming engagement of the two, now they are in truth cadavers, is typical of Emily Dickinson's poetry. The view is gruesome, yet the spectator almost is unable to understand until the poetress speaks why the two discontinue their talking. Dickinson says that the buried confer cordially 'between the rooms' of the graveyard with a man entombed closely along with "They shut me up in Prose" (Grunes, 2018). Still, when their somatic selves are able to talk "Until the moss had reached their lips," they discontinue their speaking.

The reader is clearly reminded that both figures in this allegory of Beauty and Truth are entombed bodies. The unjoyful reality of decay guided the cheerful bond to the end. The grass arrives to their lips; therefore, they cannot communicate with one another. The destruction of the ability speaking Beauty or Truth snatches their capability. The lip that indicates the communication, discussion and relationship become mute. The normal system of life stops them. The speaker finishes indicating the image of the moss roofing their names, obviously

making them forgotten and unknown. It does not just do covering the bodies' mouth, but its effect deletes their previous history of those who was there. Their death indicates the things that Beauty and Truth was entombed and the viewer is left questioning for what they, in fact, die? Were they leaving in vain? It is not possible to clear without understanding the details of their individual demises. Notwithstanding, it is possible to end that such rules and regulations as beauty and reality are related to the decay of time.

The poem "I Died for Beauty" happens completely enclosed in a grave. The narrator in the poem assigns being positioned in the grave when another dead body being placed closed to a room with in the tomb. There is scarcely a powerful idea of death than an arrangement. Consequently, everything related with the poem needs to be taken with backdrop of death. The two buried bodies have passed away and are now associated with sense of truth though they are satisfied with it. They were conscious of their own thought when they sacrificed lives for the sake of the greatness of beauty and truth. The poem 'I Died for Beauty' takes an exciting twist; however, impression of beauty and reality are endless comes into an inquiry. Primarily, it means that the two buried figures have relinquished their temporary lives for thing that surpassed death, specially beauty and reality. However, in the end point the two figures are performed silently, and names restricted with wordly thing, the viewer must be wondered it those things for which they passed away are also deadly.

"I Died for Beauty" contracts absolutely straight with the theme of beauty and reality. Dickinson depicts them as analogousness in various ways. Both of them are represented by somebody who welcomed to die for them; they are entombed in the same grave close to each other; they die at the same time; name of the both buried persons are surfaced by identical moss. Moreover, the figures themselves perceive an instant connection when they are informed why equivalent died. The poem creates a strong proclamation that "brethren" and "kinsmen." are called as beauty and reality. Moreover, the two figures identify one another as kindred moods.

An exhilarating point of clarification is whether Dickinson refers to that the two buried figures

expire as victims for the two things named beauty and truth. The phrasing "I died for beauty" and "And I for truth" forsake the entrance open to either perspective. Regardless, the two deceased figures realized hardly about them that truth and beauty were more appreciated than their human lives.

In Dickinson's view, this poem about magnanimous deaths and the method of dying also observing about something as typical and cheerful as friendship. In this premise, the speaker "Who died for Beauty" fraternizes a new visitor to the tomb who sacrificed life for Truth. They are buried in the vault and left, but they do not remain alone for long time when both understand which both they have with one another and that both have fully a lot in common situation. Emily Dickinson exhibits how easily some friendship building up and the enthusiasm with with new friend associates each other. In this situation, their compliance attached to leave life for which they give their opinion in the same thing "Beauty and Truth", but their surprising circumstances bond them. Dickinson shows how a friendly connection has the strength to do the most unconventional and potentially unnerving circumstance seem enjoyable.

Yet, alike most companionship, this relation is finally stopped by the passage of time. "Poets use syntax to various ends and effects. The extent to which a poet can also break the rules of syntax for her ownself purposes can be seen in Emily Dickinson" (Wolosky, 2001). Though the poem concludes on a depressing point, the viewer may not support but experience that the switch from worldly to eternal was done simpler by shaped last one substantial partnership before going to eternal.

Usually, "Poetry uses an elevated and preeminent literary language over everyday language; But this one is hardly the speech of the tongue only, but it is the language of the heart, mind, feeling, and [the] sentiment" (Dahami, 2018). "Emotion and feeling ... can only be fully expressed in the vernacular language, which a particular people has fashioned for itself through many generations (Dahami, 2020) ... it is poetry than prose, which is concerned with the analysis and definition of emotion and feeling" (Dahami, 2016; Russel, 1963). Moreover, the idea is supported by Ali, who says, "Poetry is a piece of language which is creative in form and convention in meaning for its addressee; that is why it arouses a

sense of sympathy in its readers” (Ali & Mohammed, 2019). The statement is indifferent to Emily Dickinson’s poetry. Her poetry is unusually formal in approach and normal in form and rhythm. Nevertheless, “Dickinson, ignored many prosodic conventions” (Grunes, 2018). The verse “I Died for Beauty” is an uninterrupted instance of common fashion of her own. This poem is written of three stanzas of four lines each, and the rhyming framework is abcb. “Dickinson’s slant rhyme derives its effect from the hymn-like strictness of metre: where the metre is simple, strong and familiar” (Corcoran, 2007). In this verse, the rhymes are more exactly harmony rhymes for the justification that close to the corresponding sounds that is on an same accent and finish with the balanced consonants. According to the statement of Preminger (Preminger & Brogan, 1993), “Dickinson lines out, not sentence by sentence but word by word, single moments of perception and emotion” (p. 52). Besides, the poet “found that usual direct terminology was not satisfactory to express deep instincts, emotions, and ideas that the psychologists had defined and employed the same methods for clarifying their purposes” (Dahami, 2019; Akter *et al.*, 2019).

The lines for each verse chase a general sequence of iambic tetrameter followed by iambic trimeter, iambic tetrameter, and again iambic trimeter. “The brisk iambic meter of Dickinson’s verse, hard to imitate in the language of translation, got replaced with a dactyl-based rhythm, resulting in a much slower pace” (Dworkin, & Perloff, 2009). This can be remarked that poetry in general and Dickinson’s in particular “has acquired new receptivity and developed new metrical forms” (Dahami, 2015). This attachment of style and framework appears Dickinson’s learning at Amherst Academy and skill of her to write a tale and make her opinions with these restrictions. Composing in same way needs a specific capability to shape the rows and apply economy of words. The verse “I Died for Beauty” from a reader’s opinion, has normal and comfortable think that creates the lyric more reachable “Poetry is marked by being free in the modern age” (Dahami, 2017). The common patterned movement also clears the viewers to understand the incident and the nuances of the metaphors would go ahead rather proceed to jolting patterns.

The allegory that is promptly obvious is a typical extended metaphor in which component of the event indicates something beyond that. In the same way, any symbol is the system of contrasting between things on account of remarking. An analogy implements the same idea to a statement. “Homans, for example, in an essay on Rossetti and Emily Dickinson, draws on Irigaray and other psychoanalytic and deconstructive critics to distinguish between metaphor and metonymy in ‘Goblin Market’ by showing the different relations these tropes have to the feminine body” (Bristow, 2005). Dickinson in the poem, “I Died for Beauty”, applies this shape of images to show ‘beauty and truth’. The speaker narrates dead figures who passed left lives for truth and beauty becoming kept to place in the equal grave, in adjusted rooms. These two figures communicate and develop the relation like “brethren” and go away as they died for the same intention. The previous persons are corporeal figures who surrendered their lives, and decease is relinquished for better benefits.

Fundamentally, the superiority of truth and beauty is showed and signified in the way that the two entombed are yet serious and talking, though they are buried. The reader observes this as an remark, through a portrait expounded by Dickinson that such things are perpetual. However, the allegory goes on by revealing the figures ultimately succumbing to corporal decompose, as the presence of them is restricted by moss. “The verse has the capability to map the whole situation in musical language” (Dahami, 2015); As a result, the poem of Dickinson is the exhibition of great musical language. As the language and visual exposition is symbolic, the viewer is guided to astonish which Dickinson talks about the ultimate destiny of truth and beauty. But with her reader executed silent, the speaker is gave up to take decision her own self terminations.

American literature of The Romantic Period was begun in 1830 which is also the year of Dickinson’s birthday. Dickinson was affiliated with the Realistic American literary works which remained 1865 to 1900. American literature of The Romantic Period arisen from a country floundering and encountering economic, intellectual and industrial change. But, the Romantic Period associated with writing that was hopeful, exalted, optimistic, and once self-mindfully literary. Dickinson did not try to be a

Realistic poet as Emily continued herself and was not agree to commingle with the poet of her days.

Dickinson was the unique production of her time and personality and place. The Realistic writers of her time were less meticulous than their romantic ancestor; moreover, they were eager to find out, write about and fight on individual and collective stage. The writer like Auguste Comte, Karl Marx and Charles Darwin were associated with the mainstream thought of their times. Dickinson understood clearly that religion was challenged by science directly. Three authentic, agile poet, Walt Whitman, Sidney Lanier, and no doubt Emily Dickinson were the supporter of poetry of romantic period during the period of Realistic Literary Period.

Some chroniclers have expressed their observation that Dickinson's imagination about death was exposed in her letters. In these letter, she asks her similar to depict that the system was alike to occur an entombed person; the writer wished to understand about the last hours, the appearance of them of mind, whether they experienced peace or not. All the passion, fascination, and feature are given into Dickinson's verse in 'I Died for Beauty' in which two buried person portrays that occurs after the funeral of these two persons. In 1890, "I Died for Beauty" that was included in the beginning collection of poetry of Dickinson was published.

The reviewer commends the poem as striking and original and its main quality is an outstanding grasp and perception. Dickinson's poem contains extraordinary fashion as exception, intentional, and balanced; Dickinson placed significant position, and she was completely staple energy of American poetry during the nineteenth century.

Emily Dickinson often writes about love, life, nature, time, death, and eternity; in fact, her poem so powerfully drops into conceptual classification which the genuine Emily's collection arranges her verse to be lead the conception of time, nature, perpetuity, and love. "Poems about seasonal events, life cycles, relationships, and the interpenetration of the natural and the cosmic draw upon the often overlooked tradition of American women poets, including Emily Dickinson" (Kimmelman, 2005).

Moreover, "In an essay on Emily Dickinson, Cynthia Griffin Wolff asserts that 'Emily Dickinson UniversePG | www.universepg.com

was a great poet who happened to be a woman.' And although the point is, I think, to privilege the poetry over the gender – and to be fair to Wolff her larger argument is about the surprises, the wit and the richness in Dickinson's work" (Gill, 2007).

Dickinson is preoccupied with the conception of death and her intention to glide into the horrid in her attitude of this text. Dickinson appears to become easy with the poet's idealism which she seems about the eternal leave is not usual system, and sometimes in large detail. She composes about the point of death, the attendance of death, besides the tombs. Dickinson describes a dialogue between two newly-buried figures in "I Died for Beauty,"

In the verse of "I Died for Beauty" the narrative describes that the main purpose of her death was beauty and truth, as both of them were entombed in her final resting place, another person is located in her close room. After entombed both individual, she speaks to him and then they understand that she died as she expect beauty; whereas he died for the expectation of truth. For these reason, they became a close kinship. Dickinson speaks a powerful relations between the theme of beauty and truth. They are very happy to talk each other and continue their communication until death ultimately covers their lips and make them silent.

2. Conclusion

In the poem, Dickinson exposing the highest control and skill, used stylish language to prove that poetry is the compressed words in the intense sequence. Through dangling naturally in time and space, the poem effectively reveals concepts, ideas, and, themes. Emily expertly adjusts beauty with reality and death with mortality utilizing proper and concise metaphors. 'I Died for Beauty' proves an ending that the conception of beauty-reality and death-mortality in the works is a lyrical depth of brief usage of language. Metaphorical thoughts and picture are properly used by Emily Dickinson to advise the argument, theme and melody which challenges speaking voice through devices of poet's expression, providing proper terms to the inner involvement that can be revealed either in words or in symbols. Symbolism is the instruments among them that the poet has fought with victory in her piece of poetry, 'I Died for Beauty.'

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4. Conflicts of Interest

It is absolutely declared and confessed by the author that there is no any conflict of interest in this article. This work is knowingly for publication with a view to sharing his thoughts and information in the public so that all can understand about the real truth and beauty.

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