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ANECDOTES IN GEOFFREY CHAUCER'S THE CANTERBURY TALES AND FANTASY IN LOUISE GLÜCK'S PARABLE: INSIGHTFUL EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

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Abstract: This paper is an endeavor to explore human feelings and emotions through the poems of Louise Gluck and Chaucer which I have chosen for my paper .As I read the poem PARABLE of Louise Gluck it immediately reminds me of the CANTERBURY TALES of Chaucer, though it is not comparable in terms of structure and constructive analysis, but in terms of emotions , people do not forget their past experiences of life in the same way people tend to dream of their future, their journey of emotions , nostalgia and future illusions. Nostalgia in Canterbury Tales and vision, imagination and fantasy in Parable.

Writers write their creativity either to persuade, explain or to convey real or imagined experiences to share and many a times for our own self. Let us talk about narratives, these can be true, like personal essays, like short stories or most often they are a mixture of both. The motive of narratives is to convey an experience to the reader. Parable and The Canterbury Tales are both kinds of narratives.

Poetry is a type of literature that conveys a thought, describes a scene or tells a story in a concentrated, lyrical arrangement of words, however, poetry has changed so much in the last century alone that it's almost near impossible to match any poetry of the late 1900s and 2000s to any of that pre nineteenth century poetry . But human emotions don't change. By reading the poems of different eras I found that human feelings and emotions are the essence of any creation. Poets portray their thoughts in various forms in their poetry.

Key words - The Canterbury Tales, Parable, Nostalgia, fantasy, vision, human emotions, eras

1. INTRODUCTION

An anecdote is a short story of real incidents which is narrated for the purpose of describing one's life, biography, or any episode of life; it can be a fantasy or real event. Anecdote shows us the experience of human life in the form of a brief story. It's an amusing story told by the speaker, it can be real or fictional. There is a special place in Shakespeare's plays for aside and soliloquies to reveal the incident. Their effect is often to create an emotional or sympathetic response In the words of Jürgen Hein, they exhibit "a special realism" and "a claimed historical dimension.

The 14th century was a period of transformation and turbulence. Prior to Chaucer, there was no national language, but by the great effort & contribution of his genius, he elevated the level of the Midland dialect .This period marked the beginning of new language and literature. English came into remarkable existence because of the great works done by Chaucer, Langland and Wycliffe. The Canterbury Tales is Chaucer's most commendable work of the 14 th century, this piece of work gave him popularity and he is known as the Father of English Literature.

The other poet, Louise Gluck whose only one poem I analyzed for my research article is one of the most talented poets of America ,she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2020. Louise Glück is the author of 12 books of poetry, including the recent collection "Faithful and Virtuous Night "(2014). Anthology "Faithful and Virtuous Night" describes a single tale but the parts are erratic and unpredictable.

Parable is the very first poem of the anthology .The meaning of parable is Especially a short story told to illustrate a moral point or spiritual lesson.

WHY I CHOOSE ANECDOTES IN POETRY?

When we are a child our elders tend to teach us moral values through stories/fables and listening to Tales/anecdotes. We children learn many things unknowingly about society & culture. Its human psychology that by listening to the stories we grasp the things and it remains in our mind forever. Parable plays a great deal in the character building of a child, even in our adulthood it prevents us from doing wrong. Tales put great emphasis on our mind.

There are numerous ways to show our emotions and one method is through tales. Earlier tales were told verbally in the form of singing and these tales are passed on from generation to generation. Then people preserve these tales in writing form. Gradually, writers develop different forms of writing the tales.

2. PASSAGE OF TIME IN 'PARABLE' & THE CANTERBURY TALES

As it is the duty of the God man to preach the gospel, so in the poem Parable –St. Francis teaches in pursuit to make them understand the real purpose of life, a saint wants people to realize the essence of life he takes them on the path of imagination but before starting the fantasy journey people argued, some travellers said that do we limit or instruct our mind to travel? while others said that do we free our mind and wander ?or then will we reach to such a level as a saint and can consider ourselves as pilgrims rather than wanderers or do we roam aimlessly in our dreams without any purpose? Travellers imagined the different ways in which the world changes around the travellers.

And snow fell upon us, and wind blew,
 And snow fell upon us, and wind blew,
 Which in time abated—where the snow had been, many flowers appeared,
 And where the stars had shone, the sun rose over the tree line
 So that we had shadows again; many times this happened.
 Also rain, also flooding sometimes, also avalanches, in which
 Some of us were lost [...] (17–22)

— Louise Glück, Faithful and Virtuous Night (PARABLE)

A spiritual pilgrimage is a physical journey towards a place of sacred or religious significance. Canterbury is a place where there is a shrine of martyr Saint Thomas Becket and The Canterbury Tales is a collection of stories narrated by 29 pilgrims on their way to the shrine. All the pilgrims gathered at Tabard Inn, Harry Bailly the owner of the Inn suggested a storytelling competition and it is declared that the best story would be awarded an elegant dinner at the end of the trip be awarded a tasteful dinner at the culmination of the trip pilgrimage . Pilgrims were interested in this contest and wanted to narrate the anecdotes. The host himself became the judge of the contest.

Originally, Chaucer planned that each traveller should narrate four tales, but out of the original 120 only 24 tales got written. The book also contains the General Prologue, which provides the characterization of the pilgrims. The pilgrims represent from all sections of the society except the laboring poor who were unable to a pilgrimage of this kind. There are respectable people from various classes such as the knight, -the parson and the yeoman but the emphasis falls mainly on characters, who are Pretentious, scurrilous, mendacious, and avaricious or lecherous. The degree of the tales itself is religious, but the anecdotes which were narrated are social satire.

3. MEANING OF LIFE: JOURNEY OF EMOTIONS

Authors have the capability to take the readers to the journey of emotions through their creativity, as I am analyzing the concept of two poets of very different era by taking one poem of each writer in which the travellers show their emotions through their story but the human emotions do not change, people tend to take and believe life through their perspective as what they go through in their life and what they feel and observe in their life. In Parable, regardless of the fact that our time on earth is limited, the realization of this fact and accounting for it in the face of all we get to experience together produce a way of wonder. Regardless of whether one has some purpose (e.g., religion, vocation, family) simply spending and moving through life or whether one wishes to live freely with little direction, we all end at an equivalent place (i.e., death), and our journey from birth to this ending place are all in some way purposeful and meaningful by virtue of being distinct and discrete.

The title of the poem itself suggests, that the essence of this poem is religious gospel, a story used to demonstrate a moral or spiritual lesson and the holy man tries to explain the meaning of life through various examples as a teacher tries to teach his students by using different techniques so here in this poem the saint took the people on the imaginative journey of future.

Louise Glück shares her personal feelings through her writings, even though she is said to be an autobiographical poet. When a person has the realization of the fact that time is limited on the earth, he finds a purpose for a meaningful life. Though we all are aware of this fact, we live in illusion. When the travellers realize that a great deal of time passes, however, their perspective of the journey changes. Now as they travelled, not physically, through their fantasy and imagination some were feeling very content and some understood the purpose of their life , what the saint was trying to preach to them.

In The Canterbury Tales, Chaucer tells us not only about social change and non-secular diversity in his society, but also about lifestyle. Reading the tales helps us learn tons about eating, drinking, and traveling in late medieval England. He does not give merely a static picture of life; rather he creates characters who live, ones whose actions demonstrate what life was like in fourteenth century England. To accomplish this, Chaucer needed a framework that would encompass a great variety of people. The pilgrimages, which were extremely popular during the Middle Ages, offered a perfect solution to this problem, the pilgrims came from all stations of life and therefore formed a representative group.

The story in The Canterbury Tales wasn't surely written to teach readers; however, the religion and faith in the book are evident, it is a collection of moral and humorous tales told by a miscellaneous group of people. Social satire is the main theme of The Canterbury Tales. Though the tales are for entertainment and for the purpose of passing the time in journey, as the host announced the prize for the best story, the journey became interesting.

4. CONCLUSION:

In my research paper I analyse the poems of these two poets of very different era from the perspective of human feelings which were in their mind.

People can't forget their past, it's human psychology and when it is asked anyone to tell an experience or story of their past they deliver in such a way as they are living that moment in present, no one can judge one's life as no one is aware that the speaker's story was truly happened in that way? In the same way we visualize our future as we are living in that very moment.

In Canterbury Tales pilgrims share their past life story which is still present in their mind and in Parable travellers travel through their imaginations. We can call the tales of Canterbury Tales as personal anecdotes, as pilgrims share.

Power of Mind is everything, our life is determined by the experience we gain from our life or by the lives of other persons and by the purpose what we decide for our future. Therefore, the great impact on our present life is determined by the anecdotes we listen or read, it plays a vital role in building our character and future goals give us a purpose for life.

It is said that we should live in the present, but really is it possible to live in the present? Without thinking of the past or future, there is a string which is connected to the past and future. People change because of past experience and people purposely change themselves so they can adapt themselves in future.

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