



IMPACT OF CULTURAL ETHICS IN JAPANESE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE THROUGH THE FOLKTALE *THE HAPPY HUNTER AND THE SKILLFUL FISHER*

¹Evangeline Vincy T

¹PhD Scholar,

¹Department of English Literature - SF,

¹Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore, India

Abstract: Japanese Children's Literature form the important part of shaping the young mind. It teaches the children about being kind, politeness, brave and be happy always. The folktale taken for study "The Happy Hunter and the Skillful Fisher" is about two brother who moves from place to place to make a living. Once when the happy hunter loses the hook used by the fisherman, he travels to the Sea King's realm and brings back the hook but the evil-minded fisher tries to kill him instead. The brother teaches him a lesson making him obedient. The folktale highlights the value of goodness which can never be won over by evil.

Index Terms - Folktale, Kindness, Brave.

I. INTRODUCTION

Japanese Literature is a literature which has a very long history. It had it beginning from the Chinese Literature and later it evolved into a separate literature. Japan has a very long history of culture. It is seen as one of the cultural heritages of the world. It also plays a vital role in not identifying the young minds and growing them as a proud citizen but also takes pride in shaping the young minds.

Japanese Children's Literature is a genre which has been devoted specially for the children of Japan. Japanese children's literature not only teaches the children about the traditions but also the ethical values like kindness, honesty, bravery etc. It also teaches children that only good can prevail at the end not the evil which seems to be winning. These ethical values form the integral part of Japanese Children's Literature.

II. THE HAPPY HUNTER AND THE SKILLFUL FISHER

The folktale taken for study "The Happy Hunter and the Skillful Fisher" is a story about two brothers who moves from one place to another to make their living. One brother is a skilled fisher man and the other brother is a skilled but a happy hunter who liked to be merry all the time. One day, it happens so that the hunter loses the hook of the fisherman and this angers him. The hunter was made to bring a hook which looks exacted the previous one.

The merry hunter goes for a journey and finds that it can be found only at the Sea King's realm. He makes friends with the King and the people who live over there and lives there for three years. Soon he starts his journey towards his house and reaches his home. His brother was not happy with his return as he

was not able to enjoy all the riches to himself. So, the fisherman plans to kill his brother. But the hunter understands his evil plan and escapes from the plan. Later, the skillful fisherman apologizes for his mistake and promises to be obedient.

III. FINDINGS

In the Folktale, one must be able to identify to different personalities. One is a happy hunter who is always merry and the other is a skillful fisher man who is always grumpy and likes to keeps all this to himself. That is why, the skillful fisher even plans to kill his own brother to abduct all the wealth to himself.

Now the Skillful Fisher had used the lost hook as an excuse for driving his brother out of the country. When his brother had left him that day three years ago, and had not returned, he had been very glad in his evil heart and had at once usurped his brother's place as ruler of the land, and had become powerful and rich. Now in the midst of enjoying what did not belong to him, and hoping that his brother might never return to claim his rights, quite unexpectedly there stood the Happy Hunter before him. (Ozaki 78)

On the other hand, the merry hunter was a very kind man who only thought good for the others as well as for his brother. When he came to know about his brother, he taught of teaching him a lesson so that his brother will learn to be kind. So, he devices a plan against him making him to realize his mistake. This shows that evil can never prevail over good.

The Happy Hunter had a kind heart and could not bear the sight of his brother's distress.

The Skillful Fisher was very frightened at the peril of death in which he had stood, and was greatly impressed by the wonderful things he had seen his brother do. He learned now that he was making a fatal mistake to set himself against his brother, younger than he thought he was, for he now had become so powerful that the sea would flow in and the tide ebb at his word of command. So he humbled himself before the Happy Hunter and asked him to forgive him all the wrong he had done him. (Ozaki 78-79)

IV. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The above passages show how Japanese folktales imbibe the cultural ethics to the young minds. Through this folktale one can identify that culture plays an important role in shaping up the children from the very young age so that they shape the future as a proud citizen of Japan

REFERENCES

- [1] Ozaki, Yei T. *Japanese Fairy Tales*. DigiCat, 1908.
- [2] Ko, Kyota. *Folk Tales of Japan: 28 Japanese Folktales with Cultural Commentary*. 2022.
- [3] Sosnoski, Daniel. *Introduction to Japanese Culture*. Tuttle Publishing, 2013.