



THE ARCHETYPAL IMAGE OF GOOD AND EVIL EMERGING FROM A SINGLE SOURCE OF POWER IN MINNALI MURALI AND INUYASHIKI: LAST HERO

¹Akash R, ²Dr. M. G. Priya

¹PG Student, ²Assistant Professor

¹Department of English Language and Literature,

¹Amrita Viswa Vidyapeetham, Kochi Campus, Kochi, India

Abstract: The theme of good versus evil is a classic motif found in ancient texts and is still present in various literary forms. A sub-theme of this conflict arising from a single source of power is demonstrated in the Malayalam movie *Minnal Murali* and the Japanese anime series *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, where two individuals come across an ultimate source of power, which then makes one embark on the path of good and the other on the path of evil, with one having to defeat the other. This paper explores the two opposing approaches to power, the virtuous and the immoral, through Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis and Carl Jung's archetypal analysis, examining the impact of society, morality, and personal choice on the portrayal of good and evil.

Index Terms - Minnal Murali, Inuyashiki: Last Hero, Ultimate Source of Power, Good, Evil, Archetypes, Psychoanalysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

"I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things"(Isaiah 45:7), a verse from bible, perfectly captures the essence of this paper's discussion on how good and evil emerge from a single source of power.

The 2021 Indian Malayalam movie *Minnal Murali*, directed by Basil Joseph, is a superhero movie where the plot revolves around two individuals, Jaison and Shibu, played by Tovino Thomas and Guru Somasundaram, respectively. Jaison is a young tailor, while Shibu works at a tea shop. One fateful night, their lives are changed as they both get struck by a lightning bolt, giving them superhuman powers. While Jaison decides to use his newly found powers for the sake of protecting his village, Shibu uses his power to destroy the village. The 2017 Japanese anime series *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, created by Hiroya Oku, also follows a similar plot, where two individuals, Ichiro Inuyashiki, a 58-year-old family man, voiced by Fumiyo Kohinata, and Hiro Shishigamia, high schooler, voiced by Nijiro Murakami, get killed by an alien light and are restored by the extraterrestrials, who endow them with superhuman abilities. Here also, one uses his power for good, while the other uses it for evil. The battle between good and evil is what these two stories involve, and how one would triumph over the other in the end.

This theme of good and evil emerging from the same source recurrently appears in literature throughout history; therefore, applying Carl Jung's theory of archetype is best suited for this paper. According to Carl Jung, archetypes are universal symbols or behavioural patterns that are present in the collective unconscious. These symbols are inborn, which means they exist in all people. They are also inherited components of our psyche from our ancestors. Archetypes are pre-existing structures in the collective unconscious that are created as a result of repeated human experiences over time. All societies around the globe have myths, fairy tales, and religious traditions that contain these archetypes. To achieve psychological wholeness, self-awareness, and personal development, according to Jung, we must recognise and assimilate these archetypes into our consciousness. We can better comprehend our inner world and connect with the wider human experience by recognising and examining these archetypes within ourselves.

Both *Minnal Murali* and *Inuyashiki: Last Hero* seem to have adopted the concept of Yin-Yang, an ancient Chinese philosophical concept that refers to the duality in nature and how seemingly diametrically opposed or opposing forces are actually interrelated. Yin is associated with qualities such as darkness, coldness, passivity, and receptivity. Yang, on the other hand, is associated with qualities such as lightness, warmth, activity, and creativity. The symbol for Yin and Yang is a circle divided into two halves, one black and the other white. Within each half, there is a small dot of the opposite color, representing the idea that each half contains a small piece of the other (Cleary, 28). Just as Shibu, the antagonist of the film *Minnal Murali*, is shown to have good in him as he tries to help the daughter of his childhood love Usha, and just as Jaison, the protagonist of *Minnal Murali*, is occasionally shown to be selfish. The same is true of Hiro Shishigami, the antagonist of the anime series *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, who, despite being a murderous psychopath, occasionally exhibits concern and love for those who are close to him. This leads us to the conclusion that in order to learn more about the ultimate source of power, the psychological characteristics of both good and evil individuals must be studied, and the

Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud has given us the right information on the human mind. The psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud emphasises the significance of comprehending and addressing our unconscious motivations and experiences in order to promote psychological health and well-being. It is based on the idea that our behaviour, thoughts, and emotions are influenced by and unconscious mental processes. Applying psychoanalysis can help us comprehend the psychology of the characters in *Minnal Murali* and *Inuyashiki: The Last Hero*.

The lightning from *Minnal Murali* and the alien light from *Inuyashiki: Last Hero* are both the most important plot devices of their respective stories, and without them, the events of both tales would not have unfolded. They act as the source of power from which both good and evil emerge. But that leaves us with one question: what exactly is the nature of the lightning and the alien light itself? If the lightning led to the creation of the superhero *Minnal Murali*, who saved the lives of many, does that mean the lightning is virtuous in nature? Also, when the alien light recreates *Ichiro Inuyashiki* as a cyborg, he was able to save the lives of thousands, which again makes us doubt the Alien light to be virtuous in nature. But what needs to be taken into consideration is that each of these ultimate sources of power has also created extremely malevolent individuals. *Shibu*, from *Minnal Murali*, who, with his new-found powers, kills several innocent people just so that he can be with his lover, and *Hiro*, from *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, who, after becoming a cyborg, has caused the deaths of thousands. Through these acts of the characters, one might also doubt that the ultimate source of power is in fact evil in nature.

In order to fully understand the nature of power, let us look into history for an example. During the imperial period of Rome, the status of "Emperor" was given to the ruler and monarchical head of state of the Roman Empire. Nero, the fifth emperor of Rome, was known for his eccentricities, extravagance, and cruelty and is often considered as one of the most corrupt and notorious figures in Roman history. He was also rumoured to have caused the Great Fire of Rome, which destroyed much of the city and caused significant loss of life (Griffin, 14, 80). After Nero's death, the title of Emperor was given to *Vespasian*, who, unlike Nero, was regarded as a just and equitable emperor who was concerned about the welfare of his subjects. He was respected for his pragmatism and common sense and was well known for his thrift and contempt for excessive extravagance (Lang). Both Nero and *Vespasian* held the same title of Emperor, but still, their actions varied. Nero's notoriety was believed to have risen only after he was given powers and a title. Without the title of Emperor, he could not have brought about devastation and death of this proportion, but that does not imply that the title or the rank of Emperor is inherently evil, as *Vespasian* was believed to be one of the kindest kings in history to hold the status of Emperor and with his powers, brought about the well-being of his subjects. The title of Emperor can be compared to the ultimate source of powers from *Minnal Murali* and *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, and just like the title of Emperor, the Lightning and the Alien light are neutral in nature.

The ultimate source of power can be seen as an entity without any particular characteristics to it, it morphs into the shape of the individuals that come across it, in some cases amplifies the individual's personality, the good becomes great and bad becomes worst.

The structural model developed by Sigmund Freud serves as a theoretical foundation for understanding how the human mind operates can help us provides a framework for understanding the psyche of the Good and Evil from *Minnal Murali* and *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*

According to Freud's structural model, id, ego, and the superego are the three main parts of the paradigm. These elements all contribute in different ways to the development of human conduct and personality. The id, which stands for the instinctual and primitive aspect of the mind, is the central component of Freud's structural model. The pleasure principle is what drives the id, which looks for instant gratification of fundamental needs like hunger, thirst, and sexual desire. It functions on an unconscious level and is not constrained by morality or societal conventions. According to Freud, the id is the root of all human drive and is present at birth. The ego, which symbolises the logical and rational side of the psyche, is the second element of the structural model. The ego functions on a conscious level and attempts to strike an equilibrium between the id's desires, superego's demands, and the limitations of the outside world. The third and concluding part of the structural model is the superego, which stands for the internalisation of moral and ethical principles. As a consequence of the influence of parents, teachers, and other authority figures during childhood, the superego develops. It is aware and attempts to control behaviour in line with moral and ethical standards. When someone acts in a manner that goes against these principles, the superego is to blame for feelings of guilt and shame (Freud 8, 19).

By applying this theory, we can consider *Jaison* and *Ichiro Inuyashiki* to be the representatives of superego and *Shibu* and *Hiro Shishigami*, to be the representatives of id, while the ultimate source of power, that is, the Lightning and the Alien Light, are the embodiment of ego, that stands between the ethics of superego and the primitivity of id.

The id and superego's development and operation can be influenced by a number of factors. The important ones being, parents and the environment in which they grew up. In *Minnal Murali*, *Jaison* and *Shibu* had an entirely different childhood. Despite being an adoptive child, *Jaison's* surrogate parents gave him love and affection, while *Shibu's* early years were depicted as being miserable, and his mother was alleged to be mentally ill. In *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, *Hiro Shishigami* is also shown to have an unpleasant childhood as he was a son to a single mother. Throughout history it is proven that most of the sociopathic criminals had troubled relationship with their parents. Both *Minnal Murali* and *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, shows us how important upbringing of a child in the society is.

Despite coming from different nations, the anime series *Inuyashiki: Last Hero* and the film *Minnal Murali* both showcase the same theme. Good and Evil emerging from a single source of power is proved to be an archetypal theme, where the ultimate source of power is a shapeless entity without any particular nature to it and it lies at the hands of the individual whether to use it for the good or for selfish and malevolent purposes.

The nature of the individuals who use the power depends on the circumstances of their upbringing, particularly how their parents treated them. Through *Minnal Murali* and *Inuyashiki: Last Hero*, we can conclude that proper parenting of children is required so that society does not have to witness individuals like *Shibu* and *Hiro Shishigami* coming into existence.

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