

Tragic and Trauma in John Galsworthy's plays.

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Abstract:-

In Galsworthy's tragedy there is no villain and yet there is tremendous suffering and a sense of human wastage which move our hearts. There is no dignified hero, but there is only a weak, erring individual who struggles against the forces of society and is finally crushed down by them. Social tragedy is in the hands of Galsworthy deals with victims of injustice. Social tragedies emphasizes the wastage caused in modern conflicts. The clash of powerful forces causes the waste of innocent lives. Galsworthy's social tragedy, moves us only to sentiments of compassion. The effect is pathetic and not tragic, the figures are feeble and pitiable and not heroic and hence the tragic and trauma. In social tragedy the struggle is confined to human beings, Tragedy resulting from the destruction of the individual by social forces is remediable. The conflict involving man for his greed, stupidity and selfishness may result in waste and the victims may suffer, but there is a feeling of hope that better experience, reasonableness and patience may change the attitude of men and make the world a better place to live in.

Keywords: *Injustice, Pathetic, Feeble, Compassion, Pitiable, Struggle, Experience, Reasonableness, Patience.*

The tragic and trauma can be seen in his major plays which can be summarized as follows.

The Eldest Son (1909) :-

This play deals with class and consciousness. The eldest son of an English baronet falls in love with and wants to marry the serving maid. But this union is opposed by the family on the ground that he must not marry a girl who is much below him in status, position and wealth. The result is a social tragedy. Human feelings have to be sacrificed at the altar of family prestige and traditions.

The Pigeon (1911) :-

This play deals with problem of reclaiming the social outcasts. The houses of correction lack human touch and so they cannot reclaim the bruised and starved souls of the outcast. The inmates of the reformatories and charitable institutions are often subjected to very humiliating treatment which makes them worse. First there is Mrs. Megan, a beautiful flower seller, second is Ferrand, a French interpreter, and the third is Timson, an old cab-driver. All the three like the artist for his money, but refuse to improve or mend their ways. As a result the well meaning artist is ruined and his belongings sold. Three social reformers do try mend the three incorrigibles but to no avail.

The Mob (1913) :-

This play is a study of the mentality of a mob. A mob has no brain; it is carried away by sentiment. It is not moved by and idealist and is opposed to war, a man of strong convictions is the central figure in the Mob. Mob is a study of the external welfare ever being waged between fidelity to principle and worldly compromise.

The Skin Game (1919) :-

This play depicts the clash between two classes and interest. It shows the clash between the old classes and interest. It shows the clash between the old class of nobles and aristocrats and the new rich class of the owners of industry. The play shows the clash between the two strong individuals- Hillchrist to represent the landed aristocracy of England and Hornblower who represents the manufacturing class.

There are many burning problems in the plays which John Galsworthy has dealt with and tackled the tragic and trauma in his plays.

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