

THE IMPACT OF IRRATIONALISM ON SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGIC CHARACTERS

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ABSTRACT:

Sometimes the Inner Need-the internal void or wound- provokes the Key Flaw. The Inner Need being unmet and remains as such, consequently becomes the cause for developing frustration and emptiness, and gives rise to other complexes. Iago has no motive other than the wounded pride for his jealousy and wickedness. Inner Need may give rise to an error of thinking. King Lear's actions are not occasioned by any depravity in him but by error in judgment Cordelia loves her father but she cannot express it the way in which Lear wants her to. She was true in her simple proclamation of her love for her father. It is Lear's unwillingness to hear the voices of caution. Besides mental aberration, the internal void causes abnormal and deranged behavior. The passionate but innocent love of Romeo and Juliet is destroyed by their hasty temperament. It is an indirect response but an inappropriate response to the unmet Inner Need. Macbeth becomes self-deceptive and interprets the pangs and warnings of conscience as practical reasoning. It is a kind of miscalculated and misguided reaction. Timon of Athens' withering misanthropy follows as a result of his reaction of the ingratitude. And while the flaw may be a reaction to the unrealized Inner void, it can be counter productive. It stops the development of a character and can act as an obstacle to the Inner Need, and to the goal. Hamlet's subsequent melancholy alters his actions and all his senses stand in a kind of passive nature. A person craves for love but is afraid of rejection, may unknowingly adopt behaviour, which is offensive and unpleasant to others. Thus the person rejects others before they are able to reject him; hence a self-defeating flaw. Hamlet out of a repressed anger against the inherited odds, misbehaves; thus receiving displeasure, anger and disapproval from around. The Flaw works against the Inner Need. Moreover, a Key Flaw humanizes a character. Hamlet procrastination makes him more plausible and more interesting, and gives more dimensions to his fascinating mind. These tragic characters are disillusioned at the end, of what they have done. They saw expressions of consciousness. They realize the impact of disillusionment against their self-deception, of their false hopes and baseless expectations and their error in thinking and judgment.

Drama is the mirror of life, and Shakespeare's tragedies are the most powerful studies of human nature in all literature. He drew his characters with insight into human character. His characters emerge in his tragedies as distinctive human beings. His unforgettable tragic characters have fascinating minds; yet the tragedies contain many inconsistencies of life' regarding those uncalculated factors [the internal voids or wounds] that give rise to the Key Flaws. The Internal Voids provoke frustration, emptiness, melancholy, and other complexes that prevent the tragic characters to act rationally and ultimately drive them to utter derangement. At the end, the tragic characters are disillusioned against their self-deception, of their hopes and expectations, of their error in thinking and of their error in judgment. Because of his flawed judgment, the tragic hero commits a wrong toward society and God that ends up setting

forth a chain of events that lead to the hero's own destruction. Hamlet never really does anything toward society that could be considered directly immoral, but he does cause many things to happen just because of his forced reckless behaviour. He is struggling with whether to avenge his father's death and he must find a way to expose the murder and prove to himself that the ghost was real. In effect seeing the ghost may have been the initial mistake that sets the events in motion. In the recognition that he could be murdered the same as his father, he indirectly accepts the burden of everything that follows. Hamlet would have had to set forth a chain of events that led to his destruction. During his internal conflict he outwardly pretends to go crazy in order to keep anyone from suspecting his insight. While he is using her frailty to convince people he is going insane, he is continuing to set forth the destructive chain