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literary analysis on Agamemnon

Introduction

1 Agamemnon is a story of justice and revenge that takes place in Argos. The themes in this play are represented as arguments which stipulate human minds in very harsh and problematic way due to lust for power among the people in the society. The play shows how painful men are over female supremacy, misconduct, and its penalty as well as the sensation and motive. The theme of tribal division and democratic leadership has been emphasized in the play because of their roles in the family set-up.

The primary role of the play is based on Apollo who cursed prophetess Cassandra for refusing to offer her marriage request. Even after refusing his marriage request, she willingly agreed on the responsibilities which were related to the outcome. Cassandra was supposed to offer a gift in return to Apollo after she was able to prophesize, but Cassandra did not give out the gift after she was able to prophesize (Aeschylus and Roche n.p). There have been political issues presented in the play involving gender leadership, wars and maintenance of law and order in the society. The furies performed the judicial roles by punishing those who are involved in terrible crimes by subjecting them to irreversible curses. In this play, people are not penalized by human laws. Instead, they are punished by gods. The Greek soldiers are warned of the possible punishments if they become more violent.

The world in which Agamemnon takes place is one where the men superiority and war welfare are among the most emphasized aspects in the society and where female aspects are undermined and they are not considered in the decision making. This essay focuses on the themes, characters and the tragedies that face Athenians in the struggle to fight for the minority in the society so that they can be given a chance in leadership and other responsibilities.

Power always play a crucial role in the society and dictates the future of that society and the community at large. The king's wife, driven by envy of power, killed her husband to claim the power. Apollo with all his power had nothing that he could have done to save the prophetess Cassandra from the murder threat which made her very upset. The curse enabled her to see future things, but she did not have any power to control them (Aeschylus and Roche n.p). The power of the gods was seen in the play when Agamemnon and the prophetess Cassandra were subjected to death, and no one had the power to prevent them from dying. Clytaemnestra convinced Agamemnon to walk across the red carpet to signify the demand for recognition of part she took in the Greek victory which did not please gods. Clytaemnestra had believed that justice is achieved through revenge. She argued that more murders need to take place to overcome the sins that caused earlier deaths.

Women's ¹role in the ancient Greek life was far less significant when compared to the role of men. This play portrays female leadership by describing their roles in society. The writer presents women as being strong and powerful being able to perform their duties as men do. An excellent example for women in leadership is shown by Clytaemestra ruling Argos when his husband was away. The power of women in convincing is also presented by the author when she forced his husband to walk on the red carpet even though it was not meant for the gods. Clytemnestra had behaviors that are believed to be possessed by men. Her characteristics to

perform duties that were meant for male although weakly made the chorus of elders to be upset (Aeschylus and Roche n.p). Through the play, she is seen performing duties that women were not supposed to do. In the play, the author presents her as a murderer, a situation that was weird in the society for women to kill. In addition, she was not respecting to men as shown by talking back to them and she was also wanted to be a ruler and it was believed that only men could. According to the chorus, she is presented as a creature that was extremely evil as she brought destruction and wreck to the ways of men.

On the other hand, Cassandra's belief was very different from that of Clytaemnestra as she advocated for women to respect their husbands and always try to be women of character. She was very angry with Clytaemnestra killing her husband brutally which made look like an animal. The old men through their chorus ignored her warnings but she remained calm with passive acceptance of her death since she was sure of what was to happen. Men could not believe that a woman could perform the act of killing (Aeschylus and Roche n.p). The chorus that was presented by men clearly showed their disbelief on the Clytaemnestra's action to kill her husband. In their response, they cursed her and that she was to be clashed by their bitter feeling the men had.

The author of the play suggests that there is a close relationship between the human and animals that enable the human being to transform to animals and start behaving like beasts. In the play, the wife of the king eagerly waited for the king so that she can kill him to take over the leadership. The animosity of the wife was clarified when she openly murdered the husband upon his return. During this time of Agamemnon, the Athenians showed very little loyalty to their women, and in most cases, they were not involved in the decision making. Agamemnon did not consult his wife when he was in a dilemma on whether to give men and to save his daughter's life. He showed respect to men and went on sacrificing her daughter without consulting her wife. In

the chorus, men blame Helen for being a typical woman who caused trouble in Argos. Men did not believe that their fellow man can be the cause of trouble and made them not to blame the man who kidnapped Helen simply because he was a man and Helen had to take the blame (Aeschylus and Roche n.p).

King Agamemnon also clearly showed his stand on the value of woman when he blamed Helen for all the deaths that resulted from the Trojan war. The chorus reflected high respects to the gods through the fears and respects of gods such as goddess Artemis. When Agamemnon was demanded to sacrifice his daughter by the gods to make the Greek ships to sail to Troy, the appeal was done by the old men to the king of gods. The power of the gods was evidence when the king was announced dead after Apollo was unable to prevent the same.

The play shows that the Athenians had respect for their older gods even after the young people have taken the mantle. Old gods were given a chance to reappear even though they are no longer worshiped. The play presents the behavior of their people after a competition where there is bound between the winners and losers. The losers have been presented in the play be contented as they still have values in the society. At times, Agamemnon could respect women in the society but with a limit to prevent the rest of men to perceive him as the unmanly. The king did not trust her wife because she could use her womanly ways to convince him as was seen when he walked

The society presented in the play, is not democratic and holds on the early beliefs that governed the society. The play portrays a change in leadership where the minority has a chance to exercise their leadership skills in the society. The play is set in such a way that it fits into its time politically. The play helps the community to understand the changes that are being experienced in the recent political arena where all people should be treated fairly irrespective of their gender.

Conclusion

Toward the end of the play, it is clear that things started reversing between men and women. Agamemnon is seen as the only woman who had the power. She had power over Augustus and chorus, and they were forced to behave like women while she was like the man. The chorus of men started to respect her which indicated a reversal of roles which had a significant effect on men and their position (Aeschylus and Mulroy n.p). Clytaemnestra had characters comparable to those of men in the society which was not appearing to the elders. She was able to end the curse of bloodshed that has been practiced over many years through her ways. She believes that was delivered justice to the people and the death of Agamemnon and Cassandra marked the end of the old generation and the begging of new generation's bloodshed.

The play pays attention to the central concept of justice and revenge. The killing of Cassandra and the king is clear concept of justice. The king was killed following the actions of his father and Cassandra was blamed for the betrayal of the society. in the play, the justice is done inform of a ravage.

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