

tramanh

by Tramanh Tramanh

Submission date: 09-May-2021 11:09AM (UTC-0400)

Submission ID: 1581854735

File name: Daystar.docx (24.71K)

Word count: 1680

Character count: 8271

Tram Anh

Professor

English

Date

Woman entrapment in gender role practices and its related impacts in the society

In her poem "Daystar" Rita Dove offers clear and vivid illustration concerning gender roles by citing a woman's life who was trapped due to the role played her would play as a wife and mother. Throughout the poem, Dove explores motherly and wifely duties of a woman deprived of her personal time only to act as a wife and mother to someone. She explore gender role by showing how the woman played "stay -at home- role as mom while her husband goes to work. The poem reveals how this woman appears to be tired of monotonous duties of taking care of a child which make and feels like there no freedom for her in life. She hardly does stimulating and exciting activities due to limited time. The poem reveals desire of women to take care and stay with children by creates dismissive tone faced by woman. It also conveys what woman faced while undertaking her duties and responsibilities by suggesting and instilling a belief that woman is defined by role played as a mother and wife. Women are more likely victim to fall in to worse situations associated with gender roles in the society as depicted by Rita dove in the poem "Daystar".

In "Daystar" the woman is portrayed to face entrapment in her duty to fulfill motherly and wifely chores. In this poem the author depicts the woman as ensnared in mundane existence and this happens according to how the place of the women in the society is viewed. The woman here

appears entrapped in a marriage and is someone's husband and mother. She is married to Thomas and mother to Lisa. The woman has a desire to avoid this entrapment by escaping but finds this hard since she has children to take care and thus feels oppressed (Jones).

The motherhood duties makes this woman feel that she has no freedom in her life because she does neither stimulating nor exciting activities apart from changing Diapers and other household chores. She has only little time to do what she wants when children are asleep. Nevertheless, as children take a nap, what she can do it to sit lonely thinking about how it feels to be free as she observes the nature outside. She feels that her life is lost and looks around the yard such that she could feel alive. As dove explains, the existence of this woman depends on nothing else rather than caring for her children. She experiences dull and stifling life and this makes her do something else to break away from this situation. The mother here takes a break of one hour each day contrary to what many people does like resting in the evening and this means that her duties never ends and it could be impossible to rest after a long day.

As evident in stanza one, the author expresses how the woman yearns for personal space no only physically but also mentally and hopes to get a think to think critically. In first line of this poem the author uses room symbolically to mean psychological and physical aspects. Physically the woman desires to get out of her house which is full of many distractions disturbing her. The woman is mentally aspiring to do away with pondering of motherly chores which is the most important for her attainment of psychological awareness. Sadly her yearning for all these end up unfulfilled since is pushed back by endless daily wifely and motherhood duties. As stated in First stanza second line "diapers steaming on the line" make her lose hope that she would never enjoy any form of freedom. As the poem puts it the woman has never been free and excited and thinks of mental escape from monotony and dullness of domestic livelihood which burdens her duties.

She need peace and waits one hour every day for children to nap so she “Lug a chair behind the garage” to have a break when she finally seem to cherish such moments silently, resting and observing the environment. The garage in this case is unappealing place that can offer the mother a little room for thinking. The “garage” is unusual setting that has been used to show how desperation of the mother is reinforced to mean she is nothing. Nothing here reveal that mother could survive without pausing her responsibilities.

The poem reveals a situation of self-neglect and abandonment of the woman while practicing gender role in the society. In stanza two, the author uses doll as symbol to represent such neglect and abandonment. Symbolically, the author puts it clearly “the doll is slumped behind the door” to portray rejection, abandonment and self-neglect that contributes to women entrapment of the women. The doll is used here to show how woman’s life has been neglected and less attention is paid to her. Nevertheless, the woman has neglected herself in that she chooses what to when she has little time. As stated in the poem she does not look for an opportunity to get time relax and perform self-satisfying activities but has uses her free time to “sit children naps” as evidenced in fifth line of the poem. The author uses doll’s slumped position to reveal resignation of the woman to hopelessness situation.

The situation of marriage and motherhood experience are full of emotional and mental strengths. The author affirms that such experiences and situation requires simple roles. Sensibly the women in this poem feels her social roles have been trapped and seems to be losing her identity gradually. She has even lost herself into housewife and motherhood. The author employs solid diction in portraying physical sensations for practicing gender role like being a mother and wife to someone. As stanza one puts it, woman is the main character and experiences burdensome in everyday of her life. The author explains this by symbolically using the phrase, “¹But she saw

diapers steaming on the line, a doll slumped behind the door” to show how this mother used to be tired.

Gender role played by women as a wife and mother leads her to a very tiresome life. In the poem Imagery has been used in expressing tiresome life of a woman as mother and wife. In the first stanza 3rd line “A doll slumped behind the door” is used to reveal the mother’s feeling (The Famous African American Poet). Additionally, as Dove puts it in fourth line “¹So she lugged a chair behind the garage” it clearly shows lack of strength and being fatigued and this appears to be the only sweet ways to escape from such tiring responsibilities (Hughes). As evidenced in lines 6-7 watching “²the pinched armor of a vanished cricket or a floating maple leaf” it appears mother hardly had time to relax and this symbolically represents how she was desperate for her own place. The poet use “vanished cricket and pinched armour to show how woman desired to escape due to the fact that external factors determined here existence and this made her feel directionless. For this reason the author use the phrase “maple leaf” whose direction depends on wind refereeing to woman whose hope and direction dependent on external factors. The repetitive tasks taken by mother on daily basis such as “diaper steaming on the line” reveals lack of break following responsibilities which are endless hence exposing the woman to a tiresome life. In the poem” Daystar” we find mother very exhausted (Hass). She is also drained considering the duties and obligation of taking care of for the needs of her children. To reveal how the mother faced tiresome life, diction has been used by Dove in the poem where words like lugged and slumped have been used to emphasis on tiredness as well as mother’s inability to provide for kids with zero moments of serenity.

The entrapment of women due to gender roles leads to mother’s displeasure. The women appear to have no pleasure in her life due to lack of freedom and abandonment. Throughout the poem

there is nowhere husband's role has been mentioned. So probably role of the husband in the poem is non-existence until the time she goes to bed. As husband goes near him, here response signifies that there is no love. There is unwelcome contact between this woman and her husband hence even romance is not shown. There appears to be a division between roles of woman and men with a frustrated lifestyle. The poem reveals such men to be inactive every day in their relationship.

Conclusion

To sum up the poem reveals that woman is in need of freedom to think. However, this turns to be a nightmare due to the endless duties such as large amount of diapers she must change and use most of her time taking care of children who make her feel limp and lifeless doll. She takes a chair outside as her children naps because this is the only time she is free and uses this time to observe the nature and leaf floating. At times she stares till she closes her eyes to feel alive. The mother has fewer hours a day to think and observe. The children appear to be determinant of her freedom. One can wonder why the mother sits outside in an environment that has mice like creatures but this is the only time she has to fantasize. All what the mother goes through is caused by gender role that has trapped her hence limiting her freedom to growth emotionally, mentally and physically.

Work cited

Dove, Rita. Daystar. AfroPoets Famous Writers. <http://www.afropoets.net/ritadove7.html>

Dove, Rita. *Daystar. Poetry international archives*.2016

Hass, Robert. *The poet's choice. Daystar*.2000. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPcap/2000-01/23/042r-012300-idx.html>

Hughes, Langston. *The poetry in the post. Daystar*. 2006.

<https://nie.washingtonpost.com/sites/default/files/PoetryinthePost.pdf>

Jones, Krysta. The women's expression in daystar. Krysta Jones's Electronic Portfolio. 2021

Riley, Theresa. "A Poet A Day: Rita Dove – Billmoyers.Com". *Billmoyers.Com*, 2021, <https://billmoyers.com/story/a-poet-a-day-rita-dove/#>.

The Famous African American Poet Rita Dove. Send This Poem To A Friend. "African - American Poetry". *Afropoets.Net*, 2021, <http://www.afropoets.net/ritadove7.html>.

tramanh

ORIGINALITY REPORT

2%

SIMILARITY INDEX

2%

INTERNET SOURCES

0%

PUBLICATIONS

2%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1

www.angelfire.com

Internet Source

1%

2

Submitted to College of Mount St. Vincent

Student Paper

1%

Exclude quotes Off

Exclude matches Off

Exclude bibliography On