



THE CONCEPT OF DISINTEGRATED LOVE IN “THE GREAT GATSBY” BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to discuss about disintegrated love with the character of ‘Jay Gatsby’ in the novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald ‘The Great Gatsby.’ People try to buy love with money. They can go to extreme in the path of chasing their dreams and desires. However there are so many things in the world that couldn’t be bought by money. Feelings are one among them. You can’t give price for feelings. This is something which comes naturally. Jay Gatsby came from poor class family. He did everything in his power to get the love of Daisy Buchanan. For her, he became rich. But unfortunately he didn’t get his love of life and died at the end all alone. In chase of American Dream he forgets to live his life. Money can never give us complete happiness because at last it’s just a piece of paper. It is always humans, the true people around us who can make our life complete. In ‘The Great Gatsby’ F. Scott Fitzgerald presented the idea of failed American Dream as well as disintegrated love with the character of Jay Gatsby, the protagonist and his beloved Daisy Buchanan.

Key words: *Disintegrated love, Failure, American Dream, Power, Money, Gatsby*

INTRODUCTION

Disintegration of love is very common theme in most of the works of F.Scott Fitzgerald. It comes along with the Idea of American Dream. In Great Gatsby, the characters, Daisy and

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Jay presented the concept of disintegrated love. The point is, a person can't get everything in life, something will always be lacking. Here in the novel Jay Gatsby got wealth, success, his dream mansion and everything but he is very unlucky when it comes about love. His money won't be able to buy love in return or we can say he was too late to re-enter in the life of Daisy Buchanan who already got married and got attached to her husband. Therefore the love of the protagonist shattered into pieces. Tragedy didn't end here. He was all alone in his funeral. Daisy didn't even come in his funeral. So, this is the idea of disintegrated love where a person doesn't get success in love life, where the love was shattered or broken. F. Scott Fitzgerald has presented this concept very smartly through his well developed characters.

Money cannot buy love and happiness. It is just a temporary reward. If we want something permanent in life then we should stop chasing money and start chasing passion. It is not wrong if we say that Money is a root of all suffering. A person believes that with money he can buy anything and can be with anyone. But in reality it is something which makes people all alone. Too much money is the cause of loneliness and it also ruins potential relationship. The one who is in topmost position will isolate himself because he might start doubting everyone. As if all want his friendship for money only. Rich people reward themselves more than middle and lower class and because of this they lack the ability to genuinely be happy (Eduzaurus samples).

In 'The Great Gatsby' the concept of disintegrated love came along with the failure of American Dream. Jay Gatsby dreamt to become the richest Man to get the love of Daisy. He thought that if he will become rich then he can get whatever he want in life. But he was wrong. After marrying Tom Buchanan, Daisy became completely different person. The lavish party of Jay Gatsby can make her happy for short term only. All these display of wealth makes her more worried.

"They are such beautiful shirts," she sobbed, her voice muffled in the thick folds. "It makes me sad because I have never seen such- such beautiful shirts before"

Daisy loved Gatsby in beginning. Tom Buchanan gave her all happiness that she has desired. The money of Gatsby won't be able to buy the love of Daisy and the love was shattered into pieces in front of Jay Gatsby. This is what disintegrated love called. A full successful man who has everything or who can buy anything failed to buy love (Bewley). He has given temporary pleasures to Daisy but she didn't stay in his life permanently.



“It’s the roaring Twenties. New York City is the place to be. Everything can be purchased, everyone can be bought, As far as the eyes can see, there are ostentatious displays of wealth and lavish displays of decadency.”

An Overambitious Jay Gatsby

Jay Gatsby is a self made man and very much wealthy. He lives in West Egg. He throws lavish parties in order to get sight of his beloved Daisy. He wants to win back the love of Daisy by showcasing his wealth. Gatsby achieved the American Dream of rising up from the lower classes to the top of society. But to Gatsby, the desire for love proves more powerful than the lust for money. Fitzgerald uses Gatsby's downfall as a critique of the reckless indulgence of Roaring Twenties America (kestler). Everything that Gatsby has done in his adult life has been with the sole purpose of fulfilling the most unrealistic of dreams, to recapture the past. Gatsby is in many ways, as the title suggests, great, but when looking at him critically, some of the things he stands for may not be so admirable. The very first thing is his overambitious nature. He becomes rich through shortcut by doing illegal activities. He is a bootlegger. When daisy finds out the truth, she distanced herself.

Gatsby has not inherited wealth by birth. It is something that comes after so many years of suffering and struggling. Only his way to achieve American Dream is wrong. Short cuts in life always lead to downfall. In one sense, Gatsby's rags-to-riches success story makes him an embodiment of the American dream. He begins his life with very poor background. He was the son of poor farmer. He served in Army but with very low wages. He suffers a lot due to his middle class status in society. The very first problem arise is not able to marry daisy. Daisy belongs to very rich class family by birth. Her parents will never allow her to marry a person who is lower to their status. While on his own, he had the opportunity to reinvent himself, and due solely to his own ingenuity. However he was missing one key ingredient in his life that is money. He was no longer tied to his early years, but could imagine whatever past for himself he desired. Fall in love with daisy has completely changed his life or we can say that it is turning point of his life. After meeting her, he started doing everything for one single purpose that is to marry her one day. Money was, essentially, the issue that prevented their being together, and so Gatsby made sure he would never again be without it. So he chose to become the richest man in West Egg. Gatsby's drive and perseverance in obtaining his goal is, in many senses, commendable. However, Gatsby built a well organized plot to let people believe that his money came from inheritance. He frame fake story to make his money legal. But at last truth got revealed. Tom Buchanan, the husband of Daisy plays important role in unmasking ‘The Great Gatsby’ in front of Daisy.



“Who are you, anyhow?” broke out Tom. “You are one of the bunch that hangs around Meyer Wolfsheim—that much I happen to know. I have made a little investigation into your affairs”

Gatsby's money did not come from inheritance, as he would like people to believe, but from organized crime. He is selling liquor illegally. The people who came in the party of Gatsby, knows nothing about him. They don't even saw Gatsby once in their lifetime. Some who are regular visitors, they also don't know about Gatsby. They are gathering only to enjoy the lavish parties, drinking and all other pleasures.

“People were not invited- they went there. They got into automobiles which bore them out to Long Island, and somehow they ended up at Gatsby's door. Once there they were introduced by somebody who knew Gatsby, and after that they conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with amusement parks. Sometimes they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party with simplicity of heart that was its own ticket of admission.” (Fitzgerald)

In fact, Gatsby himself keeps his identity private because he doesn't want to all people to know much about him, except few like Nick Carraway (cousin of Daisy) just whether he could arrange his meeting with Daisy. So, his friendship with Nick really begins to blossom only after he finds out that Nick is Daisy's cousin. In assessing Gatsby, one must examine his blind pursuit of Daisy. Everything he does, every purchase he makes, every party he throws, is all part of his grand scheme to bring Daisy back into his life for good. In one sense, this is a lovely romantic gesture, but in another sense, it perpetuates a childish illusion (Maurer). By being so focused on his dream of Daisy, Gatsby moves further and further into a fantasy world. His inability to deal with reality sets him outside the norm and, eventually, his holding on to the dream leads to his death. He didn't get his love back, However his every steps towards Daisy making him away from her. He is completely unable to realize that his dream is not a reality and so stands watching for a sign from Daisy, the sign that he never received. Until his last moment he was waiting for the phone call of her. He sees what he is doing as noble, honorable, and purposeful. There is the futility of his task as he becomes a parody of his former self. He can't wait to distance himself from his past in terms of his family, but yet he lives his adult life trying to recapture the past he had with Daisy. What makes matters worse, too, is that he is in love with the idea of Daisy, not Daisy as she herself is. In this way their love was shattered into pieces rather than ending together, they end up alone. Daisy chose her husband tom Buchanan over Jay Gatsby.

Daisy Buchanan: A self obsessed person

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Daisy was a first love of Jay Gatsby, and wife of Tom Buchanan. She is also the cousin of Nick Carraway (neighbor of Gatsby) She fell in love with Gatsby at Kentucky, where she grew up. She is very sophisticated lady and lacks conviction and sincerity. She always values materialistic things over emotions. That's why love of Gatsby won't get Daisy easily. Money is everything for her. But when she finds out about the illegitimate money of Gatsby, she took back step. She is corrupted by greed. She chooses the comfort and security over real love. This is one of the reasons, why she chose Tom Buchanan over Gatsby. She does everything so knowingly. Daisy's tragedy conveys the alarming extent to which the lust for money captivated Americans during the Roaring Twenties. There was a confession in front of Tom, where daisy was supposed to choose Gatsby. But she didn't confess her truly love for him. She was never agreed to submit that she never loved Tom. Instead she said that Gatsby is asking for too much. This is where we see instances of disintegrated love,

"Oh, you want too much!" she cried to Gatsby. "I Love you now- isn't that enough? I can't help what's past." She began to sob helplessly. "I did love him once- but I loved you too."

Nick characterizes Daisy as a careless person who smashes things up and then retreats behind her money. When Gatsby mistakenly suspected for killing Myrtle, Daisy did nothing to remove the accusation, as she herself responsible for the death of Myrtle Wilson. She just hid herself behind the curtain or we can say behind the back of Tom Buchanan and let everyone raise their suspicion towards Gatsby. The husband of Myrtle shot Gatsby at the end, and there Daisy doesn't even bother to attend his funeral. In fact, she left the town immediately with her family. That's why Nick form his opinion about Daisy.

"I called up Daisy half an hour after we found him, called her instinctively and without hesitation. But she and Tom had gone away early that afternoon, and taken baggage with them."

"....They were careless people, Tom and Daisy- They smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made...." (Fitzgerald)

Disintegrated love

In 'The Great Gatsby' F Scott Fitzgerald symbolizes both the corrupted Dream and the original uncorrupted Dream through the character of Jay Gatsby. Gatsby thought that money is the only solution to his problems (Hanzo). That's why he started pursuing money from the



very early age of his life. But in this process of becoming wealthy, he started lacking the real happiness in his life. He started living disconnected from the world. Even after having corrupted dream, his love for Daisy never get corrupted. It is all uncorrupted and pure. But Daisy won't understand it. Everyone has right to dream, there is nothing wrong in dreaming. The only wrong thing is applying short cut to get richer or wealthier. He short cut his dream and that's where he make mistake. He gives more value to materialism than any other emotions or hard work. This is the only reason for his failure in love because Daisy won't get involve with a bootlegger knowingly. The dream of love that remains at Gatsby's core condemns nearly every other character in the novel, all of whom are empty beyond just their lust for money. Love is also tied to class in "The Great Gatsby". At first Jay Gatsby was mere a soldier with low wages who couldn't afford love of Daisy. Daisy is always the wealthiest one. This happens to be the first hurdle in their love life. Gatsby went to earn more money and told Daisy to wait for him. But being a girl, it's impossible to wait with constant family pressure. At last she gave up and agreed to marry Tom Buchanan, the wealthy suitor. However the marriage seems unhappy because of extra marital affairs of Tom with Myrtle.

Everywhere we see the theme of disintegrated love. No one is completely happy in their love life (Eble). The idea of unhappiness is not limited to any class in society. Tom's mistress, Myrtle Wilson, is a spirited woman in a seriously mismatched marriage to a suspicious, dull man. The novel suggests that she married him in hopes of being upwardly mobile, but instead the marriage is simply miserable, and Myrtle herself ends up dead. Indeed, the only unhappy couple to survive "unscathed" is Daisy and Tom, who eventually decide to retreat into the cocoon of wealth despite their marital problems. The end of Jay Gatsby brings pity in the eyes of reader because he died all alone in waiting for a phone call from Daisy which never came. Not even after his death. Narrator has clearly mentioned the hollowness of materialistic lives in the city.

"I thought of Gatsby's wonder when he first picked out the green light at the end of Daisy's dock. He had come a long way to this blue lawn, and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night..."

CONCLUSION

The concept of Disintegration of love makes the novel 'The Great Gatsby' more effective and popular in society. Love between Jay Gatsby and Daisy destroyed which makes the protagonist, 'Hero' in the eyes of the readers and the one who broke his heart was became the



‘Villain’, even if the protagonist involved in illegal activities, even if he was a bootlegger. It doesn’t affect his influence over the readers. He became successful in life; earn lot of money in very short period of time. All these things he did for love of his life, Daisy. But unfortunately Daisy won’t be able to choose him in front of her husband. Gatsby’s all efforts go in vain and he lost everything. He died of waiting for a phone call from Daisy which he never gets. This is where the love was disintegrated or shattered. Jay Gatsby fulfilled his American dream but it was still remain incomplete without getting the love of his life. The idea of American dream is itself incomplete without all the happiness that a person desires in his life. F. Scott Fitzgerald had mastered the concept of American dream along with disintegrated love and presented in most of his works and ‘The Great Gatsby’ is best and most popular among all.

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