



NOVELS OF WILLIAM GOLDING: AN OVERVIEW

DR. NAGNATH TOTAWAD

Associate Prof., Dept. of English,
Member, BOS in English,
Coordinator, IGNOU, SC 1610,
Vivekanand Arts, S.D.Commerce &
Science College, Aurangabad, 431001
(MS) INDIA

ABSTRACT

William Golding is known as a prominent writer of English fiction. He is judged as an incredible fabulist, a symbolic essayist or a mythmaker. In this regard his inclination is to be called as an author of 'mytho poetic control'. His books are translated in the light of philosophy. Golding's vision about human instinct is very well reflected in his fictions, in a general sense he has confidence in God, yet he questions if God has faith in him or in humankind. His fictions are brimming with Christian imagery yet he bids to each sort of faith in his fiction. His propensity is toward the submissive and the soul. He never endeavors to instruction. There is no agreement in his fiction. He opens human instinct for the reader so well that the reader is stunned subsequent to perusing any Golding epic and starts to scrutinize his own tendency and his job in the unceasing catastrophe on the earth-organize.

Keywords: Imagery, Christ, good, evil, loss, innocence, chaos, experience etc.

INTRODUCTION

William Golding was a great theological novelist. Golding's work tries to achieve apt definition of the religious implications such as the sense of guilt and shame on the one hand and as the result of wars, and inevitable urgency of more humanity, more care and more love on the other. Golding has seen the cruelty and wickedness during his service in Navy,

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horrified as well as inspired him to shed light on the inherent darkness to illumine the war tortured humanity. His novels are cosmic implication and are deeply rooted in the omnipotence of evil. He has successfully handled an existential tension in his novels.

Golding's background in World War II profoundly affected his perspective of humankind and the shades of malice of which it was competent. His work depicts unique vision of post war horror and its chaotic trials and tribulations in human psyche. He has Christian religious vision and Greek literary culture at one hand and horrifying inhuman experience of the Second World War on the other. *Lord of the Flies* centers on the struggle between Good and Evil and loss of innocence. The second novel *The Inheritors* Homosapiens viruses' innocent *Neanderthal* species. In *Pincher Martin*, Pincher's struggle for life one can see mental chaos in the novel. *Free Fall* contributes to the most horrifying influence in the society and their own created tragic worlds. The journey from innocence to experience is the central motif of the novel. Golding depicts complex relationship between man and woman, sin and repentance, arts and life in *Free Fall*. Through the novel, *The Spire* Golding presents ambition and disillusionment of a Dean who aspires to fulfill his ambitious dream of building the highest spire in the world. There is a struggle between human achievement and human helplessness. *The Pyramid* presents the society divaricated or separated in strict class-system and the problems of foolish, selfish, careless and ambitious youngsters. The novel highlights the chaos between adolescence and middle age.

Darkness Visible highlights the evil and cruelty of the contemporary world. One can see Mattison's struggle in *Darkness Visible*. Matty is the most complex and challenging character in of all Golding's novels. Golding presents Matty's mission of life, his spiritual storms and the external world's reaction and response to him. It also presents the evil and the cruelty of the contemporary world. The Booker Prize winning novel *The Rites of Passage* presents the life of Tallbot and Colley. Tablot is worried about the Stink and Colley is worried about Sins. *Rite of Passage* presents the murderous instinct beneath the mania of social systems in the ship-world. *The Paper Men* is less complex and serious novel but humorous. Golding presents two antagonists in the novel who are bent upon ruining the other but ruining themselves.

Golding's *Lord of the Flies* portrays the struggle between democracy and dictatorship, innocence and experience and Good and Evil. The novel describes the behavior of a group of boys who have been marooned on an uninhabited island. Some boys in the novel continue to be disciplined and their behavior is perfectly satisfactory; but many other shed their civilized behavior and become brutal and savage. The story is allegorical showing that evil is inherent in human nature. The Beast within is the central theme of the novel. In the other words *Lord of the Flies* is an attempt of investigating the complexity of man's being and at tracing the



connection between his diseased nature and the structure of society. The novel runs directly contrary to the belief that naturally good man is the innocent and helpless victim of social forces over which he has no control. The symbolic overtone and the metaphorical implications make the character so truthful that the boys like Ralph, Piggy, Jack, Roger and the group of Beguns and Littluns shows the cruelty and a nightmarish vision of post war world. According to Golding, horror, the savage and the beast exist in every human heart and demonstrates how strong the power of the irrational and instinctual is show how great its fascination.

The Inheritors, one of the complexes and most difficult work present the primitive glory of the innocent life. It presents the pre-lapsarian Neanderthals plight as the result of confrontation with the species with consciousness. The theme takes Golding to the very origins of man, to pre-history and pre-man, to the innocent and loving Neanderthal and their destruction by Homosapiens. Golding projects his vision of humanity in his support to the pre-lapsarian Neanderthal community. The inheritors can be read as a fable, an anthropological allegory about the fall where Adam and Eve have been replaced by Lok and Fa.

The novel is about a group of Neanderthal and Homosapiens. Neanderthal spent their winter of seacoasts to their home cave in the mountains. They were three couple and two children. The oldest male is Mal and the oldest female Golding doesn't mention her name but they refer to her as the old woman. She is superior and carries hot coals for making the fire. Ha and Nil have two children called like a young girl and a baby. Lok and Fa the youngest couple they always in search of food. They attack the old woman and Nil. Nil dies in the waterfall and the new people take Lok and the baby. Many times in the novel new people attempts to kill Lok and Fa. At the end of the novel Fa is wounded and dies in the river. Lok is also dies in the next morning. The letters of Neanderthals name such as Lok, Fa, Ha, Ha, Mal, Liku, Nil suggest their simplicity and they could live community level. They are innocent whereas the new men Tuami, Marlan, vakiti, Vivani, Tanakilare comparatively longer consciousness but it is sinister, corrupt and cruel. *The Inheritors* deals with the polarities of the innocent and the corrupt.

Golding portrays Neanderthal as innocent and peace-loving people. They are fully unaware about cruelty and violence. They are always haunted by the problems of hunger and fire. The oldest male advices while distributing the duties. They don't hunt and kill animals. They have rules for themselves; they detest blood because they believe that blood is against their religion. Golding's novel is not merely a gimmick or a fantasy but it depicts anthropology and pure imagination.



The novel *Pincher Martin* is Golding's third novel, it was published in 1956. It is the most boldly experimental of all Golding's fable. Golding focuses his attention on the individual's complex temperament, the man who believes in the material work become sinner. It is closely knitted inside the human psyche of an ego-centric personality. In other words *Pincher Martin* is a journey into the single consciousness as well as the journey of the soul of the hero from life to purgatory. The theme has special relevance for modern man with his supreme faith in his rational faculties, his will, his intelligence, his education and his ability to master circumstances.

The novel is detailed description of Pincher's hopeless struggle to survive in harsh condition on an isolated island. He is a heroic character admirable for courage and endurance. One can see the compressed situation of Martin, half on rock, half in sea, half-dead and half-alive. The story is about a lieutenant; Christopher Hadley Martin is flung out of a torpedoed destroyer into the swirling waters of the Atlantic and washed ashore to reach a barren rock and fights for survival. He struggles a lot with the natural forces to keep his hold on life. Golding uses flashback-the random memory pictures of the dying man on the rock. The archetypal amoral man wins our admiration and pity, the vicious social character excites our horror.

Free Fall is one of the most difficult, complex and perhaps the most interesting of all Golding's works. The novel is about class consciousness and the reflection of the society. *Free Fall* is about an artist and his dilemma from his childhood to middle age, from home to gestapo-cell and from innocence to errant. In other words *Free Fall* is the predominance of evil in the heart of the protagonists who is selfish and wicked. The novel is an attempt to look into the complex relationship between man and woman, art and life, sin and repentance and also rational and spiritual, free will and determination, innocence and evil and guilt and responsibility. Sammy has different psychological views about his parents, he calls her ma. He doesn't know who, what and how father had been, as he states that my father was not a man. He had no head no heart. *Free Fall* is concerned with the nature of self, always changing and yet the same, and with the related problem of knowing, time and memory. So one can find that Golding interlinked the past and the present in *Free Fall*. Golding succeeds in the presentation of mental chaos in *Free Fall*.

The novel *The Spire* employs stream of consciousness technique as well as the purely religious theme. *The Spire* itself is religious and ominous symbol of human achievement as well as human helplessness. It is complex as well as difficult novel of Golding. It is one of the richest and most perfect works of Golding. He portrays the world of religion in it. It presents the story of the spire, the building of the tallest spire over a cathedral. It is a dream of Jacelin, Dean of the cathedral of Barchester. He sees a vision that shape itself as the spire over the cathedral. The crown, the ultimate prayers. The novel begins with construction of



The Spire, continues for a while after its completion to end with Jocelin's death. The hero of *The Spire* Jocelin has indomitable egocentricity as well as inevitable struggle. The theme of *The Spire* is related to religion and ambitious vision and unconquerable faith of Dean Jocelin. The novel begins with the construction of the builder. She confesses at the end of the novel, how proud their hope of hell is. There is no innocent work. God knows where God may be.

The Spire is a novel about vision. *The Spire's* closing pages present Jocelin's vision of the spire as an upward waterfall. The substance was one thing that broke all the way to infinity in cascades of exultation that nothing could trammel. It is the crucial condition that Jocelin finally reaches just as *Free Fall's* focus on the rag at the cell's centre is crucial for the condition which Sammy strives to reach but there is Major difference between the two protagonists. Sammy has burdened of his own guilt. On the other hand Jocelin experiences the world of the spirit of self-condemnation Golding's *The Spire* acclaimed as the best novel of the year by Books and Bookmen group. It is Golding's second best novel after *Lord of Flies* on the religious theme. Golding portrayed saintly figure Simon in *Lord of Flies* whereas Jocelin, the protagonist of *The Spire* projects a wide canvas for religious and theological commitments of Golding.

The *Pyramid* is his most interesting novel. The Pyramid reflects the problems of foolish, ambitious, selfish, egocentric and careless youngsters. The Pyramid is an example of realistic tradition of English novel. Oliver the protagonist and his childhood life, adolescence and acquaints himself with the knowledge of men and matters. The novel is social, popular and less serious. The Pyramid highlights folly and selfish motives of Oliver. The story depicts Oliver's failure in three affairs and his relationship with three women Imogen, Evil and Bounce. One comes across his failure to win love of Evil, Imogen and Bounce in the pyramid. There are three Episodes in the novel. Oliver is the focal centre of the episodes. These three episodes are related to Evil, Imogen and Bounce. The first affair is an example of lust; second the fascination and the third episode focus on guilt and the moral responsibility on the level of social intercourse while the second is related to Oliver's education and some hilarious interludes.

The second section of *The Pyramid* is about comic side of life. Evie can't sing in the drama on the other hand Oliver thinks, art is the meeting point. The members come together only to part on note of bitterness. The participants quarrel, tease, retort and insult each other. The place is zoo not home for them the 200, not to home. Oliver's mother quarrel with Norman Claymore, husband of Imogen his first love at the same time Imogen's presence pleases Oliver than the role in drama or the other members like De Tracy. Imogen's presence on the stage confuses him, he forgets the external world, it is strange experience for the Oliver then he leaves the stage without saluting. The third part of the novel is complex and tragic as compared to Evie's and Imogen's stories. It is about Oliver's adolescent feelings about the



music teacher miss Cecilia Dawlish who along with her father. In this part there is interrelationship of Oliver, Henry Williams, Miss Dawlish or Bounce. It is more problematic for Oliver as compared to his early life. After many years Oliver visits stillborn accompanied with his kids. There are so many memories regarding the town in the mind of Oliver but the present situation is different. It is hard for him to accept the changes inn stillborn.

Darkness Visible is the most ambitious, complex and serious novel of Goldings. The title of the novel is Miltonic. The novel begins with the description of burning city, the details of the flames, fumes and fires. The explosions and the reddish glow depict the exact picture of horror and evil in the world around. Matty is the centre of Golding's apocalyptic vision. His tale begins and ends with apocalyptic chaos. Matty is the most problematic hero of Goldings's novel. His calm nature, his philosophical stance, his patience and tolerance creates a sense of mystery about him before he begins to speak. He always humbles himself Matthew Septimus Windrove is the full name of Matty. He survives the London blitz during the Second World War. The captain sees something endowed with life in a fire; they realize it is child they rescue from fire. He had no background but the fire bor from the sheer agony of burning city. Then he admits into the hospital. The appearance of Matty only remains the carpentry of medical world. He is half bald, one eye almost closed and unable to speak wordless communication. As a result, he is dominated by a sense of loneliss. Matty is a half burnt person with spiritual awareness and inability to speak is the most complex and the challenging of all Golding's character. Matty grows with the scars physical as well as spiritual. In his school days he has a teacher called pedigree, a whimsical and sick teacher. He hates Matty because of his ugliness; he is fond of beautiful boys. Pedigree has a guilty relationship with the boy calls Henderson. One day Henderson is found dead, he falls from the school roof. Henderson's death creates great storm, pedigree sent to jail. At the time pedigrees words for the Mattyit's your entire fault. These words filling Matty a sense of guilt and sinfulness.

The second part of *Darkness Visible* focuses on the twin sisters and their childhood, adolescence and youth in details. They are called Sophy and Toni. They experience loneliness like Matty. They have no mother and their father is more interested in chess than Sophy and Toni. Their troubled and neglected childhood liking for 'weird' life and craving for thrill. So, Toni chooses terrorism for herself and Sophy prostitution and a symbol of unequivocal evil. Sophy calls the whore of Babylon- Fido, Gerry, Bill and Matty is victims of Sophy's charm. Sophy surrenders her body as useless, unnecessary thing to anyone who wants it. Sophy is using 'weirdness' a metaphysical sense of evil. The third section of novel is 'one is one relates to Sim Good child, Edwin Bell, one a bookseller and the other a schoolmaster. The first deals with saint Matty, the second Sophy and Toni and the last presents the book seller and two sick whimsical teachers.



Rites of Passage the Booker prize award winning novel of Golding is about chaotic mental situation Talbot and Colley. By using mythic elements Golding fully engaged on the level of realistic imagination as far as *Rites of Passage* is concerned. Golding explains the complexity of nature in the novel. The entire action of the novel takes place on the ancient ship locale where all the characters bring together Edmund Talbot, a distinguished civil servant, Robert James Colley, a country parson, Brocklebanl a portrait painter, Talbot's staff and guide besides these, the captain and his Crew. The entire action is narrated by Talbot in the form of a journal. In the novel Talbot is worried about the stink and Colley is worried about the sins.

In short, the writing of William Golding highly comments on the issues like disorder, darkness, good & evil, innocence & experience and relationship between man and woman in the postmodern society. Besides all, Golding also centers on the ambitions and disillusioned state of the individual. According to William Golding man is only responsible for his deeds because the roots of evil lies in man himself, the same in the case of good also. As far as Antagonist or black characters are concerned, Golding beautifully portrays them in his novels-Jack in *Lord of Flies*, Homasapiens in *The Inheritors*, Pincher in *Pincher Martin*, Jailor in *Free Fall*, aunt of Jocelin in *The Spire* and Oliver in *Pyramid*. Good Men like Ralph and Simon in *Lord of the Flies*, Lok, Nat and Ma in *The Inheritors* are the source of ideal love and goodness. Good is not intellectual but it is emotional and spiritual. All the good characters created by Golding treat others with respect, love and kindness in their heart. Golding presents them as innocent.

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