

The Concepts Of Guilt And Relief Seen In R.Knarayan's Play An Astrologer

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ABSTRACT- An Astrologer is a short story written by R.K Narayan, a writer who was a prominent writer in the early Indian Literature works. This Sahitya academy award winner is well known for his collection of stories written in the outset of an imaginary village named Malgudi. An Astrologer's Day is a suspense thriller short story that R.K Narayan wrote and the story deals with the human emotions like guilt and relief. The story focuses on the life of a man who had to take up the job of an Astrologer, the irony in the story is clear when he sits there in a corner predicting the future of the hundreds who seek him when he himself cannot predict his future. The twist in the play lies when the readers understand his real past and the reason why he has fled from his own village and have come and settled somewhere else where he is not even recognized by anyone.

The guilt of the protagonist of the story is seen throughout the story until we arrive at the twist and he is relieved of his sense of fear as he comes to know that he has not murdered anyone. The plot again takes a turn when the one who has been living just to murder the astrologer is been convinced by him that the man he is searching for has already been dead. There are certain comic elements and reality of the usual fake astrologer folks who are seen roaming around in the outskirts of most Indian villages. The story is mostly set in a dark outset and is being narrated by a third person thus giving a real portrayal of what an other would be seeing if he has a close look of such astrologers. The title given too is not The Astrologer but An Astrologer that shows how this story becomes a portrayal of the similar life stories of most of the wandering so called astrologers.

Keywords-Marxism, Superstitions, ethics

The story begins by telling the details of the life of an astrologer. The astrologer starts his business at a place where already there are many vendors such as medicine sellers, magicians, and many others etc. the astrologer is not an trained astrologer and has only little

knowledge of stars even though he does his business on his wits and guessing by looking at peoples expressions ,whenever he does talk about peoples life or future he just tells them about their marriage and relationship which is easy to tell even for a normal person. one fine day after finishing his business while he was leaving he saw a man and tries to make him his client that's where he gets into trouble when the man demands him to tell about other things of his life rather than marriage and money, meanwhile the client lights a cheroot and the astrologer is able to see the client's face and gets shocked and tries to return back the client's money and send him away but the client holds the astrologer's wrist and refuses to do so and tells him that he cannot go out now without telling his future . the astrologer addresses him by his name "Guru Nayak" and tells him that he was stabbed by a person and pushed into a well thinking he was dead, this impresses the client and he asks the astrologer about the man who stabbed him so that he can seek his revenge, the astrologer tells Guru Nayak that the person he was stabbed by has died in a lorry accident four months ago, he also tells him that he should now return back to his village as it is not safe for him to be there and warns him not to travel again towards this direction. Satisfied with astrologer's answer gives him some coins and returns back feeling happy that the person who tried to kill him died himself. Later the astrologer also returns to his home and tells his wife happily that the person whom he thought he had killed in the village and left village because of the guilt is still alive and he also realizes that Nayak fooled him by giving less coins than he promised to.

Conclusion-In the story it is shown that it is an astrologer's day but simultaneously it is not an astrologer's day. The writer reveals how the only qualification is needed to be an astrologer in India is saffron clothes, few charts and tilak and a keen observation of human nature along with the presence of mind which is a serious issue in India as people are bluffed on their religious and blind beliefs. It is also shown that how the fate of a person is decided. At a place even karma is shown.

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