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Quilting Relationships between Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* and William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

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Abstract:

Christopher Marlowe is the one of university wits. His works are tremendous and marvellous. Shakespeare also a great writer, whose writings are also excellent. There are many resemblances in Marlowe's and Shakespeare's writings. Marlowe's influence reflected on many Shakespeare's works. Especially, *Doctor Faustus* and *The Tempest* have many quilting relationship between them. Prospero plays vital role in *The Tempest* where as Doctor Faustus in *Doctor Faustus*. So we may consider No Marlowe No Shakespeare.

Keywords: Quilting, Resemblance, Relationship

Christopher Marlowe is called the father of English romantic tragedy. Meantime, William Shakespeare is the greatest dramatist, whose writings are very powerful and effective. The word quilting means act of making blankets from layers of fabric soft padding. Here blanket refers to Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The two dramatists are not only creating varied characters but also whose characters have some similarities and contrast themselves. We can analyse Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* portrays the self-conceit of Faustus. He is a bachelor and the man of education. His unquenchable thirst for studies makes him adamant and arrogant. So, he is not satisfied with his studies. Hence, he chooses black-magic. The play opens with the chorus, which depicts the mentality Faustus.

“Nothing so sweet as magic to him

Which he prefers before his chiefest-bliss

And this the man that in his study sits.” [Prologue 69]

Faustus thins magical power is more than any other things. He believes physical pleasures and powers are supreme. He asserts:

“O, what a world of profit and delight,

Of power, of honour, of omnipotence,

Is promised to the studious artisans!

All things that move between the quiet poles

Shall be at my command; emperors and kings.” [1.1.73]

For the above mentioned reasons he calls, an evil spirit, and slave to Lucifer.

Good spirits or Good Angels are warned and condemned Faustus activities and they feel return to his nativity. Here nativity refers to man's creation i.e., man was created by The God. They tell him think about God not bad.

Good and bad angels are symbolized as good and bad thinking of human beings. So, Mephistopheles symbolises Hell. The word damnation is suitable for hell. Mephistophilis says about himself in this way”

“Unhappy spirits that fell with Lucifer,
Conspir'd against our God with Lucifer,
And are forever damn'd with Lucifer.” [1.3. 84]

After signed in the agreement Doctor Faustus asks Mephistophilis, what is hell? He replies:

“Hell hath no limits, nor is circumscribed,
In one self place; for where we are is hell,
And where hell is, Here must we ever be:
.....
All places shall be hell that are not heaven.” [2.1. 93]

Though Faustus is a great magician he does some silly tricks, which gives us laughter not delight. Faustus sells his horse for forty dollars to a horse-dealer and warns him that shall never be ride into water under any circumstances. The horse-dealer does not follow the Faustus' words he rides horse into water. The horse is disappeared when he reaches the middle of the pond. The horse of hay about robe drowned.

Faustus performs his magical power to do some good things. He has sympathy on Duchess of Vanholt. When she is pregnant, she wants to eat bunch of riped grapes in winter season. Which are available only in Summer season. Faustus gives order to Mephistophilis to bring grapes at any part of the world. Then he gives a bunch of ripe grapes to duchess. This incident shows Faustus humanity on human beings.

Marlowe is a man of Renaissance as well as man of Middle Age. *Doctor Faustus* is a good example of renaissance product. Faustus is a worshipper of beauty. He speaks when looking at Helen of Troy. He admires or flatters or cries in this manner:

“Was this face that launch'd a – thousand ships,
And burnt the topless tower of – Illium?
Sweet Helen, make me immortal with – a kiss-
Her lips suck forth my soul: see where – it flies! –
Come, Helen, come, give me my soul – again.” [5.1.146]

The final monologue of Faustus is the climax of the play. It contains fifty-nine lines. Those prove Marlowe's poetic skill. It is very apt to say that "Mighty line Marlowe". *Doctor Faustus* not only shows Faustus' poetic imagination but also it depicts his fear of punishment. He counts his last moment and says:

"The stars move still, time, runs, - the clock will strike,
The devil will come, and Faustus – must be damn'd." [5.2. 153]

Faustus realises his sin and cries:

"My God, my God! Look not so fierce on me!
Adders and serpents, let me breathe – a while!" [5.2.155]

At last, he likes to withdraw magical power. So he says:

"Ugly hell, gape not! Come not, Lucifer!
I'll burn my books! – Ah Mephistophilis!" [5.2. 155]

William Shakespeare is the father of Tragicomedy. His last play *The Tempest* pictures the self-content of Prospero, a widower. He is the duke of Milan. His taste for studies makes him ignorant and innocent. So, his brother Antonio, is usurped his country. The play opens with the ship-wreck of Alonzo, king of Naples. We can judge Prospero's nature through his speech

"No harm,
I have done nothing but in care of thee" [1.2.11]

Prospero uses Ariel, as good spirit, spirit of air. He has caused a storm on the sea by his magic, under Prospero's order. Ariel keeps the ship from all harm. Prospero knows black-magic is a sinful one. He uses magic not black- magic. Ariel is the symbol for goodness whereas Caliban is a symbol for bad spirit. Prospero refers to Caliban 'a misshaped knave', "demi-devil". He describes him as:

"A devil, a born devil, on whose nature
Nurture can never stick". [1.2.17]

Miranda refers to caliban as:

"Abhorred slave,
Which any point of goodness willt not take
Being capable of all ill". [1.2.33]

Stephano falls and frightened the sounds of the Island. Caliban says to him:

"Be not afreard; the isle is full of noises,
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not" [3.3.93]

Prospero has great wisdom but does some comical tricks, which makes us gaiety. A strange incident happens in front of Alonso and his companions. A banquet appears in front of them. They try to eat the food but which disappears immediately. Prospero has sympathy on his enemies, who had driven him out of Milan. As per Prospero's instructions Ariel, disguises as harps.

"You are three men of sin, whom destiny,
That hath to instrument this lower world
.....
Being most unfit to live" [3.3. 99]

Prospero actually not only forgives human beings but spirits also. He even forgives Caliban too.

"Not a frown further. Go realise them – Ariel" [5.1. 123]
"Go, Sirrah, to my cell
Take with you your companions. As you look,
To have my pardon, trim it handsomely". [5.2. 141]

Shakespeare is a man of Romance as well as man of philosophy. The Tempest is an apt example of romance. Miranda is the only female character and played vital role in this play. Ferdinand falls in love with Miranda as well as her too. They love at first. Ferdinand admires her beauty:

"Admir'd Miranda!
Indeed the top of admiration! Worth
What dearest to the worlds full many a lady
I have ey'd with the best regard!

.....
Perfect and so peerless, are created of every creature's best!" [3.1. 81]

Even Caliban praises Miranda's beauty:

"I never saw a woman,
But only Sycorax my dam and she;
But she far surpasses Sycorax
As great'st dues least." [3.2. 91]

Prospero is a philosopher who tells to Ferdinand:

“We are such stuff
As dreams are made on and our little life.
Is rounded with a sleep”. [4.1. 115]

Miranda wonders beauty of mankind:

“O, wonder!
How many goodly creature are there!
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world.” [5.1. 131]

The epilogue of *The Tempest* not only proves Prospero’s magnanimous mind but also self-portrayal of Shakespeare. Towards the end of the play, Prospero renounces his magical powers. It symbolises Shakespeare himself bidding a farewell to his writings. Prospero says:

“Now my charms are all o’ver thrown,
And what strength I have’s mine own,
Which is most faint: Now, his true,
I must be here confin’d by you,
Or sent to Naples”. [5.1.145]

Thus, both drams have some similarities and dissimilarities. They are considered as the auto-biographies of the two dramatists. Marlowe has made protagonist in pessimistic manner where as Shakespeare depicts in optimistic way. Faustus is the symbol for death whereas Prospero is the symbol for life. There is no marriage in *Doctor Faustus* but in *The Tempest* the marriage between Mirand and Ferdinand is occurred. Faustus acts as a slave for spirits where as Prospero acts as master for spirits. Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus* is a Tragedy but Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* is a tragicomedy.

Even the dramatists have some similarities and dissimilarities with themselves. They were born in 1564 and their lives ended with tragedy. The total numbers of their name alphabets are eighteen. Marlowe is considered one of the university wits but Shakespeare is not well-educated. Marlowe is famous for his four tragedies but Shakespeare is famous for tragedy and comedy.

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