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Percy An Agent Of Sadism In Stephen King's Novel The Green Mile

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Abstract

The human character was often inclined by their internal stimuli, these stimulations are basic wishes, but it was filtered by their persona. This work deals with the influence of Jungian archetype of persona the mask. The term sadism refers the individuals gain pleasure out of others misfortunes. It's also similar to sadomasochism means the individuals involving in extreme cruelty, or those who brought misfortunes onto themselves. Stephen King crafted his horror novels with the background of psychopathic combination of Jung's archetype. The research paper aims to bring out the characteristics of sadomasochism an element of negative complex in Stephen Kings character Percy from the novel The Green Mile.

Keywords: Sadism, Sadomasochism.

Introduction

In everyday life, people act many roles in their external world for their survival but at the same time they remain be the exact same person in their personal life. People won't behave similarly in all occasion; the approach with the boss at work, with their life partner, or with their children will differ. Even the persona had various names "Mr. Smith", "John" or "Dad". But they remain the same character behind the mask. The Anima and Animus is a popular Jungian term perhaps related with human Psyche Persona was taken for analyzing the character of Percy in the novel The Green Mile. The Persona is a Mask, which the Greek actors used in their drama; nowadays people use greasepaint instead of mask.

Percy an agent of Sadomasochism

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Even though, without any concrete reason they opposes, the swell of understanding in life, which haven't thought them anything, so it leads to the conflict in their inner conscious. Even at the best part of their life they remain aggressive which leads them to all dark, ambiguous and unclear state. It promotes and emphasizes the whole thing to an uncertain, unclear and unreasonable in their life. These types of behaviour were identified as sadomasochism.

Sadomasochism is a portmanteau of sadism and masochism. The term "Sadism" has its origin from the name of the author Marquis de Sade, who practiced sexual sadism, in his novel *Justine*. "Masochism" is named after Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, his novels expresses masochistic fantasies. These terms were selected to identify human behavioural phenomena and classification of psychological illnesses or deviant behaviour. In 1890 Richard von Krafft-Ebing a German psychiatrist wrote *New research in the area of Psychopathology of Sex* in this work he introduced the terms "Sadism" and "Masochism" into medical terminology. In 1905, Sigmund Freud in his *Three papers on Sexual Theory* described sadism and masochism, He talks about the impact on psychological development from early childhood. Freud also laid the strong initiative for the widely accepted medical perspective on the subject of sadism and masochism in the following decades. This led to the first compound usage of the terminology in Sado-Masochism (Loureiroian "Sado-Masochismus") by the Viennese Psychoanalyst Isidor Isaak Sadger in his work *Regarding the sadomasochistic complex* in 1913.

As Paulo Coelho mentions about sadomasochism in *Eleven Minutes*

Millions of couples out there practiced the art of sadomasochism every day, without even realizing it. They went to work, came back, complained about everything, insulted their wife or were insulted by her, felt wretched, but were, nonetheless, tightly bound to their own unhappiness, not realizing that all it would take was a single gesture, a final goodbye, to free them from that oppression. (Coelho 10)

Sadomasochism was experienced by many couples in their daily life. They were not even realizing that they were having such syndrome.

The researcher has identified that Percy in the novel *The Green Mile* is having the sadistic nature. His female like body and cruel nature has a rare mishap in the novel. Percy the incompetent little man among the wardens is the only exception. He is a mean spirited, radical little devil with a mind filled with venomous grudge. But despite the general repulsion by his colleagues and the inmates, he is still in his position serving as the warden, because of his influence in the high ranks. He is the only nephew of the mayor in power. He is ready to part with his job as the warden – but only after fulfilling his ambition- the ambition to be the executioner of at least one prisoner. He simply wants to kill a person with his hand, but with safety and support of the law.

As Paul says "...he is not satisfied with seeing a person die in the chair, but want to smell his nuts cooking...!"(King 118) One day Willie unexpectedly catches Percy from behind the bars, and aggressively assaults him despite the efforts of the others to control the situation. Sexually deprived Willie makes lewd and vulgar remarks about the feminine bodily features of Percy and scares the urine out of him by holding his neck around he also kisses Percy and insults him. Horrified by William, Percy urinates on himself right in front of all the people present. Behind the rough outer shells of cruelty he is simply a terribly afraid man. Unable to contain the happiness in Percy's embarrassment, Delacroix

bursts out laughing and further infuriates him by disparaging remarks. Now Percy has two people in his mind, he has vengeance to take revenge upon Willie the tormentor and Del the laughter.

That goddam mouse. Delacroix loved it, but Percy Wetmore sure didn't. Percy hated it from the first. (King 33)

Mr. Jingles raced out after it, and Percy saw his chance.

"No, you fool!" Brutal yelled, but Percy paid no attention. Just as Mr. Jingles reached the spool - too intent on it to realize his old enemy was at hand - Percy brought the sole of one hard black work shoe down on it. There was an audible snap as Mr. Jingles's back broke, and blood gushed from his mouth. His tiny dark eyes bulged in their sockets, and in them I read an expression of surprised agony that was all too human. Delacroix screamed with horror and grief. He threw himself at the door of his cell and thrust his arms out between the bars, reaching as far as he could, crying the mouse's name over and over. Percy turned toward him, smiling. Toward the three of us. "There," he said. "I knew I'd get him, sooner or later. Just a matter of time, really." He turned and walked back up the Green Mile, not hurrying, leaving Mr. Jingles lying on the linoleum in a spreading pool of his own blood (King 98)

The researcher has identified the sadistic behavior of Percy in the incident of crushing Mr. Jingles. It makes him feel happy that one of his jobs has accomplished successfully. Percy literally hates the mouse as well as Delacroix. Some days prior to the execution of Delacroix, Paul and his trusted second in command Mr. Brutal, engages in a conversation with Del about Mr. Jingles. His little companion's safety and well being is the only thing Del is concerned about after his death in the chair. That is his only death wish. Who would take care of Mr. Jingles after he is gone? Paul and Brutal makes up a story about a place called 'Mouseville' in Florida where such intelligent mouses are well taken care of. They would feed him properly, Brutal assures Del, and further tells him that they would teach the little creature some new tricks and he could lead the luxurious celebrity life of a circus mouse. Del is extremely happy on the prospect of Jingles future. He can go to his grave with a peaceful mind about the only being he is attached to.

The happiness of Del was short lived. Del is happy until the moment Percy steps in to the block. The moment when he saw Mr. Jingles playing in the corridor, he steps on to Mr. Jingle. As a payback to Del's insult and laughter, he stomps on to the little creature right in front of Del's eyes and kills it instantly. Percy leaves the cell happily, believing that he has depraved the little happiness the prisoner could enjoy in his final days on earth. True to Percy's belief, heartbroken Del is devastated by the tragic end of his beloved soul mate. This shows the cruel nature of Percy, his thought of killing others happiness.

If nothing else," Brutal said, "just think how nice it'd be to get away from that sack of pus Wharton." Percy nodded, and I let him get out of the chair. He straightened his uniform shirt, tucked it in at the back, gave his hair a pass-through with his comb. Then he looked at us. "Okay, I agree. I'm out front for Del tomorrow night; I'll put in for Briar Ridge the very next day. We call it quits right there. Good enough?" "Good enough," I said. That look was still in his eyes, but right then I was too relieved to care. He stuck out his hand. "Shake on it?" I did. So did Brutal. More fools us. (King 110)

The researcher has identified the psychic source of Sadosmism in the conversation between Paul and Percy. Fooled by the incident, Percy is vengeful than ever. He has a sinister plan in hatching. Percy solemnly agrees to take up another job. He plans to take over the position of the warden in a mental

hospital in- Briar Ridge, if Paul allows him to carry out the execution of Del. Enough of witnessing Percy's inhuman acts, Paul decides to get rid of him by simply allowing him to be the chief executioner in Del's death sentence. This shows the psyche of Percy his demand was not money or material just to satisfy his thirst of killing someone in his own hands. Now literally his demand was Del. Percy can have an inner satisfaction in his job if he conducts Del's execution.

Taking the sponge from the bucket and putting it in the cap was the next, and it was here that Percy diverged from the routine for the first time: instead of just bending over and fishing the sponge out, he took the steel cap from the back of the chair, and bent over with it in his hands. Instead of bringing the sponge to the cap, in other words-which would have been the natural way to do it - he brought the cap to the sponge.

And sardonic as he said this Last. And if their feathers are A little ruffled, so what? Harry asked. "They Volunteered for the damn Job, nobody drafted them. I didn't know the sponge was supposed to be wet," Percy said in his robot's voice. "It's never wet in rehearsal." (King 123)

The character of Percy is enriched with sadistic nature. At the time of mock trial execution Paul assents and trains Percy on the Job, and in the trial runs, Percy performs the ritual to the complete satisfaction of his trainers. But his deep resentment on Del has made him to have another plan for the execution day. At the execution, a water soaked sponge will be placed between the nozzle of the shocking instrument and the shaven head of the prisoner to give the maximum effect of the shock directly to the brain, thus making the death of the prisoner a bit quicker and less tormenting. Percy conveniently forgets to wet the sponge and the electrocuting go astray. The sponge catches fire and literally burns Del to death. A long, brutal, violent, agonizing and painful slow death happens to Del. Even Percy is blatantly traumatized by the result of his own doings. This sadistic nature of Percy is due to the vengeance upon poor Del. He literally wants to take revenge on Del, that too taking revenge on the time of execution was traumatic. While watching the horrible incident of Del's death he has no reaction on his face and he watches the incident standing like a rock. But at the time when the body catches fire and emits the foul smell of burning flesh Percy too gets scared with the others. This incident shows the sadistic nature of Percy and the feminine qualities in him.

I'm pretty sure of something else, as well: I'll have to watch out for Mr. Brad Dolan. He doesn't like me much. I don't know why, but I never knew why Percy Wetmore didn't like Delacroix, either. And dislike is really too weak a word. Percy hated Del's guts from the very first moment the little Frenchman came onto the Green Mile. (King 100)

Percy dislikes Del from the beginning. The reason for his behavior is that he cannot like someone like Del with guts. Percy feels himself as a person of supremacy and noble birth. He hates the fact that a little Frenchman, that too a prisoner, is trying to be equal to him. As the only nephew of the governor of the state, he wants to be the supreme commander and expects all prisoners to obey his words.

Conclusion

The Stephen King's *The Green Mile* novel character Percy was having a psychic disorder of sadomasochism. Stephen King made Percy as an agent of all sadistic elements in the novel. The sadomasochism in Percy has the characteristics of sadism, temper, frustration, and isolation. A well-known psychological horror writer of the period, Stephen King was notably created the character of Percy

an outstanding sadistic character of contemporary age having the influence of Jungian negative complex. Nevertheless, his fiction provides a phobic readings of sadism. Also, it closely linked to the medical psyche of sadomasochism.

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