

UNRAVELING THE TRUTH: QUEST TO SAVE SIRIUS BLACK IN J K ROWLING'S *HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN*

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Abstract

The novel, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, holds the third position in J K Rowling's heptalogy. Harry Potter is liked by most of the wizards and witches in the wizarding world. The first three novels ranked on the New York Times Bestseller list in the first three places. The entire wizarding world portrayed by J K Rowling in a place 'Hogwarts' is really a fantastic part. The word 'magic' plays a major role that completely allures the entire magical world. The wizarding world is portrayed parallel to the existing ordinary world. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban reflects the happenings in the third year of Harry Potter's school days in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the magical world. In the third year the quest of the hero Harry Potter is to find and save his godfather Sirius Black. Also Harry gets to know about his past which makes the hero to save innocent lives. Not only Sirius Black but also an innocent Hippogriff Buckbeak is also saved.

Keywords: *magic, godfather, hippogriff, quest, wizard*

Introduction

All the books begin in the mundane world likewise *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* also starts in the Dursley's house at Privet Drive. In the familiar real-world Harry is not even considered as a human by his relatives. The word 'magic' plays a major role that completely allures the entire magical world. The wizarding world is portrayed parallel to the existing ordinary world. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* reflects the happenings in the third year of Harry Potter's school days in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the magical world.

Departure Stage of Monomyth Structure

The monomyth structure in the novel *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* begins when a fatal incident happens in the Dursleys. The first stage of the first part 'Departure' is 'The Call to Adventure'. A hero in the mundane world is

called for adventure in the Supernatural world. The letter from Hogwarts from Professor McGonagall, informs him about the beginning of his third year followed by getting a sign in permission letter to visit Hogsmeade, a village, during weekends. Harry Potter is left in an extremely unusual situation as to how to get the sign from Dursleys. Harry Potter's worsened situation at Dursleys happens when he is intimidated by Aunt Marge, Vernon Dursley's sister, over his father and mother, James and Lily Potter.

Though Harry Potter liked to calm himself because of the consequences he has to meet out, Aunt Marge's words made him react which in turn made Aunt Marge swell like a monstrous balloon and drifted up into the air. Immediately Harry Potter leaves the unhappy abode. Harry in anger left the house and collapsed onto a pavement in Magnolia crescent, where he began to think about what would be his life after breaking the rules of the wizarding world. In the

deserted street, Harry sensed someone or something behind him. Harry saw a pair of gleaming eyes and fell onto the pavement when a triple-decker, violently purple bus in the name *The Knight bus* (HPA 35) appeared out of thin air. Soon Harry finds that the bus is an emergency transport for any stranded witch or wizard. Harry's third heroic journey begins with the arrival of the bus. The incident like the letter from Professor McGonagall, the blowing of Aunt Marge, leaving Privet Drive and the journey to London through Knight bus, all explain the first stage 'Call to Adventure' of the Departure part.

The second stage 'The Refusal of the Call' does not occur as Harry never rejects the call but immerses himself without knowing what is in it for him at Hogwarts school. The next stage in the Departure part is 'Supernatural aid' in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, the character, Arthur Weasley, the father of Ron Weasley acts as one of the supernatural aids to the Protagonist Harry Potter. Arthur Weasley at the beginning in Leaky Cauldron has a conversation with Mrs Weasley that is heard by Harry Potter. From the conversation, Harry Potter comes to know that Sirius black, an escapee from Prisoner of Azkaban, is after him.

Another person who acts as a Supernatural aid apart from Professor Dumbledore is the new character introduced in this book, Professor Remus Lupin. The help Lupin does to Harry is right from the start like saving him from Dementors in the Hogwarts Express, teaching Patronus Charm, a spell to get rid of Dementors, and joining Sirius Black to reveal the true character of the betrayer Peter Pettigrew and saving Harry from Professor Snape. Remus Lupin assists Harry Potter in all of his trials to save his God-father Sirius Black, a loyal friend of James Potter, Harry's father.

The next stage is 'The Crossing of the First Threshold' which stages in a different order. In fact, it happens at the beginning itself when Harry Potter leaves the Dursley's house and hops into the Knight bus which helps the stranded witches and wizards to go to a safer place. In this novel, Harry Potter crosses his first Threshold when he enters the Knight bus to London. The second threshold happens when Harry leaves Leaky Cauldron to catch Hogwarts Express on the 9 3/4 platform at King's

Cross. In the Monomyth structure, the next stage said by Joseph Campbell is 'The Belly of the Whale'. Here the hero ventures into trouble and is saved. In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Harry Potter after the conversation with Arthur Weasley about Sirius Black enter the Hogwarts Express to leave for Hogwarts school. The conversion clearly states the standard of Harry Potter.

'Harry, you must be very scared –'

'I'm not,' said Harry sincerely.' *Really,*' he added because Mr Weasley was looking disbelieving. 'I'm not trying to be a hero, but seriously, Siris Black can't be worse than Voldemort, can he?'

'Harry, swear to me you won't go *looking* for Black.'(HPA 77)

After boarding the Hogwarts express only here, Harry does find time to explain the conversation between Ron's mom and Dad about Sirius Black to his beloved friends Ron and Hermione. All three occupy a compartment where only a shabby occupant was there and he is none other than R.J Lupin who is going to be a Defence against Dark Arts teacher this year at Hogwarts School. Harry in the compartment shares everything with his friends.

Harry's gift Pocket Sneakoscope leaves a continuous whistle to show something untrustworthy is around. No one is aware that the rat Scabbers, an animagus of Peter Pettigrew, who is an untrustworthy person around them and leaves it under the trunk. The train comes to a hop with a jolt and everything becomes intense cold as well a Dementor appears in the compartment which made Harry Potter stumble down and wake up to see everyone around him. Professor Lupin helps Harry by getting rid of Dementors using the Patronus charm and giving him chocolate to relieve him from attack.

Initiation Stage of Monomyth Structure

In the Initiation part, the first stage is 'The Road of Trials'. Harry Potter crosses the road of trials at different incidents in the novel. The incidents such as finding a place after leaving Dursleys, learning Patronus Charm from Professor Lupin in Defence against Dark Arts class, attending Professor Trelawney's Divination class, Professor McGonagall's Transfiguration class, Hagrid's Care of Magical Creatures class, facing Dementors at Quidditch

match, using Marauder's map which is an early Christmas present for Weasley twins to go to Hogsmeade village unauthorized, and learning about Dementor's nature. The stage 'The Road of Trials' teaches the Protagonist to learn many things around him. The Protagonist Harry Potter learns to save himself as well as the people around and what not to be done that hurts around him.

The author J K Rowling through the first incident that happened at Privet Drive explains the Protagonist's initial breaking of rules and follows his desire. Harry Potter comes out of Dursley's home which is considered the safest place for Harry. The incident of leaving the house narrates the determination of Harry Potter to stand against the wrong. But then Harry is helped by the Knight Bus that arrives on time to help Potter boy. The next incident takes place in the Divination class. All the magical community believes Divination class to be a boring one as it takes time to understand and improve on the inner eye. Professor Trelawney sees the tea cup of Harry Potter and lets out a cry to say he has a deadly enemy as the teacup shows the falcon image. Further adds that there is a skull which explains that Harry is in danger, as well it shows the grim which is the worst omen that talks of death. The trio discusses the matter of seeing the Grim. Ron questions Harry whether he has met a black dog. To this Harry answers his day out of Dursleys and Ron is terrified.

Care of Magical Creatures, the next class really made the Hero, Harry Potter, know about how to handle a creature though Harry Potter does all for the sake of making Hagrid happy, he comes into acquainted with an animal that is going to help him in the stage 'The Ultimate boon'. In the 'Road of Trials' Harry's next step is being friendly with the animal named Buckbeak, a Hippogriff, which is half-horse and half-bird.

Harry Potter, the Protagonist, shows his skills of facing danger unaware. Harry Potter has a nice experience riding the Hippogriff Buckbeak. At every point in the part, Harry Potter learns a few things that will help him in further stages. In the class, Malfoy, one of Harry's foes among peers, behaves rudely in turn Buckbeak hurts him leaving the whole class frightened. The Slytherin house cooks up the incident to make Hagrid to get into trouble. The incident is conveyed to the school Governors, which

makes this incident a troublesome one for Hagrid as well as Buckbeak, a Hippogriff. The trio consoles Hagrid over the matter.

Every incident that happens around the stage of 'The Road of Trials' builds up the hero Harry Potter to know the trouble and face it boldly at later stages of the Monomyth structure. The next incident happens at Double Potions where Malfoy provokes Harry to go after Sirius Black as the hero has to take revenge on the prisoner, Sirius.

The next class is all about the Defence against the Dark Arts lesson, where Harry's house gets a practical lesson on how to face a Boggart, a shape-shifter that can take the shape of whatever frightens any of the persons. Harry, the hero, is again made to remember the Dementor that haunts him more than Lord Voldemort in this book. Harry Potter is not aware of why Sirius Black is after him as said by others but actually Sirius is after the rat, Scabbers, Ron's pet. All the secrecy is revealed when the trio goes after the black dog into Shrieking Shack. It is the perception of the whole of the wizarding world that Sirius is in search of Harry but in reality it is not. After returning to his usual days, through Lupin, Harry comes to know about Whomping Willow and Dementors.

Harry asks Remus Lupin to teach him to defend Dementors. Seeing Harry's determination, Remus Lupin accepts to take Anti-Dementor lessons. The next Hogsmeade trip arrives leaving Harry to stay behind. However, the Weasley twins present an early Christmas gift a parchment which is a map called Marauders Map to Harry. Though warned by Mr Weasley, Harry as a hero feels that he is not going anywhere but to Hogsmeade and decides to use the map. Harry enters the secret passage and reaches Honeydukes shop at Hogsmeade. Finds Ron and Hermione with whom he spends a day happily violating the rules. Harry's quest begins after hearing the conversation among the teachers about Sirius Black. Now the Protagonist gets an idea to enter the next part of the Monomyth theory.

Harry's heroic attribute drives him to go after the quest. Going behind the reasons leads the Protagonist to reach his ultimate boon. For now, Harry's quest is to find Sirius Black to know why Black betrayed his parents. Here,

the hero undergoes the difficult task to learn a lesson which will help him in the future stages of his quest. Harry readies himself in every instant to face the final 'The Ultimate Boon'.

'The meeting with the Goddess' is a stage in the hero's journey where the hero gets love, solace, confidence and help from an unknown but like a motherly figure. According to the author, the hero makes the journey eventful with necessary inputs from the person who is considered to be a goddess. According to the Monomyth stage, 'The meeting with the Goddess' is represented in this novel with the character Hermione Granger. Every time Hermione tries to safeguard Harry in this part of Harry Potter heptalogy. The first incident is confiscating the Firebolt, secondly asking not to sneak to Hogsmeade and lately uses Time turner to help Harry fulfil his quest in saving Buckbeak and Sirius Black. Ron yells at Hermione as she says she would disclose the map to Professor McGonagall. Ron asks Hermione whether she is willing to expel Harry from school. Though she acts as a Goddess here to safeguard Harry not to get into the clutches of Sirius is misunderstood by all. The next stage of Monomyth theory 'Woman as temptress' does not occur in this novel.

Harry after the Divination exam experiences an unusual situation. Professor Trelawney after Harry's exam speaks in a different voice and utters

'It will happen tonight.'

Harry wheeled around. Professor Trelawney had gone rigid in her armchair, her eyes were unfocused and her mouth sagging.

'S-sorry?' said Harry. (HPA 344)

Professor Trelawney makes predictions about Lord Voldemort will be back. The trio decides to go and meet Hagrid as the execution of Buckbeak is happening at sunset. But as Harry will not be allowed outside the castle, the necessity of using the invisibility cloak arises. Hermione, in this part of the novel, acts as "The Meeting with the Goddess" in crucial situations. One such situation is bringing up the Invisibility Cloak though she is not a rule-breaking student in School. After dinner, the trio leaves for Hagrid's hut and finds Hagrid so sorrowful over Buckbeak's condition.

The trio gets into trouble after Hermione finds Scabbers in a milk jug at Hagrid's hut. On the way back, an enormous jet-black dog leaps on Ron, particularly at his pocket where Scabbers is. The dog drags away Ron whereas Harry and Hermione are knocked off by the branches of Whomping Willow. Ron is taken by the black dog underground, and also Ron's leg is broken when he is pulled inside. In there is a dusty room, and Hermione finds that to be Shrieking Shack.

Harry Potter, the hero, finds his godfather, Sirius Black, in this situation. However, Harry is not aware at this stage. In the Initiation part, 'Atonement with Father' is a stage where the hero joins with the father figure to continue the quest and attain success. Here comes the stage at this point at Shrieking Shack where the hero, Harry Potter, understand his godfather Sirius Black is innocent and is not responsible for the death of his father and mother, James and Lily. Further finds Peter Pettigrew, servant of Lord Voldemort, has betrayed his parents.

Remus and Sirius use magic to turn Scabbers to his original human look, Peter Pettigrew and succeed to make the trio understand the truth. The moment Harry finds out the truth feels overwhelmed to be united with his godfather. The situation is termed to be in the stage of 'Apotheosis' where Harry reaches a point of understanding the truth and following his new quest and thinks about how to attain his quest through the help of his friends. So, the quest here comes to Harry is to save his innocent godfather, Sirius Black, who did not betray his parents.

The next stage of the Monomyth structure is 'The Ultimate Boon'. The stage starts when the traitor, Peter Pettigrew, escapes again as well as the transformation of Lupin joined by Dementor's kiss on Sirius. As Lupin did not take the Wolfsbane potion, it becomes terrible when he changes into a werewolf. Followed by, the escape of Peter Pettigrew by transforming into a rat. Sirius transforms and helps the trio to be safe in not getting hurt by Werewolf.

As Werewolf Lupin gallops into the forest, Sirius in the animagus form goes behind him. Later Harry and Hermione hear the whining sound of a dog in pain, without thinking Harry runs off into the forest and followed Hermione. Harry as a hero reacts to help his godfather

who is in trouble. Dementors encircle them, and Harry shouts at Hermione to think of something happy. Harry fights to produce Patronus but fails against Dementors. Suddenly, the cold ebbs away leaving the air warm again.

Harry fights to stay back conscious and sees someone who looks familiar but he could not understand or think anymore and faints. The next day Harry at the hospital wing hears the conversation between Fudge and Snape who talk about treating Harry especially by Headmaster as well he always does things out-of-bounds leading his friends also in danger. Harry and Hermione hear from Madam Pomfrey about the fate of Sirius. Harry as the hero tries to say his statement insisted by Hermione too that Sirius is innocent and Peter Pettigrew is the person who is the traitor. In a moment, Professor Dumbledore arrives. Dumbledore converses with Harry and Hermione about Sirius. Also, he adds no one will accept the word of 13-year-old wizards and Snape's version is more convincing. Moreover, Dumbledore has no power to disclose the events as said by Sirius, Harry and Hermione. When Harry loses his hope, Dumbledore says:

'What we need,' said Dumbledore slowly, and his light-blue eyes moved from Harry to Hermione, 'is more *time*.'

'But –' Hermione began. And then her eyes became very round. 'OH!'

'Now pay attention,' said Dumbledore, speaking very low. And very clearly. 'Sirius is locked in Professor Flitwick's office on the seventh floor. Thirteenth window from the right of the West Tower. If all goes well, you will be able to save more than one innocent life tonight. But remember this, both of you. *You must not be seen*. Miss Granger, you know the law – you know what is at stake .. *you – must – not – be – seen*.' (HPA 417- 418)

Hermione understands the standard of Dumbledore whereas Harry does not get a clue about what is said. The next stage "The Ultimate boon" of the part Initiation begins here at the moment Dumbledore leaves. The stage "Rescue from without" of Return part occurs here when Dumbledore comes to help Harry and Hermione to get on to the quest. Harry's ultimate boon to save Sirius and

Buckbeak happens not only with the help of Dumbledore but also with Hermione, who acts as the Goddess here to assist Harry in his quest. Unknowing how Hermione gets onto many of the subjects this year is bewildering for both Harry and Ron before in this part of Heptalogy. Now, the secret reveals that it is a Time-Turner given by Professor McGonagall to Hermione at the start of the term to attend all the classes. The Time-Turner as an object can be said a 'Supernatural Aid' which makes Harry relive the moments that lasted for three hours and rescue Sirius and Buckbeak from danger. Harry's quest reaches its culmination.

Hermione every time warns Harry not to react to any of the happenings. Really, Hermione acts as a Goddess here to take care of Harry in every crucial situation to make him feel comfortable and good as well as to stay out of trouble to attain the quest of saving Sirius and Buckbeak. Harry and Hermione use Buckbeak to fly to the West Tower and rescue Sirius Black. Sirius hops onto the Buckbeak and flies up to the top of the West Tower. Harry and Hermione urge Sirius to fly on with Buckbeak and save the life of both. The stage 'The Ultimate boon' ends when Harry and Hermione using Time Turner rescue both Buckbeak and Sirius Black and help them escape.

Return Stage of Monomyth Structure

The next part is 'Return' which starts with the stage 'Refusal of the Return'. Here in heptalogy the order changes and some stages do not occur at all in each book but at the end in the last book of Hepatology. The next trouble for Harry is returning to Dursley's for the summer holidays.

The next stage 'The Magic Flight' as usual as in the previous books happens when Harry Potter boards the Hogwarts express. The 'Rescue from without' stage happened before itself when Dumbledore helps Harry and Hermione at the Hospital wing to use the Time-Turner and also when they come back and lock them up in the hospital wing. The trio in King's Cross station step back through the barriers of platform nine and three-quarters which explain the stage 'The Crossing of the Return Threshold'. The stage 'The master of Two Worlds' never happens in any of the books except for the last book of heptalogy. In this part of the sequel 'Freedom to Live' stage may say to

have occurred as Harry uses the name of his godfather to Dursleys which looks like Harry might have a better summer than the previous ones.

Conclusion

Campbell's Monomyth structure is followed by J K Rowling. Considered some stages do not occur in all the books but in the final book and some stages occur in a different order. The 'Return' part holds some stages that occur in a different order and even in the 'Initiation' part itself. J K Rowling's Protagonist Harry Potter neither anticipates anything of the future nor regrets past actions but follows what his heart and mind say. Harry Potter is also helped by his true friends, Ron and Hermione, father figures, Hagrid, Sirius and Lupin, and finally Professor Dumbledore who plays a major role in the whole of heptalogy. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* ends with Harry Potter finding his godfather, Sirius Black, and feeling overwhelmed by his action to save Sirius from death. Harry Potter's feats to save his godfather, Sirius Black, and an animal named Buckbeak in the novel *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* is clearly elucidated with respect to Monomyth structure of Joseph Campbell. Harry Potter gets to know about his past in this novel. Arthur Weasley acts as a herald to warn Harry initially about the prisoner, Sirius Black, who escapes from Azkaban. Unraveling the truths like Sirius is not responsible for the death of Harry's parents rather it is Peter Pettigrew, the traitor are the important happenings for the further progression of the sequel. Further, Harry Potter learns many things like using Patronus Charm against Dementors, using Marauder's Map to sneak around Hogwarts Castle, and using Time-Turner to relive the moments. The heroic journey Harry undergoes at the beginning of his third year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is really an astonishing part which states friendship, loyalty, and courage. Hermione Granger, a Muggle-born and a good friend of Harry Potter plays an important role in this novel. A novel character, Remus Lupin, Defence against Dark Arts teacher also a friend of James Potter teaches Harry Potter to stand against Dementors. In the novel, the author elucidates the faith of the Protagonist, Harry Potter, in the words of Professor Dumbledore and enters the ordeal to perform the heroic

acts. The ordeal ends when Sirius Black and Buckbeak are saved and Harry finds solace as he gets back his godfather.

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