

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ALIENATION IN FRANZ KAFKA'S NOVEL *THE METAMORPHOSIS*

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In this current postmodern world, humans are bound to many distraction in the society and as being a social animal they act opposite. The prominent characteristics found in every individual to build a health and futuristic society is unseen due to consumeristic and materialistic qualities. These qualities creates demotivation in self and unable to survive the existing world, detached with people and been alienated from the world. This state of dystopia is the fact that writers focus on the conflicts of the characters in the society and shows how the world and people are evolved.

Kafka's novel *The Metamorphosis* establishing the character Gregor Samsa as a socially fallen hero because of the metamorphic transformation into an insect. This is more pathetic and ironical as he is more of a ideal person to this family as good son, good brother to his sister Grete and as bread winner of the family. Although he disliked the job as a travelling salesman Gregor wants to purse on consider his family circumstance and paying his father's debt. His approach towards the society as a ordinary person living in a middle class family carrying all the burdens and responsibilities portrays his social stand to earn and be truthful to his family and worried about his self identity.

Gregor Samsa a travelling salesman undergoes a physical transformation of changing into an insect as Kafka delivers his idea of alienation were once after he understands his transformation he is not worried about his life rather he regrets the inability to continue his job and serve his family and accepted his fate. Here the social transformation of Gregor was not made by his will as being forced by his father who has failed in his business and in order to pay his debt. Mr. Samsa is a hopeless and unkind man concerned with money. He is not worried about his

son and daughter in caring rather he remains a unsympathetic character who is strained by society. Mrs. Samsa, mother of Gregor who is actually sympathetic about his sons transformation express her inability to get back his son to normal life. As she cares for her son and defending from all the circumstance to protect as mother signifies Kafka's writing as women symbolize ray of hope in the society in all the aspects. She begs to everyone who affect her son and she provides the basic necessity for Gregor by throwing an apple though she is afraid to see him at beginning but understands his sons struggle by nature. The maternal nature is the important quality discussed through the novel. Grete Samsa , Sister of Gregor who is in her young adulthood stage serves as the companion and she shows pity on Gregors transformation. She is the one before her mom take cares of Gregor, cleans the room and gives food places his chair to make him comfortable and removes the furniture to give space to him. She is signified with her strong emotion towards her brother. Char woman, maid for Samsa family in the flat. She resembles as a strong women who is not worried or scared about Gregor she does her daily routine and speaks to him and make him comfortable in his form.

Kafka's perspective on social transformation is that when Gregor identifies him after getting up from bed as an insect which in term as further represented as cockroach is the initial transformation of human society unable to understand the change and being adapted like the insect. Furthermore the social transformation of Gregor and his family's conflict starts when he tries to come out of his room from his changed form were all the member are afraid of him and tries to safeguard their life this shows the Absurdity of life. Though his hasn't done any harm to his family being responsible and good person in the society

rather once after the transformation everything went opposite in the filial perspective. The element of alienation is also a major fact as he tries to come out of his room yet he doesn't want to threaten his family. He is unable to live rather die and the fact that he didn't commit any crime in the society and as his absurd life is the example of a common man's life. At the end Kafka metamorphosis every character though all the female are stubborn in bring back Gregor to normal form both Grete and Mrs. Samsa fails at their duties because of the social demand and stress. Their decision are hard to take but Kafka delivers in a hard hitting manner by portraying Grete as she undergoes her own Metamorphosis In herself transforming from girl to woman which is highlighted in the novel. At first she remained as a companion and emotional support to Gregor but at the end she feels dejected and loses hope and started to see him as a burden to the family. Mrs. Samsa who is also transform and becomes the victim of society and does dehumanizing by leaving Gregor alone after

someday as their family lost their source of income is stopped because of Gregor's new form. She doesn't regret nor grief and serves as limitation of her qualities. At the end Gregor unable to withstand his new form remains alone and alienated from everyone and dies pathetically. He didn't expect anything rather than love, care and affection from his family. But society made everyone to be more chained in their own limitations and at the end all his family didn't regret nor emotion but there remained a sense of personal relief and they started to move on easily. Kafka's statement towards alienation is more of psychological distance in the novel and showing the absurd life of Gregor who is bound to be the victim of this pathetic world.

Works Cited

1. Kafka, Franz. *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories*. Translated by Stanley Appelbaum, Dover Publications, 1996.