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THE RELATIONSHIP OF MAN AND WATER IN FLANAGAN'S FICTION

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Life is related mainly to earth that provides the basic needs-food, clothing and shelter, However, one-third of earth is only worth living as two-thirds area is under Seawater. The present paper is related to the life related to and under the water. It is worth noting that Indian orthodox mythologies did not allow voyage, which was treated as a sin. The westerners, on the contrary, had a lot of population related to a lot of voyages. The discovery of America, Australia, Indies Island, Latin America were prizes for the adventurous spirits.

As the result, the references to the sea except that one of Ramsetu or Structure of Dwarka are never found. In the west Homer's Iliad and Odyssey and Virgil's Aemied are the epics related to sea life. In English literature since 14th Century, there are great works such as William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, R.L Stevenson *Treasure Island* and S.T. Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*, Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, E.M Forster's *20 Thousand Leagues under the Sea*, Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, but there two Nobel Prize winner novels-Earnest Heming way's *The Old Man and The Sea* and William Golding's '*Lord of the Flies*' that starts and ends with a ship-journey. Hemingway is *Old Man* giving the message man is pitted against destiny, he can be destroyed but can never be defeated; whereas Golding's *Lord of Flies* presents the need and success of Civilization for man reverts to savagery due to darkness in heart since the *Original or Biblical Fall*: The boys due to lack of control parents and teachers start killing each other.

Water was created on the third day as the bible, explains – 1st day, let there be light and there was light, 2nd day let there be a world and the world was there. On the third day, God created water. Sea Lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wells, dams, gorges, bays, beaches, Storages, ferries, quays are various God-made and man-made terms. Among the fundamental furies – air and water were inevitable for breathing and living a human life. The Flora and fauna present thousands of species.

The present paper is limited to three novels by Richard Flanagan – 1) *Death of A River Guide* (1994) 2) *Gould's Book of Fish* (2001) (3) *The Narrow Road To Deep North* (2014) The third or the last is Booker prize winner. They cover a span of two decades from 1994 to 2014. In brief, *The River Guide* is a story of Aljaz Cosini, whose duty is to save drowning persons, the end of the protagonist presents a tragic scene, perhaps never before, So finely and painfully painted. The end of a hero as well as the novel is very pathetic and unique celebrating the death as if he were fighting a war. *Gould's Book of Fish* Present twelve types of fishes and their habits, ways and temperaments are reflected in 12 different persons related to a variety of vocation, ambition and also a weakness. The third work related to the present paper is *Narrow Road* a story explained by a Japanese poet is Basho's riddle. In the end, the riddle is solved; the circle of the riddle is complete when the relationship of the hero and his father is revealed. The twist is both tragic and astonishing for the POW was the unknown father, who was killed in the presence of his son who is a doctor.

If River Guide's Death shows the panorama of his life events, in the last moment of life, he sees fun of the modern technical world, where a T.V. team wants to shoot how a man dies underwater in the story. The whims and fancies of characters like the evasive fishes show the unpredictability of human motives and human actions. In *Narrow Road to the Deep North*, A youth named Dorrigo Evans had been seduced by his uncle's wife in the early days, gets later on a job as a doctor trying to cure prisoners. His tragic fate is that he fails to save the life of an old prisoner who is none else but his father when in the end the real identity of the dead old man is revealed to him. To save readers' or listeners' time and the space of the paper, only a couple of quotations are given one is the beginning, other at the end of the novel – by Richard Flanagan's *Death of A River Guide* (1994) Starts as: “Such a right you never clapped eyes upon! And not only because I was being half-strangled. For I was born in the Caul, that translucent eggs in which I had grown within the womb” (Flanagan,1).

It is the strange and shocking beginning of the novel and the birth of her Aljaz. Who accepts the surname of a mother for his reasons and reservations.

In the end, it is as: “But before Black pearl has finished Speaking he feels a warm updraught and rising with it his body, wings outstretched, feathers feeling every Sensation of the Crisis–Crossing air currents, rising in a spiral, a circle growing ever outwards” (Flanagan, 326).

It is the tragic image of the hero who is dying underwater with the ideal woman Black pearl with his dead daughter Jemma in her arm. It is the narration of the flight of the Soul forwards the sky.

The next novel in the present paper is Gould's *Book of Fish* (2001) has a hilarious and comic tone from the beginning to the end. The novel starts as: “Was it that mesmeric shimmer spiraling from the unruly manuscript out of which seahorses and sea dragons and stargazers were already swimming, bringing dazzling high to a dreary day not long born?” (Flanagan, 1-2).

Since the beginning of the novel, a mysterious and evasive and slippery tone denoting the movements of fish is well set. The novel end as: “For out there only just beyond own vision, the net is waiting for us all, ever ready to trap & that rise with us tangled within, fins hailing, bodies futilely thrashing, heading to who knows what chiastic destiny Love and water” (Flanagan, 402).

The last novel for the present Paper is the Booker – Prize winner *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* (2014) and it starts as: “A wooden church hall. Blinding light and him toddling back and forth, in and outs of its transcendent welcome into the arms of women. Women who loved him. Like entering the Sea and returning to the beach. Over and over” (Flanagan, 1).

The protagonist Dorrigo Evans has never been serious about women's relationships duties and responsibilities. The novel ends as: “There was no last page. The book of his life just broke off. There was only the mud below him and the filthy sky above. There was to be no peace and not hope” (Flanagan, 447). Though Dorrigo had never been very careful, scrupulous and devoted either in love or in duty, in the end, suffers when he knows the POW killed by the soldiers had none else but his own father.

While generalizing these three works one has to remember that the first (*River Guide*) is tragic and the *Gould's* story of fish is comic, but the third *Narrow Road* is a tragic Comic. The only difference between Shakespeare's tragic comedies and Flanagan's writing is that there is reunion and rejuvenation in *Pericles*, *Winter's Tale*, *Cymbeline* and *Tempest*, however in Flanagan's stories are full of comic sense ending on a tragic note. These can be referred to as Comi - Tragedies. Flanagan's *Wanting*, (2008), *The Unknown Terrorist*, (2006), *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* (1997) has a tragic end.

Racial Conflicts, Vocational responsibilities, male-female relationships, which and fancies, oddities and eccentricities, life-related to water The dotted line of life – before birth darkness after death darkness is a strange and unique journey of the life of the hero.

While Concluding the Paper, it would not be odd to refer to some of the information regarding the technique of Sea Life and the temperamental uniqueness of the heroes. Dorrigo Evans (*Narrow Road*) has never been very serious, whether it is during a voyage with a POW ship or matter of either sex, duty or death. He is an easy-going person, a sort of well-to-do and good for nothing type. Emotional ties are rare, but sexual and sensual affairs always preoccupy his mind and his brain is always busy thinking of physical delights and avoiding serious problems or investigating anything deeply.

The Case of Mr. Gould (*Gould's Book*) is deceptive for from the very name he goes on Cheatings people, and so are the other minor characters. The twelve types of fish are once again

recreated in men. In brief, Seahorse is Conga, Kelpy is King, Porcupine – Mr. Lempriere, Stargazer – Commandant, Leather Jacket - Anne, Serpent Eel – Cosmo wheeler, The Saw-tooth Shark – Jorgen Jorgenson, Striped Cowfish Mrs. Gottliebsen, The crested Weed Fish – King Conute, Silver-Dory-Two Penny Sal and Weedy Seadragon – Gould himself.

Death of River Guide is the most tragic as well as touching story of Aljaz Cosini whose sense of duty and sincerity in love and friendship are the rarest of type. Death of other river guides like the Cockroach (Pen name), as well as his own, are proofs of honest duty, dedicated service to the grandeur and beauty of the Gorges, the rivers, the rocks, the Ships and the Sea. He even describes how a man dies underwater, water goes through the mouth into the stomach or water blocks air passage of nose and the man dies of Suffocation. These three novels have Sea, river, water as the real heroes.

References

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